

FORESTS HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change refers to the long-term changes in temperatures and weather patterns. These changes may be caused naturally, but since the 1800s, human activities like burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas have been the main driver of climate change.¹

The European paper industry is building on decades of work done to make its industrial model sustainable and circular, making it one of the most sustainable industries in Europe. Its key raw material pulp, derived from processing wood, is intrinsically sustainable, sourced from responsibly managed forests.²



Greenhouse gas emissions act like a blanket wrapped around the earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.



Forests play a critical role in mitigating CO₂ levels, but reducing emissions from manufacturing processes is just as essential as protecting forest resources. The European paper industry has reduced its carbon emissions by 26% since 2005 and increased the share of renewable energy consumption to 62%.³



Examples of greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for instance.

As a wood product, paper keeps CO₂ locked in the fibres, for the duration of its life cycle.

Over the past 40 years, the world's forests have moderated global warming by absorbing around 1/4 of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities.⁴

Carbon sequestration in forests reduces the rate at which carbon accumulates in the atmosphere and so reduces the rate at which climate change occurs.⁴



1. United Nations, What Is Climate Change, 7 Aug 2021 - <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

2. CEPI - <https://www.cepi.org/policy-area/sustainability-circularity/> - accessed 22,08,2022

3. CEPI, Key Statistics 2020 - <https://www.cepi.org/key-statistics-2020/>

4. The Soil Association, Sustainable Packaging Report: The case for paper, 2020 - <https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/forestry/resources-for-certificate-holders/paper-packaging-resources/sustainable-packaging-report/>



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