

WHY WOOD?

NATURE'S PACKAGING™

WOOD WASTE AS A RESOURCE



The North American wood packaging industry has one of the highest rates of recycling and exceeds other forms of industrial and consumer packaging such as aluminum, paper and plastic.

Waste reduction has strong economic and environmental benefits. Many communities can expect zero waste when they shift from a "take, make and throw away" model to a circular economy where end of life materials are used to create new products.

474 MILLION



PALLETS RECOVERED IN THE US IN 2011

The wood packaging industry in North America has one of the highest rates of recycling exceeding other forms of industrial and consumer packaging such as aluminum, paper and plastic. Wood packaging and pallets at the end of life are re-processed and the resulting wood fiber is re-used in such products as landscape mulch, animal bedding, soil enhancements, wood particle board, or used in bioenergy.

UNITED STATES

Wooden pallets are a success story in solid wood recycling in the United States. In 2011, the most recent year for which detailed data are available, an estimated 474 million pallets were recovered for recycling¹. That translates into an annual reduction of 13,328,800 metric tons of carbon emissions, or 45,480,300 cars taken off the road. These recovered pallets were repurposed into recycled pallets or were processed into new wood fiber products with very low levels of wood waste ending up in land fill.

CANADA

Industrial and consumer packaging handled by municipalities include such materials as plastics, steel and aluminum cans, glass containers and cardboard containers. Wood pallets and packaging are extensively reused many times over and recycled at end of life. Wood packaging is regarded as an insignificant waste issue due to the success of the reuse and recycling programs in place².

^{1,2} Trends in the Use of Wood Products for Distribution Packaging Cooperative Agreement No. 11-CA11330142-13 Robert J. Bush Department of Sustainable Biomaterials Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia and Philip A. Araman Research Team Leader USDA – Forest Service Southern Research Station Blacksburg, Virginia April 2014 (Revised May 2015)



CHOOSE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY

Promoting the use of wood-based packaging and pallets to users seeking sustainable, responsible and economical packaging solutions. NATURESPACKAGING.ORG

