Recycling

Powering our Circular Economy

To create the most sustainable business model possible, we embrace the concept of a circular economy and look beyond basic recycling to evaluate our entire value chain.

International Paper is among the world’s largest stewards of wood and recovered fiber.

We recover, reprocess and facilitate the sale of 7 million tons of fiber each year.

96% of all corrugated packaging in the United States is recycled. Of that, International Paper recovers 12%.

Since 2010, International Paper has increased our recovery of old corrugated containers by 50%.

Through our work with The Recycling Partnership, we are helping to improve recycling in communities across the U.S.

Wood Fiber
New fiber is needed to continue to make recycled products. Without new fiber inputs, we would run out of useable recycled fiber in roughly 18 months.

Recovered fiber and new fiber are used to make new paper-based products.

An ordinary sheet of paper can be recycled up to 7 times. Beyond that, the fiber cannot be used to make new products and is considered “lost fiber.”

Recycled fiber can be reprocessed into new products or can be beneficially used in other ways, such as for compost or in insulation.

68% of the paper used in the United States was recovered for recycling in 2018.

Sources:
1 AF&PA, 2018
2 Two Sides