



DS Smith Group Sustainable Forest Management and Fibre Sourcing Policy

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Context

Introduction to issue

DS Smith recognises the important role primary forests play in maintaining biodiversity, regulating the climate through carbon absorption, and providing vital ecosystem services. Sustainable management of forests leads to responsibly produced timber-based products. We acknowledge that where forests are not managed in accordance with the principles of sustainability then this can contribute to global deforestation. This policy documents our commitment to ensuring that all DS Smith-owned forests are sustainably managed, and all forest-derived products used in our manufacturing processes come from sustainable sources.

Over the last 25 years, there has been a proliferation of certification schemes and marketing campaigns linked to product provenance, driven by consumers who are increasingly aware of the wider environmental and social impact their purchasing decisions can have. Programmes now exist for a wide range of goods and commodities, including, among others, fruit, tea, coffee, sugar, fish, soy, palm oil, eggs, and notably, timber products.

Materiality to DS Smith

As a leading supplier of virgin and recycled papers and corrugated packaging solutions, our primary raw material is fibre. Whilst the majority of fibre used in our operations comes from recycled sources, the finite nature of fibre recycling means that the renewable corrugated system depends on regular inputs of virgin fibre.

Within our business portfolio we also have a significant timberland holding, and timber from our forests is used to supply our virgin paper mills and direct customers.

Scope

This policy is relevant to the management of our owned forests and all forest-derived fibres used by our paper mills, and all papers used by our packaging division. This policy also covers our operations and supply chains.

Our target(s) and commitments

Responsible management of owned forests and sustainable fibre sourcing is essential to our strategy to “lead the way in sustainability.” We have three targets in this area covering; bought papers, pulp and timber; forest management; and site chain of custody certification.

Our targets are¹: -

- Use 100 per cent recycled or chain of custody certified papers, pulp and timber
- 100 per cent of owned forests to have forest management certification (FSC®, PEFC or SFI)
- Maintain 100% of sites holding chain of custody certification

¹ Timelines to achieve target vary depending on length of ownership by DS Smith plc.



Driving toward—and ultimately, meeting—the above targets will directly evidence our commitment to sustainable forest management and will serve to promote and encourage sustainable forest management practices within the broader timber market. Further, successfully meeting these targets will help bring us into alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (“Life on Land”) and demonstrate our commitments to halting deforestation and avoiding ecosystem degradation.

Our management approach

At DS Smith the responsibility for our sustainability performance is governed at the highest levels in line with our strategic goal to “lead the way in sustainability.”

The Group Chief Executive is ultimately responsible for the management of all sustainability-related topics. Management of individual topics is done within the appropriate divisional and functional teams with oversight by both the monthly Health, Safety, Environment and Sustainability Committee and tri-annually by the Sustainability Steering Group. All of the above are supported by the Core Sustainability Team which focuses on providing insight and knowledge, specialist project support and delivery, and data and reporting services.

We support the FSC®, PEFC and SFI certification schemes.

Supporting documents

- [Sustainability Report 2019](#)
- CDP Forests 2019

Review

We will review this policy annually.