

# 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SUSTAINABLE PAPER PROCUREMENT

The World Business Council on Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute recently released an updated guide and resource kit regarding sustainable procurement of paper and other forest products. It overviews key considerations and the current state-of-knowledge relating to “10 things you should know”, and provides summary information and references to existing procurement policies and standards and tools. It’s designed to help determine whether purchases today will “help or hurt the availability of similar products or important natural resources for future generations”.

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## Sourcing and Legality Questions

1. Where do the products come from?
2. Is information about the products credible?
3. And have the products been legally produced?

All of the virgin fibre Catalyst uses comes from supply regions that are at low risk for illegal logging or deforestation (British Columbia and the US Pacific Northwest). We were among the first paper companies to use chain-of-custody systems that give customers clear and credible verification of precisely where the fibre in their products comes from. We have Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain-of-custody certification at our Snowflake mill, and both FSC and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) chain-of-custody certification at our Canadian mills. Most of our virgin fibre can be traced back to forests whose sustainable management is independently certified, while the large majority of the recovered fibre we recycle meets FSC post-consumer criteria. We take additional steps, such as supplier declarations, to make sure we’re completely avoiding illegally logged or genetically modified fibre.

## Environmental Questions

4. Have forests been sustainably managed?

We get the large majority of our virgin fibre supplies from forests in British Columbia, with small additional amounts coming from the US Pacific Northwest. In addition to relying mainly on independently certified sources of supply, all forestry operations within these regions are subject to stringent regulatory requirements relating to land-use planning, harvesting levels and management practices. Neither conversion nor deforestation occur on any extensive basis in our supply areas, with North American forest cover having increased by nearly 4 million hectares between 1990 and 2005.

5. Have special places, including sensitive ecosystems, been protected?

In addition to legal provisions to protect defined ecological, cultural and social features that have special significance, broader land-use and forest-management planning processes have taken place in supply areas. Most notably, this includes special zoning and management arrangements in British Columbia’s globally unique Great Bear Rainforest – one outcome of which is complete protection for about a third of this region.

## 6. Have climate issues been addressed?

We meet more than 60% of the energy requirements at our Canadian mills, and nearly 50% corporate-wide, with carbon-neutral biomass fuels. And since most of our fibre comes from certified forests, without any significant deforestation in our supply areas, our operations are contributing to forest management that mitigates rather than contributes to climate change. At our Canadian mills, we have exceeded a commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 70% from 1990 levels – as part of our involvement in WWF’s Climate Savers program – and we offer products verified as manufactured carbon neutral. We have also supported research on the life-cycle carbon emissions of paper products and are engaged in reduction efforts extending beyond manufacturing alone, including our registration in the US EPA’s SmartWay transportation program.

## 7. Have appropriate environmental controls been applied?

We strive for continuous improvement on a wide range of manufacturing-related emissions. We provide detailed mill-level disclosure – relating to emissions levels and regulatory compliance – in our regular sustainability reports and through the Environmental Paper Assessment Tool (EPAT). And through a Clean Production Initiative that we’re implementing in partnership with WWF Canada, emission-specific action plans are being developed and prioritized based on relative toxicity impacts.

## 8. Has recycled fibre been used appropriately?

All production from our Snowflake mill (newsprint and specialty grades) is recycled. And since the supply of recovered paper is limited (due to municipal single stream waste recovery, diminishing paper use, and offshore recycled paper exports), we have always concentrated recycled production in the grades to which it is best suited and where the yield of end product per unit of recovered paper is highest. Basing our recycled production entirely in the southwest US also creates transportation efficiencies in the sourcing of economic recovered paper.

## 9. Have other resources been used appropriately?

We have a long-standing focus on energy-use efficiency and an emerging focus on water-use efficiency. Extensive capital upgrades beginning in the late 1990s allowed us to efficiently use more biomass fuels, and a further upgrade currently underway at Powell River will allow us to sell green energy back to the provincial electrical utility. And our leadership in developing and marketing lighter basis weight papers is an example of the procurement guide calls “source reduction”, since lighter paper limit emissions and other impacts associated with product transportation, storage and end use.

## Social Question

## 10. Have the needs of local communities or indigenous peoples been addressed?

Catalyst keeps open lines of communication with Aboriginal groups residing in proximity to our operations, on matters of mutual interest. Recent outcomes include ongoing efforts to transfer ownership of a surplus dam to the Hupacasath First Nation, and a protocol with the Sliammon First Nation in connection with a new energy project.