



THE MYTH

“ Paper production uses too much ENERGY ”

THE REALITY

- The paper industry has **considerably reduced** its energy requirements.
- 55% of the energy used by the European paper industry is **bio-energy**.
- The paper industry is the biggest producer of **biomass** energy in Europe.

Energy is required for all industrial production and the paper industry is no exception: it requires energy to operate its machines and to dry the paper web. You would expect that, being a large scale undertaking, the paper industry consumes huge amounts of energy, yet it doesn't. For economical and environmental reasons the paper industry works continuously to optimise its processes by becoming more self-sufficient. The mix of fuel it uses has continued to evolve, with most mills producing much of their electricity and most of their heat on site. More and more electricity is supplied to the national grid too.

Around 500 kWh of energy are required in Europe to make 200 kg of paper¹, which is more or less the average annual per capita consumption in the countries of the European Union.

500 kWh is equivalent to:

- powering one computer continuously for five

months;

- burning a 60Watt light bulb continuously for one year;
- The energy consumed by a typical household leaving its electronic equipment on stand-by for a year.

Overall, more than half of the EU pulp and paper industry total primary energy consumption is based on biomass², which corresponds to one fifth of the bio-energy produced in Europe. Biomass is produced by the pulp and paper industry by using residues and waste materials from the pulping process to provide energy for the manufacturing process itself. Often excess heat and power is produced which is sold to the grid or used by the local community. Using wood for paper first and energy last creates more value.

1. paper & the environment, ATS consulting 2007

2. CEPI sustainability report 2011