**Paper recycling in South Africa**

**Facts and statistics**

*June 2018*

**Paper recycling statistics for 2017**

(All values in metric tonnes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper production and consumption</th>
<th>Paper Production</th>
<th>Paper Imports</th>
<th>Paper Exports</th>
<th>Paper Consumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsprint</td>
<td>180 727</td>
<td>3 746</td>
<td>36 980</td>
<td>147 493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing/writing</td>
<td>342 457</td>
<td>467 581</td>
<td>136 243</td>
<td>693 796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrugated materials/containerboard</td>
<td>1 208 571</td>
<td>141 038</td>
<td>326 947</td>
<td>1 022 661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other wrapping papers</td>
<td>46 950</td>
<td>46 950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue</td>
<td>228 991</td>
<td>35 879</td>
<td>36 282</td>
<td>228 588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other paper</td>
<td>138 186</td>
<td>47 227</td>
<td>104 005</td>
<td>81 408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2 180 061</td>
<td>715 471</td>
<td>640 456</td>
<td>2 255 075</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>146 507</td>
<td>7 656</td>
<td>69 143</td>
<td>85 023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>30 955</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers</td>
<td>850 992</td>
<td>24 415</td>
<td>44 593</td>
<td>830 815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office, graphic papers</td>
<td>139 421</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>2 376</td>
<td>137 429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed and other papers</td>
<td>114 242</td>
<td>25 440</td>
<td>5 987</td>
<td>133 694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1 282 120</td>
<td>57 895</td>
<td>122 098</td>
<td>1 217 916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**70% of recoverable paper was collected in 2017.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recoverable paper</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper consumption</td>
<td>2 255 075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less paper exported in agricultural products</td>
<td>- 43 850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less paper unsuitable for recovery</td>
<td>- 397 546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.3 MILLION TONNES**


This would cover 233 soccer fields.

= The weight of 213,000 African elephants.

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**Yes! You can recycle these paper products:**

- Magazines and brochures, including glossy varieties
- Milk, juice and food cartons
- Paper cups
- Newspapers
- Office and shredded paper, envelopes
- Cardboard boxes of any kind – dry food, cosmetic and medicine boxes; roll cores, packing cartons (flattened)
- Old telephone directories and books
- Paper giftwrap

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**Throw these in the general rubbish bin:**

- Wet/dirty paper and cardboard
- Sticky notes
- Used paper plates, disposable napkins, tissues and toilet paper
- Foil-lined or laminated boxes
- Cement and dog food bags
- Foil gift wrapping, carbon and laminated paper

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**www.recyclepaper.co.za**

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Siphamandla Nshangase and his crew operate a recycling business that services part of the Northern Cape.