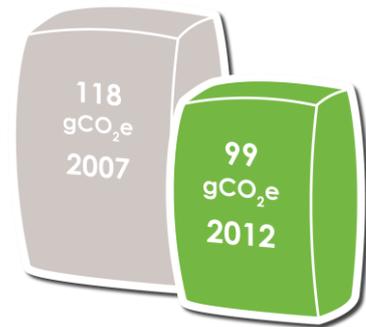


Impressive environmental results for paper sacks

Between 2007 and 2012, the European kraft paper and paper sack industry significantly improved its carbon footprint. This is the conclusion reached by a recent study conducted by the Swedish research institute Innventia, which regularly analyses the carbon footprint of the entire supply chain of the European paper sack industry on behalf of EUROSAC and CEPI Eurokraft. The most important results are shown in an infographic.



The carbon intensity of producing one tonne of average European kraft paper was optimized by 17% between 2007 and 2012: from 570 kg of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e, i.e. greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide or methane) to 471 kg CO₂e. The emissions during kraft paper production account for 60% of the total carbon footprint for each individual paper sack. During the subsequent stages of production from the cradle to the factory gate, the CO₂ emissions per paper sack were reduced from 118 g CO₂e to 99 g CO₂e. This corresponds to an improvement of 16%, which, among other factors, is due to the fact that the weight of each individual sack has been reduced thanks to the improved paper quality.



17,300 times around the world

Comparing the results for 2007 to those for 2012, approximately 95,000 tonnes CO₂e were saved each year. Based on average CO₂ emissions per new passenger car registration of 137 g/km, this is the equivalent of 693 million passenger car kilometres. This corresponds to approximately 17,300 car journeys around the globe.

Precise environmental balance through more in-depth analysis

Extending the analysis to include additional aspects would give an even more complete picture of the carbon footprint of European paper sacks. Taking into account end-of-life emissions and any benefits arising from emissions avoided due to recovery and waste management activities reduces the carbon footprint per average European paper sack to 70 g CO₂e (instead of 99 g CO₂e). It is a well-known fact that forests sequester and store carbon. The sustainable management and growth of forest areas in Europe is a central element of the value chain for paper sacks. If the increasing biomass in Europe's forests were considered in the calculation, the carbon footprint would actually be negative, at -282 g CO₂e per sack.



Main focus lies on optimisation

This convincing environmental balance is the result of continuous efforts on the part of the European kraft paper and paper sack industry to constantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energies – in actual fact, far beyond the yearly improvement speed needed to reach the goals of the European Union's climate action plan for 2020.

The key environmental-balance data is summarised in an infographic which is available for download on the CEPI Eurokraft and EUROSAC websites: www.cepi-eurokraft.org and www.eurosac.org

Contact:

Stina Blombäck, Senior Adviser, CEPI Eurokraft and EUROSAC
Tel.: +46 (0)70 371 09 11 • stina.blomback@cepi-eurokraft.org

Note to editors:

CEPI Eurokraft is the European Association for Producers of Sack Kraft Paper for the Paper Sack Industry and Kraft Paper for the Packaging Industry. It has ten member companies representing a volume of 2.5 million tonnes of paper produced in ten countries. www.cepi-eurokraft.org

EUROSAC is the European federation of multiwall paper sack manufacturers. The federation represents over 75% of European paper sack manufacturers. Its members operate in 20 different countries. They produce more than 5 billion paper sacks per year, representing 650,000 tonnes of paper converted in 60 plants. Sack manufacturers from all continents and bag manufacturers also contribute to the federation as corresponding members, and more than 20 suppliers (paper, film, machine or glue manufacturers) are registered as associate members. www.eurosac.org

Innventia is a world-leading research institute that works with innovations based on forest raw materials. The majority of operations are carried out in project form via research programmes. www.innventia.com

