



# TEXAS RECYCLED NEWSPRINT SURVEY

## 2024 Survey Results

Each year Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducts a survey of Texas newspaper printers and publishers to determine their use of recycled newsprint. The following results are from calendar year 2024, which were compiled in year 2025.

### Summary of Results

State law sets the objective for newspaper publishers to meet at least one of two recycling goals. In 2024, zero percent of respondents met this objective, with zero percent also meeting or exceeding both goals. While respondents did not meet the post-consumer recycled content goal in 2024, cumulatively, they have stayed above these goals since 1995. Publication respondents cited the inability to obtain sufficient quantities of recycled newsprint of satisfactory quality as the main reason they did not buy more recycled paper.

### Use of Recycled Newsprint

One goal is for recycled newsprint to comprise 30 percent of total newsprint purchased. Recycled newsprint is defined as newsprint containing 25 percent or more post-consumer recycled content. Highlights for 2024 include the following:

- Approximately 2.31% (91 tons) of newsprint purchased by respondents was recycled newsprint.
- None of the respondents were able to meet this goal.
- Since 1995, 38.15% (3.23 million tons) of all newsprint purchased by respondents has been recycled newsprint.

### Aggregate Post-Consumer Recycled Content

The current goal for aggregate post-consumer recycled content in newsprint (i.e., the overall percentage of post-consumer recycled content in all newsprint purchased) is 18 percent. Results for 2024 include the following:

- Zero percent of total newsprint purchased by respondents was post-consumer recycled content.
- None of the respondents met or exceeded this goal.
- Since 1995, respondents have purchased approximately 2.34 million tons of post-consumer recycled content (27.70% of all newsprint purchased).

# Goals and Totals

Table 1 – Cumulative Newsprint Usage Results (Since 1995)

| Number of Times Publications Reported | Total Amount of Newsprint Purchased | Percentage of Total that was Recycled Newsprint | Percentage of Post-consumer Recycled Content in Newsprint |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 6,705                                 | 8.45 million tons                   | 38.15%<br>(Goal: 30%)                           | 27.70%<br>(Goal: 18%)                                     |

## Recycled Newsprint Survey Results Calendar Year 2024

Table 2 – Newsprint Usage Goals

| Year           | Newsprint that was Recycled Newsprint (Percentage) |           | Post-consumer Recycled Content in Newsprint (Percentage) |           |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                | Goal                                               | Actual    | Goal                                                     | Actual    |
| 1995           | 10                                                 | 20        | 2.5                                                      | 18        |
| 1996           | 10                                                 | 24        | 2.5                                                      | 22        |
| 1997           | 20                                                 | 37        | 12                                                       | 21        |
| 1998           | 20                                                 | 43        | 12                                                       | 21        |
| 1999           | 20                                                 | 46        | 12                                                       | 22        |
| 2000           | 30                                                 | 46        | 18                                                       | 33        |
| 2001           | 30                                                 | 46        | 18                                                       | 34        |
| 2002           | 30                                                 | 52        | 18                                                       | 48        |
| 2003           | 30                                                 | 38        | 18                                                       | 30        |
| 2004           | 30                                                 | 40        | 18                                                       | 23        |
| 2005           | 30                                                 | 56        | 18                                                       | 46        |
| 2006           | 30                                                 | 57        | 18                                                       | 42        |
| 2007           | 30                                                 | 36        | 18                                                       | 43        |
| 2008           | 30                                                 | 48        | 18                                                       | 36        |
| 2009           | 30                                                 | 51        | 18                                                       | 42        |
| 2010           | 30                                                 | 28        | 18                                                       | 28        |
| 2011           | 30                                                 | 27        | 18                                                       | 24        |
| 2012           | 30                                                 | 34        | 18                                                       | 25        |
| 2013           | 30                                                 | 40        | 18                                                       | 28        |
| 2014           | 30                                                 | 42        | 18                                                       | 19        |
| 2015           | 30                                                 | 31        | 18                                                       | 15        |
| 2016           | 30                                                 | 41        | 18                                                       | 25        |
| 2017           | 30                                                 | 36        | 18                                                       | 12        |
| 2018           | 30                                                 | 0         | 18                                                       | 0         |
| 2019           | 30                                                 | 3         | 18                                                       | 1         |
| 2020           | 30                                                 | 38        | 18                                                       | 10        |
| 2021           | 30                                                 | 6         | 18                                                       | 4         |
| 2022           | 30                                                 | 37        | 18                                                       | 13        |
| 2023           | 30                                                 | 68        | 18                                                       | 15        |
| 2024           | 30                                                 | 2         | 18                                                       | 0         |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>N/A</b>                                         | <b>38</b> | <b>N/A</b>                                               | <b>27</b> |

