

The Scrap Recycling Industry:

Paper

Recovered fiber, also known as recovered paper and board, is one of the most widely recycled materials in the world. Since 1990, Americans have recycled nearly 1.1 billion tons of recovered fiber as the recovery rate for paper and paperboard in the United States increased by 30 percent to reach 66.8 percent in 2015. The paper recycling segment of the scrap recycling industry collects, sorts, and processes the recovered fiber into specification grade products that were valued at \$7.7 billion in 2015. These products are sold and transported to paper mills at home and worldwide for production into new packaging, office paper, tissue, newsprint, and a multitude of other paper products.

In the United States, approximately 76 percent of paper mills rely on recovered fiber to make some or all of their products due in part to recovered paper's significant cost and energy savings. In addition, the paper and fiber recovered in the United States helps to meet growing overseas demand: recovered paper was exported to more than 65 different countries last year at a value of approximately \$3.1 billion, not including the tremendous environmental benefits and energy savings, while significantly helping our balance of trade.



The recovery rate for paper and paperboard in the U.S. reached 66.8 percent in 2015.



Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.



THE FIBER INDUSTRY

The United States recovered 52 million tons of paper in 2015 and the accounts for:

- 66 percent of the paper consumed in the United States; and
- Approximately 325 lbs. for every person in America.

21.6 million tons of recovered paper was exported in 2015 including:

- 2.2 million tons of printed news;
- 10.6 million tons of corrugated cardboard
- 4.7 million tons of mixed paper;
- 670,000 thousand of high-grade paper;
- 2.4 million tons of other mechanical paper; and
- 967,000 thousand tons of pulp substitutes

Recovered paper is exported to more than 65 countries including: Canada, China, India, South Korea, and Mexico.

Since 1990, Americans have recycled nearly 1.1 billion tons of recovered fiber.

Each percentage point of recovery represents roughly 785,000 tons of fiber — enough weight to fill more than 7,500 railroad cars.

Recycling one ton of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

More than two and a half times more paper is recycled than is sent to landfills.

In 2015, paper processing was an \$7.7 billion industry in the United States.

Energy saved using recycled materials versus virgin materials is up to 68 percent.

Nearly 77 percent of all U.S. papermakers use some recovered paper to make everything from newspaper to paper packaging to office paper.

Some of the world's earliest pieces of paper were made using scrap material.