

Fact Sheet

Paper sacks: the natural packaging choice

Natural and renewable

- » The fibres used to produce sack kraft paper are **100% natural, renewable and biodegradable**:
 - › Paper sacks contain **up to 100% natural fibres**.
 - › The use of paper sacks supports the goals of the COP21* agreement, which focuses on minimising the use of all kinds of fossil materials.
 - › Sack kraft paper is an **excellent source of fibre for the recycling industry**. Its long fibres can be recycled several times.

Sustainable resource

- » The sustainable management of forest areas is a central element of the value chain for paper sacks:
 - › The fibres are extracted from tree thinnings and from process waste from the timber industry from **sustainably managed forests in Europe**.
 - › Thanks to the continuous replanting of trees, state-owned forest in Europe is **growing by 200 million m3 per year****.
 - › These living forests provide habitat for wildlife and recreational areas for people.
 - › They **act as a carbon sink** and therefore play a **key role in climate change mitigation**.

Low carbon footprint

- » The sack kraft paper and paper sack industry aims to continuously reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and increase its energy efficiency including the share of renewable energy sources:
 - › Between 2007 and 2012, the overall carbon intensity of one individual paper sack was significantly **improved by 16%**.
 - › The total annual improvement in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent equates to around 17,300 circumnavigations of the globe by car.
 - › If the carbon sequestered by forests, end-of-life and avoided emissions were considered in the calculation of **the carbon footprint**, it **would actually come to less than zero**.
 - › For more information on the **carbon footprint of European paper sacks** click [here](#).

* United Nations conference on climate change, December 2015, Paris

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