



Setting a High Bar for Paper Recycling

August 2019

The U.S. paper recovery rate reached 68.1 percent in 2018.

That's great news for the environment and for the paper industry. In fact, the annual paper recovery rate in the U.S. has more than doubled since 1990.

Paper Recycling...

Extends the useful life of fiber: Approximately 80 percent of all U.S. paper mills use some recovered fiber to make everything from paper-based packaging to tissue products to office paper and newspaper.

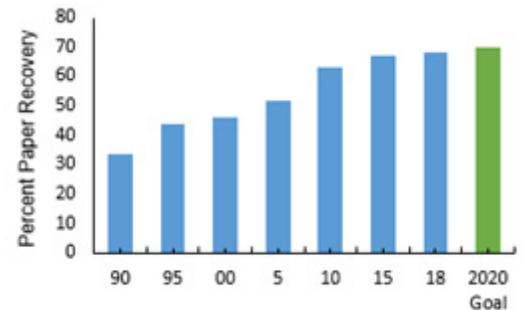
Keeps paper out of landfills:

- More than twice as much paper is recycled than is sent to landfills.
- Every ton of paper recovered for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- By weight, more paper is recovered for recycling from municipal solid waste streams than glass, plastic, steel and aluminum combined, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Is widely accessible: In 2014, 96 percent of Americans had access to community curbside and/or drop-off paper recycling programs.

Reduces GHG emissions: AF&PA member companies' use of recovered fiber resulted in avoided greenhouse gas emissions of more than 19 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents in 2018.

For interactive features, statistics, free classroom materials and resources to help start or improve paper recycling efforts at home, in the community and at work, visit paperrecycles.org.



**BETTER PRACTICES
BETTER PLANET 2020**
Continuing AF&PA's Commitment to Sustainability

2020 Goal: Exceed 70 percent recovery rate for recycling.

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