

finch green guide

A Feet-in-the-ForestSM Commitment to Sustainability

Finch papers are made with a keen understanding that the long-term viability of our business relies on the wise use — and re-use — of resources. Since the turn of the 20th century, we have practiced sustainable forestry, generated most of our own power, and made most of our own pulp to produce uncoated papers that not only convey responsibility, but are made with environmental integrity.



Today, Finch Paper strives to reduce our environmental impact with innovative programs in partnership with Cornell University, Clarkson, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Rochester Institute of Technology. Working collaboratively, we have deployed new water-saving technologies, significantly reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and saved landfill space by finding beneficial uses for mill byproducts.

We believe that paper should come from local sources, green energy sources should be maximized, and rules should be followed. If you share this same set of eco-values, consider Finch as your preferred partner for renewable, reusable and recyclable paper.

A History of Healthy Forests

Five years after starting our first paper machine in 1905, we hired one of the nation's first professional foresters, Howard Churchill. Mr. Churchill began his long career at Finch with this mandate: to cultivate our vast Adirondack lands to satisfy the growing demand for wood while at the same time conserving natural resources and the wildlife that make their homes here.

Today, we employ our own team of certified foresters who use science-based programs to promote forest health. As other paper companies have walked away from forest management, we have an undeniable passion to stay directly involved with the long-term health of the forest.

- We have our feet in the forest every day, providing expertise to landowners, including The Nature Conservancy.

- None of the wood or pulp used to make Finch paper comes from endangered or threatened forests.
- Finch Paper was the first to have earned Forest Stewardship Council® certifications (FSC® C020054) for both Forest Management and Chain of Custody.
- We have earned Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (PCW-SFICOC-293) certification for responsible forestry.

Supporting local, sustainably managed forests

Finch Paper is located in northern New York, where the temperatures are cold and the growing cycles are long. The trees that grow here include beech, ash, maple, birch, white pine and hemlock to name a few. We work within the natural system with the goal to keep the forest regenerating itself

forever. We remove the poorest quality trees in stages over a 70- to 150-year period. This gives the better-quality trees more room to grow and drop seeds for the next generation of forest.

- We produce our own pulp using wood from the forests we manage or from responsibly managed, North American forests—not from continents thousands of miles away.
- Our forests are organic. We do not use any type of herbicides, insecticides, or other chemicals.
- Our selective harvesting technique leaves 96% of the forest growing.
- We created an affordable Family Forest Owner program to promote certified, long-term forest ownership and open space.

[[More ...](#)]

Maximizing green power

Over 66 percent of our total power consumption is generated from renewable sources—a mix of hydropower for electricity, and biomass used to fuel our cogeneration power plant. Reluctantly, we are also dependent on natural gas consumption — a minority portion that we work tirelessly to reduce each and every year.

- Over 2/3 of our energy needs are met by on-site, renewable resources.
- We are 100% Boiler MACT compliant.
- We have reduced fossil fuel consumption by 16% in the last two years.

Understanding climate change

Through photosynthesis, trees absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Any forest is a natural carbon store; it becomes a carbon sink when it is increasing in size or density. Because healthy forests generate more growth than we harvest, the forests we manage have met the definition of a carbon sink for the last 20 years. In addition, we take innovative steps at the mill to reduce our manufacturing carbon footprint.

- Through energy conservation efforts, we have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 13.2% from 2011 to 2013, and over 50% since 2007.
- We capture and reuse 50 million pounds per year of carbon dioxide from our processes to make precipitated calcium carbonate, a brightening agent in our paper. We also capture sulfur dioxide, a contributor to acid rain, for use in our pulping process.

Reusing and recycling fiber

The true value of recycling paper is not “saving trees” as is commonly misunderstood, it’s keeping usable fiber out of landfills. In a landfill, wastepaper decays over time and produces methane—the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emission. For this reason, everyone should recycle paper and mills should reuse the fiber as many times as possible.

- Our papers are made with an average of 3 million pounds of post-consumer waste fiber each year.
- We also find beneficial uses, such as animal bedding and land-applied fertilizer, for our pulp and paper residuals—which have reduced landfill shipments by 50% from 2012 to 2013.

Using an environmentally-sound, odor-free pulping process

We make more than 80% of our own pulp using certified wood in an elemental chlorine-free process. Our pulping process is designed to be beneficial to both water and air. By employing an ammonium-based bisulfite, continuous process, we are able to reduce the amount of biodegradable matter contained in our wastewater and also avoid the sulfuric odor.

- We are 99.97% compliant with all of our New York State air and water permits.
- All of the pulp we produce is elemental chlorine free. All of the post-consumer fiber we purchase is process chlorine-free.

The Mark of Responsibility



Your paper choice DOES make a difference.



All Finch paper products qualify for the Certified Sourcing label. SFI Chain of Custody orders are available upon request.



FSC certification attests that all of the wood used to make FSC-certified Finch Paper comes from well-managed forests and/or recycled fiber.



Finch offers several post-consumer waste fiber options.



Finch papers are produced using 66% on-site renewable energy.



All Finch papers are natural, uncoated products and well-suited to be recycled.



Finch papers are made in Glens Falls, NY.

Download these logos and more at www.finchpaper.com