



The circular bio-industry of paper and its decarbonisation

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The pulp and paper industry is a circular bio-industry that leads industrial decarbonisation. In fact, the paper industry entails dual circularity: the natural circularity of its bio character (manufacture of bio-products from renewable natural sources), and the social and industrial circularity of recycling (recyclable bio-products that are massively recycled after use).

Bio-economy and circular economy are the two pillars of a new economy based

on sustainable consumption. The combination of these two new paradigms allows for better and more efficient use of resources. Circular bio-industry means renewable raw materials, sustainable products and efficient use of resources, all from a circular approach. This dual concept is a powerful tool to accelerate progress towards a low-carbon economy...and in this industrial transformation, the circular bio-economy of paper is a clear model destined to lead the new economy.

Starting with such an approach, the sector's commitment to Sustainability is based on four main lines of action:



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The circular bio-industry of paper starts on local eucalypt and pine plantations where the wood used by the sector comes from and which are large CO₂ sinks. Local sourcing and sustainable forest management of these plantations and their certification, improved forestry techniques, the genetic improvement of clones to be planted, and the improvement of plantation health in their adaptation to climate change are priority matters for the pulp and paper industry in Spain, as are promoting good practices in tree logging to ensure wood from legal and sustainable sources.



EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION PROCESSING

The key aspects of the papermaking process are optimizing the use of raw materials and water, the recovery of process waste and enhancing energy efficiency, and decarbonisation. The pulp and paper industry is intensive in gas and electricity and leads the decarbonisation of industry. Within the decarbonisation process in which the paper industry is immersed in Spain and in the rest of Europe, the mix of fuels, cogeneration and energy efficiency are essential to reducing CO₂ emissions. Worker health and safety, training and stability and qualifications as characteristics of employment in the sector are priorities in terms of human resource management.



GENERATION OF WEALTH AND CONTRIBUTION TO LIVING STANDARDS

The circular bio-industry of pulp and paper is one of the major European producers of pulp and paper, the driving force behind a powerful value chain, whose overall contribution to the economy accounts for 4.5% of GDP and generates one of every fifty jobs in our country. With bio-recyclable products capable of deriving the greatest added value from local raw materials, it improves citizens' quality of life. By replacing more and more products from non-renewable fossil sources, these bio-products contribute to decarbonisation.



LEADERSHIP IN COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

And, finally, recycling — which lies in the very DNA of paper and board — the loop of the circular bio-industry of paper closes. The key data for measuring the level of recycling is to see how much of the total paper and board consumed in Spain is collected for recycling after use and how much our paper industry recycles, i.e. how much paper for recycling it uses as raw material... and in both indicators, Spain passes with flying colours.