



## *Decades of Commitment for a Sustainable Future*

The paper industry is working to capture even more paper from the waste stream for recycling.



### *Investing to Improve Paper Recycling Rates*

Investing in and improving paper recycling has been an industry priority for decades. AF&PA members are working to advance the circular value chain.

We joined the U.S. EPA and others pledging support to solve issues facing the U.S. recycling system.



### *Voluntary Goal Setting*

The U.S. paper industry set its first recycling goal in 1990 to improve paper recycling rates. As recycling rates increased, our industry continued to set new goals.

We recycle nearly 60% more paper today than we did in 1990.



### *Industry MRF Ownership*

We have an ownership stake in the recycling system.

AF&PA members own and operate more than 100 materials recovery facilities (MRFs) nationwide. That's where your recyclables are sorted and processed.



### *Increasing the Use of Recycled Paper*

Our members set a goal to increase the use of secondary materials like recycled paper in new paper products to 50% by 2030. They also aim to increase the percentage of our products that are recyclable or compostable.

Additionally, since 2019, our industry has announced or is expected to complete projects by 2025 that will use more than 9 million tons of recycled paper.

Projects include building new mills, converting or expanding existing mills, and updating machinery and equipment.



## Investing in Recycling Education

In the 1990s, AF&PA created a program to help promote paper recycling in the U.S., which is still ongoing today.

We continue to provide resources and conduct research to help capture more paper from the waste stream for recycling.

- 01 We developed a tool, AF&PA's *Design Guidance for Recyclability*. The Design Guidance helps packaging manufacturers, designers and brands create and manufacture packaging that helps to meet their recyclability goals.
- 02 Additionally, our industry tested and found **pizza boxes and all-paper padded mailers can be successfully recycled at paper mills**. We developed language to share with stakeholders to help ensure more of these materials are captured from the waste stream.
- 03 AF&PA works with stakeholders and partners to **increase recycling access and improve education**. For example, we are a member of the Paper Cup Alliance, which works to increase paper cup recycling in the U.S.
- 04 We publish **Recycling Q&As** to help increase knowledge and awareness of how to recycle common paper products.



### About AF&PA

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance U.S. paper and wood products manufacturers through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. The forest products industry is circular by nature. AF&PA member companies make essential products from renewable and recycle resources, generate renewable biomass energy and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative—*Better Practices, Better Planet 2030: Sustainable Products for a Sustainable Future*.

