

Texas Recycled Newsprint Survey

2016 Survey Results

Each year, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) conducts a survey of Texas newspaper printers and publishers to determine their use of recycled newsprint. The following results are from calendar year 2016, which were compiled in 2017.

Summary of Results

State law sets the objective for newspaper publishers to meet at least one of two recycling goals as seen in the Texas Health and Safety Code, [Sec. 361.430](#). Nine percent of respondents met this objective, with nine percent also meeting or exceeding both goals. As a group, responding publishers met the recycled newsprint goal and the post-consumer recycled content goal.

The total tons of recycled newsprint and post-consumer recycled content purchased by respondents has increased from previous reporting years (see Table 3 below). Publication respondents who did not meet either goal cited inability to obtain sufficient quantities of recycled newsprint at competitive prices or satisfactory quality.

Use of Recycled Newsprint

One goal calls for recycled newsprint to comprise 30 percent of total newsprint purchased. Recycled newsprint is defined as newsprint containing 25 percent or more post-consumer recycled content. Highlights for 2016 include the following:

- Approximately 42 percent of newsprint purchased by respondents was recycled newsprint (29,826 tons);
- A little over nine percent of the respondents met or exceeded this goal; and
- Since 1995, 40 percent of all newsprint purchased by respondents has been recycled newsprint, totaling to more than 3.17 million tons of recycled newsprint purchased.

Aggregate Post-consumer Recycled Content

The current goal for aggregate post-consumer recycled content in newsprint (i.e., the overall percentage of post-consumer recycled content in all newsprint purchased) is 18 percent. Results for 2016 include the following:

- Approximately 25 percent of total newsprint purchased by respondents was post-consumer recycled content (18,225 tons);
- A little over nine percent of the respondents met or exceeded this goal; and
- Since 1995, respondents have purchased more than 2.32 million tons of post-consumer recycled content.

Goals and Totals

| Number of Times Publications Reported | Total Amount of Newsprint Purchased | Total that was Recycled Newsprint | Post-consumer Recycled Content in Newsprint |
|--|--|--|--|
| 5,975 | 7.9 million tons | 40% (goal: 30%) | 29% (goal: 18%) |

Recycled Newsprint Survey - Results from Calendar Year 1995 to 2016

| Year | Newsprint that was Recycled Newsprint (Percentage) | | Post-consumer Recycled Content in Newsprint (Percentage) | |
|---------|--|--------|--|--------|
| | Goal | Actual | Goal | Actual |
| 1995 | 10 | 20 | 2.5 | 18 |
| 1996 | 10 | 24 | 2.5 | 22 |
| 1997 | 20 | 37 | 12 | 21 |
| 1998 | 20 | 43 | 12 | 21 |
| 1999 | 20 | 46 | 12 | 22 |
| 2000 | 30 | 46 | 18 | 33 |
| 2001 | 30 | 46 | 18 | 34 |
| 2002 | 30 | 52 | 18 | 48 |
| 2003 | 30 | 38 | 18 | 30 |
| 2004 | 30 | 40 | 18 | 23 |
| 2005 | 30 | 56 | 18 | 46 |
| 2006 | 30 | 57 | 18 | 42 |
| 2007 | 30 | 36 | 18 | 43 |
| 2008 | 30 | 48 | 18 | 36 |
| 2009 | 30 | 51 | 18 | 42 |
| 2010 | 30 | 28 | 18 | 28 |
| 2011 | 30 | 27 | 18 | 24 |
| 2012 | 30 | 34 | 18 | 25 |
| 2013 | 30 | 40 | 18 | 28 |
| 2014 | 30 | 42 | 18 | 19 |
| 2015 | 30 | 31 | 18 | 15 |
| 2016 | 30 | 42 | 18 | 29 |
| Average | N/A | 40 | N/A | 29 |

| Table 3 - Newsprint Survey Details | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| YEAR | Number of Publications Represented | Total Amount of Newsprint Purchased (tons) | Total Amount of Recycled Newsprint Purchased (tons) | Total Amount of Postconsumer Recycled Content Purchased (tons) |
| 1995 | 291 | 662,482 | 132,423 | 119,247 |
| 1996 | 280 | 528,480 | 128,659 | 116,266 |
| 1997 | 283 | 631,817 | 236,680 | 132,682 |
| 1998 | 295 | 638,432 | 274,521 | 134,069 |
| 1999 | 277 | 693,902 | 319,860 | 152,658 |
| 2000 | 227 | 563,250 | 259,995 | 184,237 |
| 2001 | 181 | 480,964 | 222,714 | 163,388 |
| 2002 | 149 | 529,282 | 275,506 | 253,362 |
| 2003 | 262 | 648,776 | 244,974 | 194,684 |
| 2004 | 177 | 237,346 | 95,023 | 55,000 |
| 2005 | 300 | 481,168 | 268,107 | 221,872 |
| 2006 | 226 | 168,652 | 95,741 | 70,493 |
| 2007 | 350 | 352,302 | 127,500 | 151,960 |
| 2008 | 256 | 266,449 | 126,776 | 96,226 |
| 2009 | 245 | 188,853 | 97,158 | 79,730 |
| 2010 | 226 | 181,305 | 50,350 | 50,290 |
| 2011 | 448 | 183,675 | 49,449 | 43,696 |
| 2012 | 435 | 169,808 | 58,428 | 41,813 |
| 2013 | 354 | 77,476 | 30,993 | 21,943 |
| 2014 | 222 | 56,635 | 24,138 | 11,105 |
| 2015 | 231 | 90,819 | 28,335 | 14,032 |
| 2016 | 230 | 72,341 | 29,826 | 18,225 |
| Total | N/A | 7,904,205 | 3,177,156 | 2,326,979 |

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