



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

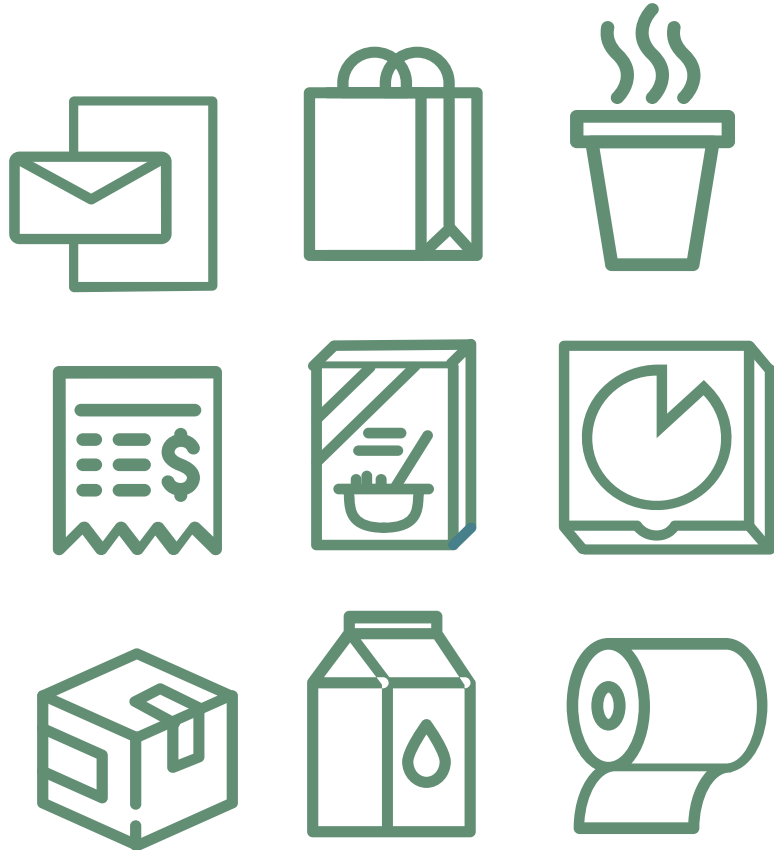
BETTER PRACTICES
BETTER PLANET **2030**
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

AF&PA Extended Producer Responsibility Update

James Bond, Manager, Government Affairs

April 13, 2026

About AF&PA



AF&PA represents

116 Members

Collectively our membership makes about

87%

of the pulp, paper, paper-based packaging and
tissue products made in the USA

Forest Products Industry Vital to the U.S.



A TOP 10
EMPLOYER IN



44
STATES



Operates
nearly



4,500
facilities

EMPLOYS MORE THAN

925,000

hardworking people in
rural communities.



