

## ***AF&PA Sets 2023 Policy Priorities on Sustainability, Energy and the Environment, Recycling, Among Others***

The American Forest & Paper Association's (AF&PA) Board of Directors announced advocacy priorities the association will pursue to help ensure the paper and wood products industry's sustainability success and economic impact in 2023.

"Sustainability leadership is the foundation of the paper and wood products industry," said AF&PA President and CEO Heidi Brock. "We manufacture sustainable paper and wood products from renewable resources that are used every day by millions of Americans. To that end, we support policies that help our industry grow, create U.S. jobs, and foster global market competition so we can continue to provide essential products."

"This is an industry that stands ready to advance key policy priorities on sustainability, energy and the environment, and recycling in the year ahead," said Brian McPheely, Global CEO at Pratt Industries. "We pride ourselves on bringing innovative solutions and making meaningful contributions to the circular economy in communities across the United States. We have an impressive track record of leadership across several issues."

*"U.S. pulp and paper manufacturers are proven partners whose members' sustainability successes can inform collaborative efforts, leading to achievable solutions for addressing our environmental challenges while promoting economic growth and job creation."*

### ***Sustainability***

We continue to be at the forefront of sustainability efforts, proactively setting, meeting, and even surpassing rigorous sustainability goals as part of our ***Better Practices, Better Planet*** initiative.

Our ***Better Practices, Better Planet 2030*** goals advance our sustainability leadership. AF&PA members raised the bar with five updated goals for 2030, including further reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increasing production of renewable and recyclable products, striving toward zero workplace injuries, and advancing sustainable water management and resilient forests.

### ***Energy and the Environment***

To meet sustainability targets set by the Biden administration, it is essential the government and private sector collaborate. For decades, U.S. pulp and paper manufacturers have led the way in helping our country achieve our environmental goals. For instance, our use of renewable, carbon-beneficial bioenergy to power paper mills reduces greenhouse gas emissions, preventing about 181 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from entering the atmosphere each year. That's roughly equal to removing 35 million cars from the road.

With a track record of success in reducing GHG emissions by 24.1% since 2005, our industry is bringing solutions to the table as we seek to work toward a more sustainable future, including innovations in recycling, by landfill diversion, which also helps contribute to GHG emission reductions. U.S. pulp and paper manufacturers are proven partners whose members' sustainability successes can inform collaborative efforts, leading to achievable solutions for addressing our environmental challenges while promoting economic growth and job creation.

### ***Paper Recycling and Product Stewardship***

Paper is one of the most widely recycled materials in America and an environmental success story with a positive impact on the broader circular economy.

Every year since 2009, the paper recycling rate has met or exceeded 63%, and the cardboard recycling rate has met or exceeded 82%. We can look to the paper industry as a model for success. Our industry successfully expanded access to recycling programs, increased recycling rates and created thriving end markets for recycled materials.

AF&PA members believe in producer responsibility and have taken a leadership role in voluntarily advancing the recycling system. We support policies that aim to improve recycling and composting in the U.S. and improve recycling access, especially in underserved communities, connecting more Americans to our recycling infrastructure.

Our industry has also announced \$5 billion in mill manufacturing investments by the end of 2024 to enhance our capacity to use recycled fibers in paper products by nearly 25%. These investments – nearly \$2.5 million worth of investment per day – will further advance innovative paper products.

### ***Business Impact and Marketplace Sustainability***

The U.S. forest products industry is one of the largest manufacturing industries in America. We create business impact in communities, big and small, and sustain high-paying and highly skilled jobs. Our industry is often the heart of many local communities across the country. To stay competitive globally, we need policies that support U.S. manufacturing, our workforce, and supply chains.

We value strong relationships with workers in our mills and broader labor coalitions throughout our industry, including the United Steelworkers (USW) and other labor unions, as we work to achieve our shared policy goals.

AF&PA also supports policies that promote efficiency and safety within rail, maritime and highway freight transportation, along with thoughtful policies related to tax and international trade to allow our industry to compete in the global marketplace. Additionally, we need to support sustainable forest management and fiber procurement best practices. Trees are one of our most abundant renewable resources, and a healthy forest products industry goes hand-in-hand with healthy forests.

### ***Safety***

AF&PA members are committed to the safety of our industry's essential workforce and end-users. Safety is a mindset and a top priority for our industry. Over the last decade, AF&PA members have made continuous progress in improving worker safety, surpassing our ***Better Practices, Better Planet 2020*** goal. Our 2030 goal strives for zero injuries and emphasizes continual focus and progress on preventing Serious Injuries and Fatalities (SIFs) and supporting members' implementation of ongoing SIF programs at pulp and paper mills.

To stay engaged and learn more about AF&PA's 2023 policy priorities, visit: [afandpa.org/priorities](https://afandpa.org/priorities).