

## Friday Facts: Paper Recycling Hits All Time High!

In 2007, an all-time high of 56 percent of the paper consumed in America was recovered for recycling, achieving a significant industry goal five years ahead of schedule. Announcing the achievement today, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) also set a new goal of 60 percent recovery by 2012.



The 54.3 million tons of paper recovered in 2007 add up to more than 360 pounds for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. Each percentage point is the equivalent of approximately one million additional tons of recovered paper – enough to fill more than 14,000 railroad cars.

According to the U.S. EPA, in 2007, the US recycled over 25 million tons more paper than was recycled in 1990. This increase in paper recycling reduced emissions by more than 97 million metric tons of green house gases, which is comparable to the annual emissions of nearly 18 million cars.

Recycling paper is especially significant because paper and paper products constitute the largest portion of the municipal solid waste stream. Fortunately, it is something that everyone can easily do to help make a difference whether at work, school, or home.

According to the U.S. EPA, each ton of paper that is recycled saves the following:

- 17 trees
- 6,950 gallons of water
- 463 gallons of oil
- 587 pounds of air pollution
- 3 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4077 kilowatt hours of energy



For more information about recycling, please see [www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org).

Source: American Forest and Paper Association [www.paperrecycles.org](http://www.paperrecycles.org).



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