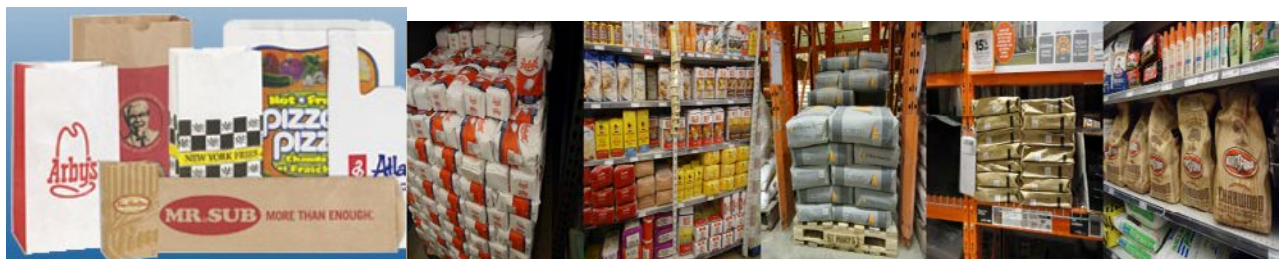




PPEC Factsheet



Paper bags and sacks can be essentially divided into two categories: the lighter paper bags used to carry groceries and fast-food take-outs; and the heavier multi-wall sacks containing products like flour and cement, sugar and animal feed. Multi-wall bags are also used for the collection of leaf and yard waste and organic (food scraps) from households.



KEY FEATURES

Made from a renewable resource (wood):

By law, Canadian provinces require that harvesters of the commercial forest regenerate the forest by new tree-planting and direct seeding, and natural regeneration. On average, over 1,000 new tree seedlings are planted in Canada every minute.



Independent, third-party certification of paper fibre sources:

The two Canadian mills producing paper bag material have independent, third-party certification that their paper fibre sources (wood chips and sawmill residues) are responsibly sourced.





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Mostly made with renewable energy (biomass):

The carbon-neutral biomass or “renewable” percentage of these two mills averages 85 per cent. Nothing is wasted. Virtually 100% of every tree harvested for kraft paper production is used and/or re-used.



Recyclable:

Used paper bags are valued for the strength (and re-usability) of their paper fibres for recycling into other paper products. When collected from households, paper bags generally end up being bundled with old corrugated boxes to make new boxes. Many mills now use old corrugated boxes as the primary feedstock for new multi-wall, grocery, retail and composting bags, rather than virgin fibres.



Compostable:

The square-bottomed kraft paper bag is an increasingly popular container for leaf/yard and organic (food scrap) collection from households. Its advantage is that it composts along with its contents: no de-bagging machinery and/or labour costs prior to beginning composting operations. Several paper companies have chosen to have their bags third-party certified as environmentally preferable under the Eco Logo label.



For More Detailed Information: go to Paper Bags Canada www.paperbagscanada.org