

# Kansas Green Teams

## Friday Facts

[www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org)



## Paper Facts

- Every day, U.S. papermakers recycle enough paper to fill a 15 mile long train of boxcars.
- The first paper merchant in America was Benjamin Franklin, who helped to start 18 paper mills in Virginia and surrounding areas.
- During the American Revolution, paper was so hard to find that soldiers ripped pages from books to use them as wadding for their rifles.
- In 2008 the amount of paper recovered for recycling averaged [340 pounds](#) for each man, woman, and child in the United States
- The paper industry has set a [60 percent](#) recovery goal for 2012.
- There are over [500 paper mills](#) in the United States, [75 percent](#) of paper and paperboard mills used some recovered paper and 132 mills used only recovered paper.
- Every ton of paper that is recovered saves [3.3 cubic](#) yards of landfill space.
- In 2008, a record-high [57.4 percent](#) of paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling.
- Approximately 62 percent of the paper recovered for recycling in the U.S. is used domestically and [35 percent](#) of recovered paper was exported to overseas markets. The remainder was used to make other non-paper products.

Source: <http://www.afandpa.org/FunFacts.aspx> & EPA & [Paperrecycles.org](http://Paperrecycles.org)

## Types of Paper To Be Recycled

**Cardboard:** All types of cardboard including food cartons, except for wax coated boxes or contaminated boxes.

**Mixed Paper:** All types of paper, everything you can imagine from magazines, junk mail to packaging.

**Newspapers:** The entire newspaper including inserts are acceptable, except for things like plastic, product samples and rubber bands.

**White Paper:** Acceptable are clean white sheets from the likes of laser printers and copy machines.

*With any type of recycled material, please check with your recycler for the most current method or process.*

## Contaminants

If any of your **recycled paper** has been contaminated with the following they cannot be recycled, food, metal closures, tapes, glues, adhesives, rubber bands, glass, aluminum, and/or plastic packaging.

## Can Paper Continue To Be Recycled?

Each time paper is recycled, the fiber length decreases which impacts its strength. Papermaking fibers can typically be recycled 5-7 times before they become too short to be recycled again.

## Resource

[PaperRecycles.org](http://PaperRecycles.org) has a ready to create poster for you to use in your paper recycling program. Just enter your name and state, what size you want, click submit and print.



Dissemination of [Friday Facts/Other publications] by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, a governmental agency, is solely for the non-commercial purpose of informing and educating the public on important environmental issues. Any use of copyrighted material in [Friday Facts/Other publications] is inadvertent and unintentional.