Table 3 – Newspaper Survey Details

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Number of Publications Represented</b> | <b>Total Amount of Newsprint Purchased (tons)</b> | <b>Total Amount of Recycled Newsprint Purchased (tons)</b> | <b>Total Amount of Postconsumer Recycled Content Purchased (tons)</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1995         | 291                                       | 662,482                                           | 132,423                                                    | 119,247                                                               |
| 1996         | 280                                       | 528,480                                           | 128,659                                                    | 116,266                                                               |
| 1997         | 283                                       | 631,817                                           | 236,680                                                    | 132,682                                                               |
| 1998         | 295                                       | 638,423                                           | 274,521                                                    | 134,069                                                               |
| 1999         | 277                                       | 693,902                                           | 319,860                                                    | 152,658                                                               |
| 2000         | 227                                       | 563,250                                           | 259,995                                                    | 184,237                                                               |
| 2001         | 181                                       | 480,964                                           | 222,714                                                    | 163,388                                                               |
| 2002         | 149                                       | 529,282                                           | 275,506                                                    | 253,362                                                               |
| 2003         | 262                                       | 648,776                                           | 244,974                                                    | 194,684                                                               |
| 2004         | 177                                       | 237,346                                           | 95,023                                                     | 55,000                                                                |
| 2005         | 300                                       | 481,168                                           | 268,107                                                    | 221,872                                                               |
| 2006         | 226                                       | 168,652                                           | 95,741                                                     | 70,493                                                                |
| 2007         | 350                                       | 352,302                                           | 127,500                                                    | 151,960                                                               |
| 2008         | 256                                       | 266,449                                           | 126,776                                                    | 96,226                                                                |
| 2009         | 245                                       | 188,853                                           | 97,158                                                     | 79,730                                                                |
| 2010         | 226                                       | 181,305                                           | 50,350                                                     | 50,290                                                                |
| 2011         | 448                                       | 183,675                                           | 49,449                                                     | 43,696                                                                |
| 2012         | 435                                       | 169,808                                           | 58,428                                                     | 41,813                                                                |
| 2013         | 354                                       | 77,476                                            | 30,993                                                     | 21,943                                                                |
| 2014         | 222                                       | 56,635                                            | 24,138                                                     | 11,105                                                                |
| 2015         | 231                                       | 90,819                                            | 28,335                                                     | 14,032                                                                |
| 2016         | 260                                       | 72,341                                            | 29,826                                                     | 18,225                                                                |
| 2017         | 312                                       | 64,779                                            | 23,277                                                     | 7,876                                                                 |
| 2018         | 32                                        | 622                                               | 0                                                          | 0                                                                     |
| 2019         | 175                                       | 422,180                                           | 10,937                                                     | 4,012                                                                 |
| 2020         | 34                                        | 12,978                                            | 4,874                                                      | 1,248                                                                 |
| 2021         | 66                                        | 31,600                                            | 2,035                                                      | 1,275                                                                 |
| 2022         | 46                                        | 11,763                                            | 4,312                                                      | 1,085                                                                 |
| 2023         | 39                                        | 6,344                                             | 4,312                                                      | 923                                                                   |
| 2024         | 26                                        | 4,551                                             | 91                                                         | 0                                                                     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>N/A</b>                                | <b>8,459,022</b>                                  | <b>3,226,994</b>                                           | <b>2,343,398</b>                                                      |

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