

# Sprint Paper and Print Procurement Policy

## Overview

Sprint's vision is to be a leader in environmental responsibility within the U.S. information and communications technology sector. Our mission is to work toward minimizing the impact that Sprint services, products and operations have on the environment while protecting current and future generations' quality of life. As such, Sprint has committed to address issues related to our impact on climate change, to wisely manage our use of natural resources, and to enhance the environmental sustainability and social responsibility of our supply chain.

Sprint recognizes the key role that paper and print plays in our business operations – from direct marketing and invoicing to information sharing and reporting. The production of paper is a resource-intensive endeavor, heavily dependent on the utilization of forests, water and energy. We recognize that unchecked demand and mismanagement of these resources can have an impact on the climate, on biodiversity, and on the health and well-being of communities that depend on them. This policy was developed to help ensure that our paper and print procurement decisions address these areas of concern and align with Sprint's overarching [environmental](#) and [social](#) commitments.

This policy centers on printing paper products purchased by Sprint. We will consider expanding this policy to cover the appropriate procurement of other paper products (e.g., cardboard, writing paper, paper used in our employee break rooms and lavatories, etc.) once we have measured and assessed our use of those products.

Further, Sprint is committed to working with key external stakeholders – including suppliers, other corporate environmental leaders, government agencies and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs) – to promote sustainable forest management, the protection of endangered forests, the development of more eco-friendly paper, and responsible environmental and social practices within the paper and printing industry.

## Commitments & Goals

1. Commitment: Support sustainable forest management  
**Goal:** Increase purchase of certified paper to 90% by year end 2012, 100% by year end 2017
2. Commitment: Work with environmentally and socially responsible suppliers  
**Goal:** Increase suppliers' compliance with Sprint's social and environmental criteria to 50% by year end 2012, 90% by year end 2017
3. Commitment: Purchase paper with more recycled content  
**Goal:** Increase recycled content in paper purchased to 10% by year end 2012, 25% by year end 2017
4. Commitment: Optimize our paper use  
**Goal:** Reduce total weight of paper purchased 30% by year end 2012, 40% by year end 2017

### 1. Support sustainable forest management

Purchasing paper products derived from the sustainable harvest of forests will positively benefit the climate, the biodiversity of species supported by these forests and the contributions these forests make locally and globally. To support sustainable forest management, Sprint will not knowingly purchase paper products derived from illegally harvested or stolen wood or that come from ancient, endangered, high conservation value, or controversial forests such as: the Canadian Boreal Forests; Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; and the Tropical Rainforests of Indonesia and the Amazon. In portions of Canada's Boreal Forest and the Great Bear Rainforest where visionary conservation agreements are currently being implemented, Sprint will work with its key stakeholders to continue to identify opportunities to support and encourage these initiatives.

Our goal is at least 90 percent of the paper we purchase to be Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified from North American forests and supplied by U.S.-based companies by year end 2012, and 100 percent by year end 2017. Where market conditions and good business practices do not support sourcing FSC products, we will seek paper products from North American forests and U.S.-based suppliers who are certified in sustainable forest management. Examples include:

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
- Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC)
- Canada's National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) CAN/CSA-Z809

## **2. Work with environmentally and socially responsible suppliers**

Purchasing paper and print products from environmentally and socially responsible suppliers helps to promote the conservation of energy and natural resources, the sustainability of local cultures, communities and economies that rely on those resources, minimal impact to climate and the environment, the reduction of waste, and the protection of employee health and safety. Sprint's goal is for at least 50 percent of our paper and print suppliers to comply with our social and environmental criteria by year end 2012, and for at least 90 percent to comply by year end 2017. Both percentages are based on Sprint's spend with suppliers.

