

# Hello Families,

## Recycling paper and paper-based packaging is easier than ever.

More individuals, families, and communities are working together to ensure a better planet for future generations. As a country, we've been doing a good job—and with your family's help we can do even more.

The U.S. paper industry has established the *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020* sustainability initiative, which includes goals to increase paper recycling, improve energy efficiency in manufacturing, and promote sustainable forestry practices, to name a few.

Since 1990, **the amount of paper recovered for recycling has nearly doubled.** In 2012, more than 65% of the paper used in schools, offices, and homes like yours was recovered. And by 2020, the industry is striving to recover more than 70% of the paper products used annually in the U.S. Together, we can achieve our goal.

Recycling isn't paper's only success story. **Did you know that paper is made from a renewable resource?** Making products from sustainable materials is just as important as recycling. Using forest-based products creates the on-going need to grow more trees on nearly 500 million acres of working forest in the U.S. That's two-thirds of America's forests!

Please use the information and activities in this pamphlet to help increase your family's paper recycling. When you're done, challenge your friends and family to do the same! To reach our recovery goal, we need everyone's help, starting with your family's. You can get more paper recycling information, resources, and **fun activities at [paperrecycles.org](http://paperrecycles.org).**

**Many thanks** from your friends at the American Forest & Paper Association!



**American  
Forest & Paper  
Association**



**BETTER PRACTICES  
BETTER PLANET 2020**  
Continuing AF&PA's Commitment to Sustainability





# Can we Recycle it?

When you recycle paper, are you collecting everything you can? What does your community recycling service accept anyway? And how do they process recyclables? The answers vary by community and state. To find out, we need to do a little digging!

- 1 Local community recycling services decide** which paper products can be collected curbside (outside of your home) and which ones need to be brought to a drop-off center (you collect and bring recyclables to a central location). When speaking to your recycling service, use the checklist to the right to create a list of the paper products that are accepted for recycling in your area and any required preparation. (Do you need to remove spiral binders from notebooks, for example?)
- 2 Find out your local community procedures** for collection. Is the local collection type source separation (paper, glass, plastic, etc. in different bins), single stream (all recyclables in one bin or cart), or mixed waste (one bin for trash and all recyclables)? This will affect how you collect your recyclables, so be sure to find out. It might save you a lot of time and effort, and will help make recycling a cinch!
- 3 Post the resulting checklist** near the recycling bin where everyone in the house can see it.



## Household Items/ Boxes/Food Packaging

- Bakery boxes
- Beverage cartons and carriers
- Shoe boxes
- Dried food packaging
- Frozen food packaging
- Juice boxes
- Milk cartons
- Cereal boxes
- Paper medicine packaging
- Take-out food containers
- Toilet paper/paper towel tubes
- Paper grocery bags
- Paper coffee cups



## Books/Magazines

- Books (soft cover)
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Phone books
- Spiral notebooks



## Office Materials/ School Supplies

- Office paper
- Lined school paper
- Writing tablets
- Calendars
- Colored paper
- Construction paper
- Card stock
- File folders
- Sticky notes
- Hanging file folders



## Catalogs/ Envelopes/Mail

- Catalogs
- Envelopes
- Coupons
- Advertising inserts
- Greeting cards

## For more information

about paper recovery for recycling and community programs, visit [www.paperrecycles.org/recycling-resources/community-recycling](http://www.paperrecycles.org/recycling-resources/community-recycling)

# Now that you know what can be recycled in your local area and how it is collected, it's time to make it happen.

The American Forest & Paper Association has set a goal to recover 70% of paper for recycling as part of its *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020* initiative. We invite your family to do the same. Some possible recycling goals are listed below. Select one from each category that is relevant to your family and complete the statements to make the goals meaningful, but still attainable.

### At the store:

- We will choose packaging made from renewable and recyclable materials (like paper) whenever possible, and commit to recycling the packaging.

### In our home:

- Based on what we've learned about our local recycling program, we will organize our recycling station in our home. Since our community uses \_\_\_\_\_ collection, we will need \_\_\_\_\_ bins and \_\_\_\_\_

- We will commit to recycling all of the following paper products and will double check to make sure they aren't mistakenly put in the garbage bin.

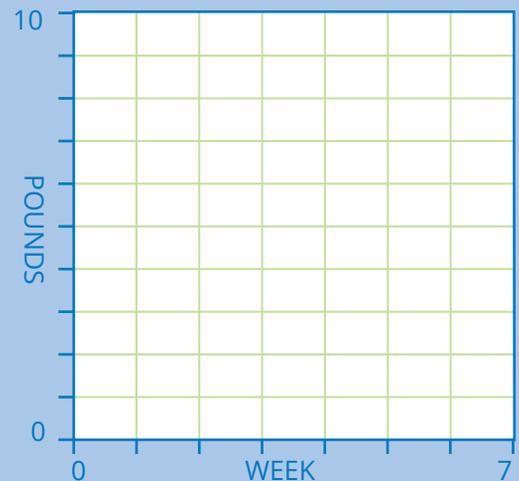
### In our community:

- We will encourage our friends and neighbors to recycle by \_\_\_\_\_
- We will work with our local schools to support recycling efforts by \_\_\_\_\_

## Making it Happen:

Working as a family to commit to increased paper recovery for recycling is only the first step. Now you need to make it happen. Keep your goals prominently displayed near your recycling station or shopping list. Each month, have a different member of the family act as a "recycling supervisor" to ensure that you are working towards your goals. Have them weigh or estimate the weight of the recyclables each week and track improvement over time.

Week	Pounds
Jan. 1	5 Pounds



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# See how much your family knows about sustainability and recycling. Instead of competing against one another, discuss and research each of the questions together before answering.

Tip: Check out [paperrecycles.org](http://paperrecycles.org) and [afandpa.org/sustainability](http://afandpa.org/sustainability) for help!

**1** The amount of paper recovered for recycling in 2012 exceeded \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. 60 million tons      c. 51 million tons
- b. 92 million tons      d. 73 million tons

**2** The amount of paper recovered for recycling has nearly doubled since when?

- a. 2003      c. 1990
- b. 2000      d. 1995

**3** The amount of paper going to landfills has declined by half since when?

- a. 1950      c. 1990
- b. 1970      d. 2000

**4** In 2012, all of the paper recovered for recycling was worth how much?

- a. Eight thousand dollars
- b. Eight million dollars
- c. Eighty million dollars
- d. Eight billion dollars

**5** In the U.S., how many people out of 100 have access to local community recycling?

- a. 27      c. 87
- b. 55      d. 99

**6** What percentage of U.S. paper mills use some recycled paper to manufacture new paper and paperboard products?

- a. 20      c. 76
- b. 47      d. 88

**7** What percentage of young adults think that information (such as bills, statements, etc.) should be available in paper format and not just electronic format?

- a. 2%      c. 48%
- b. 18%      d. 92%

**8** How much of the land in the U.S. is forest?

- a. One quarter      c. One half
- b. One third      d. Two thirds

**9** How has the number of trees in the U.S. changed in the past 40 years?

- a. Shrunk by 20%      c. Shrunk by 50%
- b. Grew by 20%      d. Stayed the same size

Answer key: 1. C, 2. C, 3. D, 4. D, 5. C, 6. C, 7. D, 8. B, 9. B