Supports an estimated

1.63 million

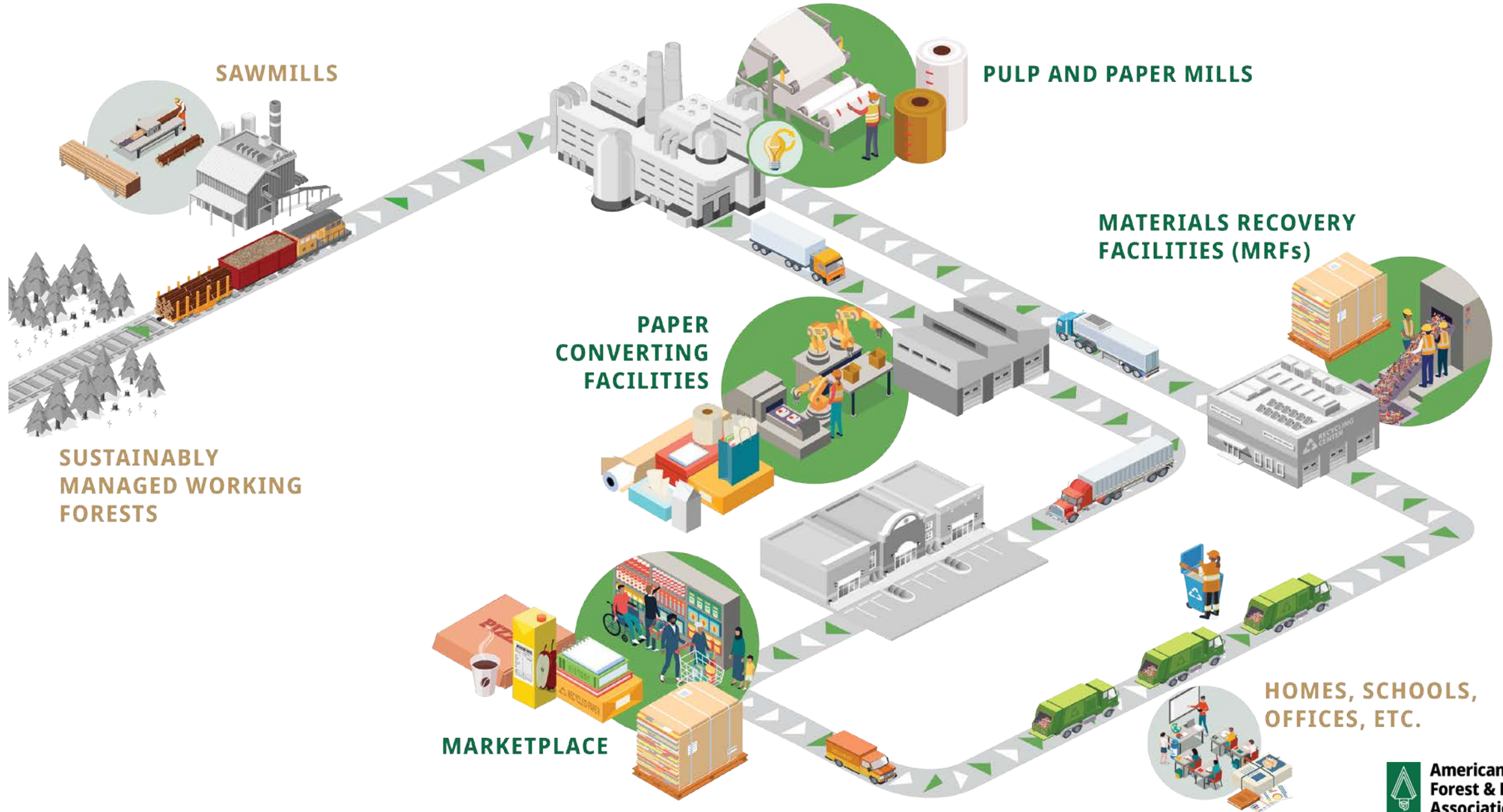
additional jobs across our industry's
suppliers and
in local communities



Manufactures more than

\$435 billion
in products

U.S. Paper & Packaging Manufacturers Deliver American Industry



RECYCLING RATES

FOR 2024

60% - 64%

PAPER

69% - 74%

CARDBOARD

Source: AF&PA Statistics

 **paper
recycles**
brought to you by the American Forest & Paper Association



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Association**

Illinois Access to Recycling

88.7% of the State population has access to curbside recycling for paper

56% of Illinois communities have access to curbside recycling for paper

What does this mean? Greater access in higher population areas with transportation efficiency.

AF&PA EPR Engagement

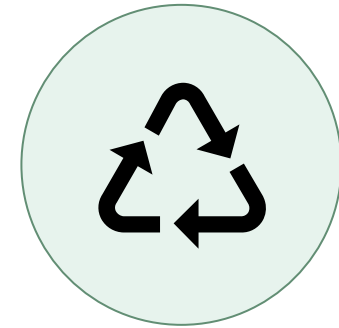
Ensure fair and equitable treatment for paper and paper and paper products



**LEGISLATIVE
ADVOCACY**



**REGULATORY
IMPLEMENTATION**



**PAPER RECYCLING
INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE**

EPR Policy Challenges

- Examining our own recycling success in the context of EPR policies
 - Design guide
 - If fiber enters one of our facilities:
 - Can it be recycled?
 - Under what standards?
- Needs Assessments
- Data quality challenges
- How to use collected fees

