Economic Contribution of B.C.’s Pulp and Paper Industry

- The B.C. pulp and paper industry contributes over $4 billion of annual economic benefits to British Columbia.
- The B.C. pulp and paper industry provides a significant number of well paying jobs for the provincial workforce. Over 10,000 direct employees earn a living from the pulp and paper industry, which indirectly provides employment for an additional 20,000 employees.
- The B.C. pulp and paper industry contributes $1 billion per year in compensation and benefits, making pulp and paper the second highest paying industry in B.C.
- The pulp and paper industry in B.C. is an important source of revenues for government. The industry contributes $600 million per year to all three levels of government. The three levels of government benefit greatly from the industry directly through taxes and assessments, as well as from employees in the industry, who pay significant amounts of income taxes to government.
- Pulp and paper mills in B.C. are an important economic engine for communities throughout the province. The towns where the mills are located throughout B.C. rely on the industry for municipal taxes and employment. B.C. communities benefit from the industry’s support of local activities and infrastructure.
- The pulp and paper industry is vital to the viability of the solid wood sector. Pulp and paper operations contribute more than $1.5 billion to the solid wood sector as the single largest customer of residual chips (by-products) from the sawmilling industry. This value-added process supports jobs, ensures efficient and full utilization of forest resources, and creates a more diversified economic base for the people of the province.
- Since 1990, B.C. pulp and paper facilities have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 62% while increasing production volumes. The reduction in emissions by the pulp and paper industry in B.C. is equivalent to removing 600,000 vehicles from our roads.
- Pulp and paper manufacturers are leaders in the development and use of carbon-neutral fuels such as biomass. The sector estimates approximately $1 billion dollars in capital was spent on fuel switching and biomass burning upgrades since 1990.
- The pulp and paper mills are leaders in energy self-sufficiency. The industry generates over 70% of its energy requirements from within the pulping process. In addition to satisfying its own needs, several mills in B.C. sell steam or electricity to the grid, for consumption by households and business in the province.