

Facts Sheet

Did you know?

- Australia's per capita consumption of paper = 200kg's p.a., equating to 72kg's CO₂ emissions Versus operating a plasma television 5 hours per day x 6 days per week = 450kg's CO₂ emissions.
- Worldwide plants and soils store over 7,300 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, more than double that held in the atmosphere (2,700 billion tonnes CO₂).
- Globally, industrial forestry including the planting of new forests (afforestation) and re-establishing old forest areas (reafforestation) is estimated to result in the absorption annually of 1 billion tonnes of CO₂.
- It is estimated that there are 25% more trees in the developed world today than in 1901.
- Ever thought about which resources are sustainable and which ones aren't? For example, wood is sustainable and can be harvested for use and regrown, whilst oil, iron ore, coal, bauxite and gas, for example, are all non-replaceable. Once they are gone, they're gone!
- Australians recycle approximately 46% of their overall generated waste, growing by 825% over the past 7 years.
- Australia ranks No. 1 in the world for newsprint recycling, which has grown from 28% in 1990 to 75% in 2006 (PNEB).
- Australian Catalogue Association (ACA) estimates recycling rates of catalogues in Australia at around 80%.
- In 2006 waste paper and board collections totalled approximately 2.5 million tonnes, of which around 1.5 million tonnes was used domestically and 1 million tonnes exported, mainly to China and India.
- 48% of the Australian paper manufacturing sectors fibre needs come from recycled paper.
- Carbon is cycled continuously through the Earth's natural system - Carbon released (emitted) through "breathing" taking in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide, and decay of organic matter. Carbon sequestered (absorbed) by plants as they grow, with some transferred to soil.

Sustainable forestry and increased use of wood and wood products, including paper, increases the absorption and "locking up" of CO₂ emissions through the timer growth, harvest, processing and re-growth (reafforestation / afforestation") cycle.
- Forests in Australia store an estimated 10.5 billion tonnes of carbon (excluding soil carbon) - equivalent to 38.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere.
- Australian plantations and commercial forests removed a net 43.7 million tones of CO₂ from the atmosphere in 2004.
- Carbon is only released back into the atmosphere when wood or wood products decay or are burnt.
- The Eucalypt is capable of sequestering carbon at a rate of 10 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year, and has a positive net carbon balance even when used for pulp and paper production.
- The economic value of the forest and wood products industries in Australia is about A\$18.6 billion - 3% of Gross National Product.
- All forests in Australia cover about 21% of the land mass - 164.42 million hectares.
- 7% of Australia's forests are managed by State Governments forestry agencies as potential wood sources and are strictly controlled.
- 13.2% of Australia's forests are set aside as conservation zones / environmental protection.



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