

Media Release



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Global Forest and Paper Industry sustainability commitments

WASHINGTON – The latest International Council of Forest and Paper Associations' (ICFPA) 2015 Sustainability Progress Report shows improvements on a range of sustainability indicators.

The full report is available at <http://www.icfpa.org/uploads/Modules/Publications/2015-icfpa-sustainability-progress-report.pdf>.

“We are proud of the significant and steady progress our global industry has made on our sustainability commitments,” said ICFPA President Donna Harman. “We look forward to continuing to manufacture sustainable products that people use and need while contributing to the well-being of communities around the world.”

The report highlights the global forest products industry's contributions to climate change mitigation, a key topic of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Mr Ross Hampton represented Australia as one of 22 international members at the ICFPA meetings in Washington last week. Mr Hampton said, “These meetings were a great success and highlight the vital role our forest industries are playing in a carbon constrained global economy which of necessity, is moving rapidly to greater use of renewable and recyclable products.”

The global sustainability performance of the forest product industry is improving, with all aggregate indicators showing progress:

- Greenhouse gas emissions intensity was reduced by 17% between 2005 and 2013.
- The share of bio-energy in the industry's fuel mix increased by 8 percentage points, to 61%, since 2005.
- The number of hectares certified to a third-party sustainable forest management certification system increased by 41 percentage points, to 52% of wood supply, since 2000.
- The global paper recycling rate increased by 11 percentage points, to 58%, between 2001 and 2013.
- Onsite energy intensity was reduced by 4.3% between 2005 and 2013.
- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions decreased by 40% between 2005 and 2013.
- Employees' recordable incident rate decreased by 9% between 2007 and 2013.

AFPA represents forest growers, harvesters, and manufacturers of timber and paper products.

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