The Paper Steps

To Environmentally Responsible Paper

In the Steps below, 'Environmental Fiber Attributes' are defined as:

- Post-consumer Recycled Fiber
- Pre-consumer (or deinked) Recycled Fiber
- Agricultural Residue Fiber[1]
- Forest Stewardship Council certified and free of Endangered and High Conservation Value Forest fiber[2]

- Cleaner Bleaching Production Technologies are also included in each Step.

ENVIRONMENTALLY INFERIOR PAPER

This paper has no, or very minor, environmental attributes

MEETS NO MINIMUM CRITERIA:

- Has no or minimal recycled content
- Virgin tree fibers not FSC-certified and may be from intact, endangered and or high conservation value forests

TRANSITIONAL PAPER

At least 10% of the fiber has environmental attributes and meets the minimum criteria below

MINIMUM CRITERIA:

- 10% post consumer OR FSC Mixed Sources certified[4] OR 10% agricultural residue[1] content
- Virgin tree fibers can not be from controversial sources[5]
- Bleaching: Can not be Elemental Chlorine (EC) pulp bleaching process

ENVIRONMENTALLY IMPROVED PAPER

At least 50% of fiber has environmental attributes and meets the minimum criteria below

MINIMUM CRITERIA:

- Minimum 30% post consumer recycled if the paper contains virgin tree fiber
- FSC certification required on papers with more than 50% virgin tree content
- Virgin tree fibers can not be from controversial sources[5]
- Bleaching: Must me EECF[3], TCF, PCF pulping and bleaching processes only; excludes Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) bleaching

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR PAPER

All fiber (100%) is environmentally superior and meets the minimum criteria below

MINIMUM CRITERIA:

- Minimum 50% post consumer recycled content if the paper contains virgin tree fiber
- Virgin tree fiber can not have controlled wood content[4] or controversial sources[5]
- Bleaching: Must be processed Chlorine Free (PCF) or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF)

Calculate and Build Reports on Your Positive Impact! Use the Paper Calculator at **www.papercalculator.org**

What's in Your Paper?

presented by environmental paper network

To find a list of Environmentally Improved and Environmentally Superior Papers visit **www.WhatsInYourPaper.com.**

1. Agricultural residues are residues left over from food production or other processes and using them maximizes the lifecycle of the fiber. Fibers include: cereal straws like wheat straw, rice straw, seed flax straw, corn stalks, sorghum stalks, cotton stalks, cotton linters, sugar cane bagasse, and rye seed grass straw. Where the LCA (life cycle analysis) shows environmental benefits and conversion of forest land to on purpose crops is not an issue, kenaf can also be included here. (Agricultural residues are not from on purpose crops that replace forest stands or food crops.)
2. Currently, virgin fiber directly from FSC certified forests is the only tree fiber that meets this criteria
3. Enhanced Elemental Chlorine Free paper is made using technologies such as oxygen delignification and ozone bleaching prior to bleaching with chlorine dioxide.
4. FSC paper may contain recycled, FSC certified or Controlled Wood sources. 'Transitional,' 'Improved,' and 'Superior' category papers may not contain virgin tree fiber from controversial sources. 'Superior' category papers may contain no 'Controlled Wood' sources.
5. Controversial Sources include Endangered Forests as defined in the Ecological Attributes of Endangered Forests in the Wye Group Report www.canopyplanet.org/uploads/Wye-EF-Report.pdf, and those sources dealt with in FSC under the Controlled Wood Standard, including fiber sources from High Conservation Value Forests or Ecosystems, or where there is a risk of illegal logging, violations of traditional or civil rights, ecosystems subject to conversion, or fiber from genetically modified organisms.

- PulpWatch.org provides information on many mills' bleaching technologies and can help identify mills using, ECF, EECF, TCF and PCF technologies.
- The criteria above correspond to the pulp rating system for www.Pulpwatch.org
- The Paper Steps is based on the Hierarchy of Environmental Papers developed by Canopy, www.canopyplanet.org