Current Concerns and Challenges with REMs



- Marketplace Disruptions
- Data Sensitivity
- Scope Creep
- Cost

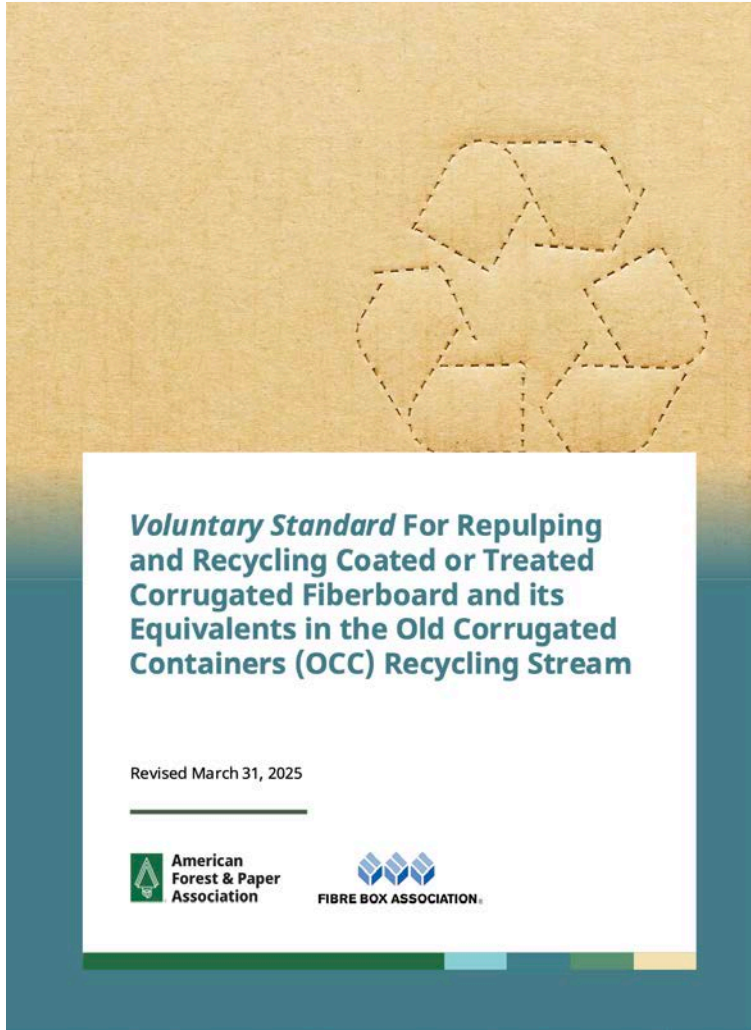
EPR Best Practices

- Recognition of paper recycling's success story
 - Avoid negatively affecting recycling rates for easy-to-recycle materials like paper
- Examine the early outcomes in states already implementing EPR
 - Avoid disruptions in established end-markets
 - Mitigate unneeded costs
 - Informing policy decisions through fact-based, comprehensive industry data
- Invest in recycling education

EPR Implementation Process Overview

STATE	COVERED MATERIALS	COLLECTION SOURCES COVERED	PROGRAM STARTS
OR	• Packaging • Printing & writing paper • Foodservice ware	Residential & Commercial	July 2025
CO	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	Residential for the first year, and non-residential entities phased in in later program years (small businesses, schools, hospitality locations, and government buildings)	Jan 2026
ME	• Packaging	Residential & Commercial	2026
CA	• Single-use packaging • Plastic single-use foodservice ware	Residential & Commercial w/ offramps	Jan 2027
MN	• Packaging • Food Packaging • Paper products	Residential, schools, NGOs making less than \$35 mill, government buildings, and public areas	2029
MD	• Packaging • Printing & writing paper	Residential, schools, child care centers, and public buildings owned or operated by the state or local government	Jan 2029 (earliest expected)
WA	• Packaging • Paper products	Residential	2030

AF&PA Industry Resources to Support Paper Recycling



Informing Policy Decisions Through Fact-Based Industry Data

paper
recycles
by AF&PA



About **3 billion pizza boxes** are used in the U.S. each year.

