



Sustainability

**Paper: the alternative to
climate change**

Sustainability Paper: the alternative to climate change

Introduction

Paper helps to mitigate climate change by sequestering CO₂, reducing emissions in the manufacturing process, avoiding emissions via recycling, using biomass as fuel, cogeneration, and in its use as a substitute for less environmentally friendly products.

Paper is a natural product made from renewable raw material – trees –, which bind CO₂, and are the source of the wood from which cellulose fibers are obtained for manufacturing paper. CO₂ sequestered in trees remains stored in paper products. Paper is recycled several times after being used and when it is no longer suitable for recycling, it can be used as biofuel, just as biomass and manufacturing waste is.



In its publication “*Árbol, Papel, Planeta*” (Tree, Paper, Planet) ⁽¹⁾, the Paper Chain, an initiative that unites sectors in Spain whose primary activity involves paper, presents relevant information culled from studies on the carbon footprint of different products, activities and sectors. Here at Torrapapel, we believe it is our responsibility to communicate and distribute information such as this that contributes to greater awareness of the sustainability of our products.

(1) The publication “*Árbol, Papel, Planeta*” can be downloaded for free, in Spanish, at the ASPAPEL web page.

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Reading a printed newspaper has a lower impact on global warming than reading the news online for 30 minutes.

In Europe, reading a daily newspaper entails 28 kilograms of CO₂ equivalent per reader and year, while reading the news daily online for 30 minutes produces 35 kilograms of CO₂ equivalent per reader and year.

Source: Centre for Sustainable Communications – Royal Institute of Technology KTH – Sweden

The use of printed textbooks as teaching aids contributes to global warming ten times less than the use of electronic teaching aids.

In the functional unit analyzed (5000 pupils per year in six cities in Norway, eighty hours per student and year), CO₂ fossil fuel emissions were 2,620 for textbooks and 23,800 for online documentation.

Source: Maria Enroth – MSG Management System Group AB – Sweden

The volume of spam email worldwide produces the same amount of greenhouse gases as traveling around the world 1.6 million times by car.

The volume of spam email worldwide produces 17 million tons of CO₂ equivalent per year (0.3 grams per message). And spam emails represent just *one third* of electronic mail in the home and office.

Source: McAfee – ICF International

Emissions associated with the amount of printed mail received annually per household entail 14 kilograms of CO₂, equal to the emissions produced by five cheeseburgers or a 70 kilometer car trip.

This is valid for the European average of 727 letters annually per household (260 letters per capita and 2.8 persons per household) and 20 grams of CO₂ produced per letter.

Source: EMIP European Mail industry Platform

The 430,000 hectares of Spanish plantations for paper manufacturing sequester 50 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Pine and eucalyptus plantations for the paper industry sequester 49,849,749 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Source: Ministry of the Environment. General Directorate for Biodiversity

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