Sprint will seek to work with suppliers that:

- Comply with and strive to exceed all applicable environmental laws and regulations
- Meet Sprint's performance criteria in the following areas of evaluation:
  - Our goal is to develop the criteria for each focus area and a corresponding scorecard to share with our suppliers by early 2012. The scorecard will be used to evaluate supplier compliance and aid in our purchasing decisions. Initially, it will cover basic performance expectations. Additional performance expectations will be incorporated into the scorecard over time.

### Paper Suppliers – Areas for Evaluation

- Sprint will require its paper suppliers to report the performance of the mills from which they purchase paper using a paper evaluation tool that has the support of ENGOs and corporate environmental leaders. Using such a tool will enable Sprint to make fair performance comparisons between mills. Sprint will also attempt to evaluate its partners on the following:
  - Efficient use of raw materials
  - Minimization of waste
  - Conservation of natural systems
  - Clean production
  - Community and human well-being
  - Credible verification and reporting
- To help validate performance of the mills, Sprint will pursue a supplier assessment with Chain of Custody forms using an ENGO partner such as [Canopy](#) to:
  - Benchmark our purchases and usage of paper products;
  - Help determine the forests of origin for these paper products; and
  - Identify paper products purchased by Sprint that may contain inputs from endangered forests and/or other controversial sources.

### Printers – Areas for Evaluation

- Sprint's evaluation and qualification of its print suppliers will be based in part on whether they have measured, reported, and set goals to improve their:
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Waste and e-waste management.
- And, whether they have an established and documented:
  - Environmental management system
  - Safety and health management system.

### **3. Purchase paper with more recycled content**

Purchasing paper that contains post-consumer waste (PCW) helps to reduce demand for virgin resources and to provide market incentives that reduce the flow of paper waste to landfills. Sprint will endeavor to maximize its purchase of paper products containing recycled content where cost, quality and feature requirements allow. To that end, Sprint's goal is for the total annual weight of the paper purchased to contain a minimum of 10 percent PCW by year end 2012, and a minimum of 25 percent PCW by year end 2017.

### **4. Optimize our paper use**

Lowering consumption of paper products will help reduce operational costs, demand on natural resources (e.g., forests, water, fuel, etc.) and emission of greenhouse gases. Sprint will endeavor to minimize the amount of paper it purchases as general business needs allow. Our goal is to reduce the total weight of paper we purchase at least 30 percent by year end 2012, and at least 40 percent by year end 2017 (based on a 2007 baseline).

#### Additional Procurement Considerations

- **Alternative Fiber Sources:** Just as recycled content can be a low-environmental-impact source of paper content, Sprint will work with suppliers and other key stakeholders to explore and encourage the development of low-environmental-impact and commercially viable sources of paper fiber, such as agricultural residues. We anticipate this will be an area of rapid advance over the next few years, and will keep abreast of new developments and potential opportunities in this area. Therefore, Sprint will:
  - Source papers from alternative fibers such as flax, wheat straw or other agricultural residues, when economically and operationally feasible.
  - Encourage research and development of commercial-scale production of pulp and paper from alternative agricultural fiber sources.
- **Chlorine-free Options:** The use of chlorine as a bleaching agent in the production of paper products can lead to the production of harmful dioxins and other chlorinated pollutants that may enter the environment through the effluent a mill discharges. All other decision factors equal, Sprint will give purchasing preference to paper products containing:
  - PCW content that is processed chlorine-free.
  - Virgin fiber content that is bleached with the best available technologies such as extended oxygen delignification or total-chlorine-free (TCF) closed loop systems.

## **Transparency and Continuous Improvement**

At a minimum, Sprint will report its progress on the goals set forth in this policy annually at [Sprint.com/responsibility](http://Sprint.com/responsibility). As appropriate, and to the extent not proprietary, Sprint also will share specific examples of the challenges and successes that we encounter along the way.

Sprint will review its policy and goals on a regular basis to ensure they remain relevant and are based on the latest reliable and/or scientific recommendations that outline how best to minimize the environmental and social impact of paper procurement decisions. As appropriate, Sprint will update its suppliers of any significant developments affecting its policy or goals.