



Northwest Pulp & Paper
ASSOCIATION

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**Inland Empire Paper Company Honored with 2022
NWPPA Environmental Excellence Award**

Mill honored for significant water quality improvements, carbon reductions

OLYMPIA — Oct. 24, 2022 — Inland Empire Paper (IEP) Company, a Spokane Valley mill that has become one of the most modern paper making facilities in the world, has been honored with the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association's (NWPPA) 2022 Environmental Excellence Award. The honor was presented during the association's annual meeting Oct. 19 in Portland.

NWPPA Executive Director Chris McCabe said the mill has made significant investments into its facility, including multiple water quality improvements and its carbon reduction efforts.

"IEP has made significant investments to modernize nearly every process of its facility using innovative design and state-of-the-art equipment, aggressively reducing its carbon emissions and removing 99 percent of PCBs from its waste water using the best available technology," said McCabe. "IEP's leadership in climate change improvements and overall commitment to environmental stewardship has made it not only one of Washington's leading pulp and paper mills, but one of the world's. We are proud to honor IEP and its entire team for these exemplary efforts with this year's Environmental Excellence Award."

IEP's water quality improvements represent the first of its kind in the pulp and paper industry. In 2019, the mill completed the installation of a tertiary ultrafiltration membrane system (UF system), the first of its kinds in the industry. The UF system removes 100 percent of total suspended solids, including 99.9 percent of PCBs that IEP inherits as a result of inks and pigments in recycled paper products. The

Washington State Department of Ecology concluded that this advanced treatment system represents the “best available technology” for the removal and destruction of PCBs.

NWPPA also recognized IEP for its installation of a Thermo-Mechanical Pulping (TMP) system, which replaced pulping systems that were originally installed in the 1960s. The TMP produces pulp from waste wood chips collected from local sawmills; the new equipment then uses a heat recovery system to efficiently recover waste heat generated by the refining process. As a result, IEP reduced its dependence on natural gas by 77 percent (500 cubic feet) annually. This also reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 45 percent. Its overall carbon footprint has been reduced by 30,000 tons/year.

“The pulp and paper industry continues to implement aggressive carbon reduction, clean water and energy reduction investments given the industry’s existing technology,” added McCabe. “Inland Empire Paper has repeatedly demonstrated leadership in implementing these strategies, which have resulted in outstanding results for the environment.”

For more than 110 years, IEP has been a major employer in the area, providing family-wage jobs for generations of Spokane-area families.

IEP currently produces over 60 different grades of specialty paper products from pulp obtained through the processing of waste and residual materials. The mill recycles old newspapers, magazines, old corrugated cardboard and office waste collected from as far away as 1,500 miles from its location in Spokane. The balance of fiber comes from residual wood chips generated by local sawmills.

“Environmental stewardship is at the core of IEP’s company philosophy,” said Doug Krapas, IEP’s environmental manager. “Through its various improvements and investments, IEP has positioned itself as a leading manufacturer in Washington state, and continues to play a vital role in the community more than 100 years after our doors first opened. We are grateful for this recognition from NWPPA, and value our partnership in support of not just IEP, but the pulp and paper industry in the Pacific Northwest.”

About the Northwest Pulp & Paper Association

Formed in 1956, the Northwest Pulp & Paper Association (NWPPA) represents 11 member companies and 15 pulp and paper mills in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. For more information, visit www.nwpulpandpaper.org.