That's about **600,000 tons** of cardboard that could be collected for recycling.



Source: WestRock Fiber Stream Study

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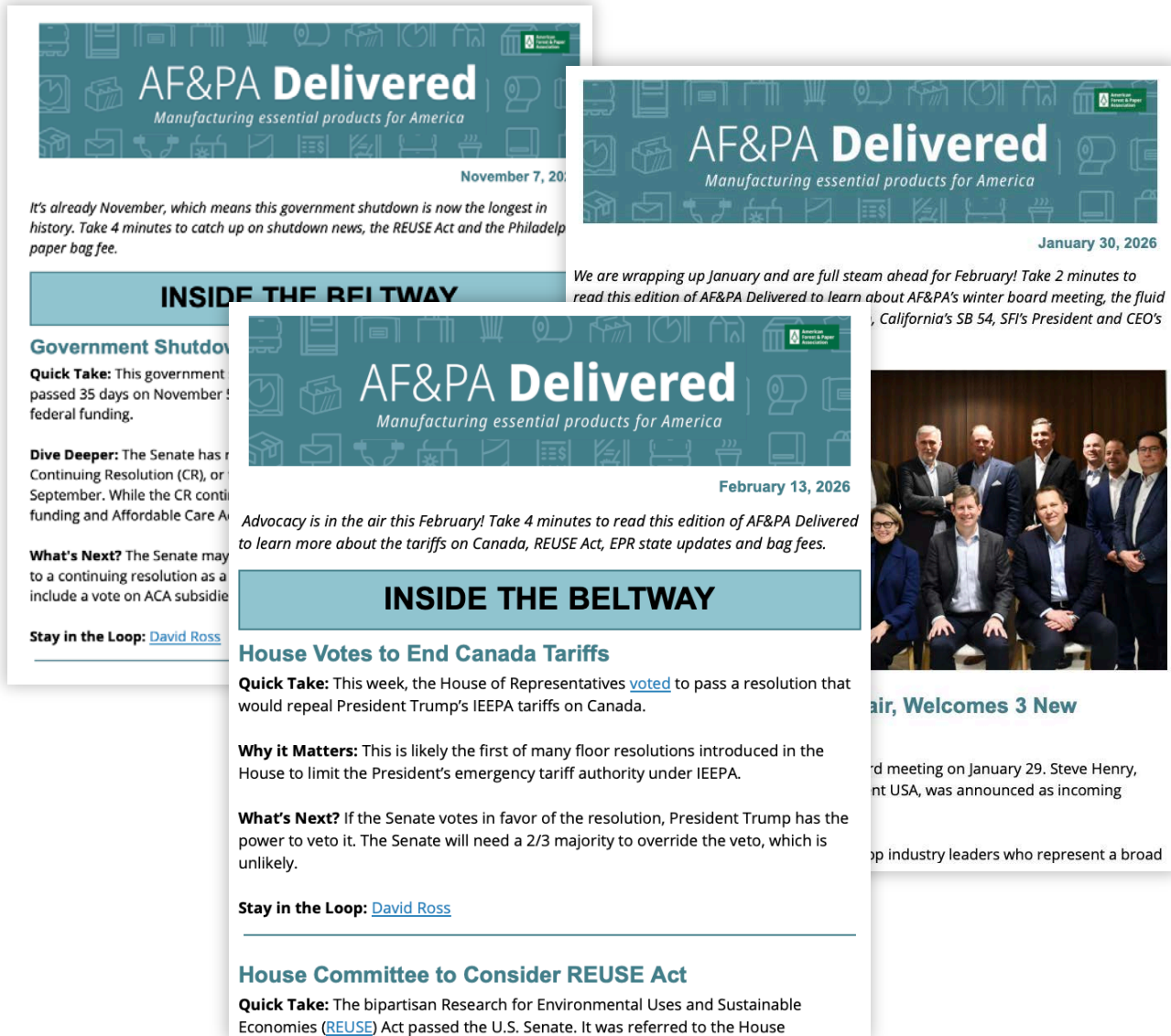


40 mills
across North
America recycle
paper cups.



Source: Food Service Packaging Institute

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