



Biomass Carbon Neutrality

Position

In the 2017 fiscal year spending bill, Congress directed the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to jointly ensure that federal policy relating to forest bioenergy is consistent across all departments and agencies; and that the full benefits of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management are recognized. The bill specifically directed these federal agencies to establish clear and simple policies for the utilization of biomass as an energy solution. These include policies that:

- Reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy
- Recognize biomass as a renewable energy source
- Encourage private investment throughout the biomass supply chain
- Encourage forest management to improve forest health
- Recognize state initiatives to use biomass

Key Biomass Carbon Neutrality Issues

Policy Request: International Paper urges the Environmental Protection Agency in coordination with both the Departments of Energy and Agriculture to expeditiously pursue a policy statement and/or rule to fully implement Congress' intent in regard to the use of forest biomass and provide regulatory certainty.

Efficient Use of Carbon-Neutral, Renewable Biomass Residuals: International Paper is a leader in the use of renewable energy. We generate nearly 75% of the energy used in our mills from carbon-neutral biomass residuals, which minimizes the use of fossil fuels.

The sustainable use of forest products manufacturing residuals by the forest products industry to produce energy provides enormous greenhouse gas benefits by avoiding the emission of about 181 million metric tons annually of CO₂ equivalent. This is equal to the emissions of about 35 million cars.

By procuring wood from suppliers who practice responsible forest stewardship and ensure the long-term sustainability of working forests, International Paper participates in a successful, market-based system of fiber sourcing and residual biomass use that provides positive carbon benefits and co-benefits including:

- Efficient use of biomass residuals through combined heat-and-power energy systems
- Reduction of coal and fuel oil use by 50 percent globally since 2010
- Reduction in GHG emissions by 19 percent since 2010
- Robust recycling of paper fiber to reuse valuable biomass resources
- Employment of nearly 35,000 people throughout the United States

