



Pearson

**Paper Purchasing:  
Environmental  
Guidelines**

## 1. Scope of policy

The scope of this policy is global and covers all Pearson geographies, lines of business and functions. It applies to all our companies where we have financial control.

## 2. Policy statement

Respect for the environment is an important principle for Pearson. These guidelines set out how Pearson implements this principle in the context of how we purchase paper for use in our books and in our offices and other facilities.

Pearson first adopted a statement on the environmental aspects of paper purchasing in June 2004 as part of the commitments we made as a founding signatory to the UN Global Compact. The guidelines were revised in April 2008 and this version was adopted in June 2018 following consultation with interested parties. Our purchasing functions have responsibility for turning our standards into practice.

### Our Approach

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 30,000 employees in more than 70 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning.

Our Environmental Policy commits us to improve our understanding of the impact our day-to-day operations have on the world around us, and to a responsibility to manage and measure this impact.

Pearson is becoming increasingly digital and through this investment is becoming ever more focused on personalising learning and helping more people achieve better learning outcomes. As we invest and grow our digital products, we are increasingly shifting away from our traditional paper based products.

Nevertheless, paper remains an important area of environmental impact for the company. Paper is supplied to us directly by manufacturers, from paper merchants, from outsource partners and through our printers. We are concerned to ensure that we play a responsible role as a purchaser of paper. This means communicating to our partners and suppliers our position with regard to the responsible use of natural resources. In order to achieve this, we have developed the following policy standards for the purchase of paper used by our businesses:

### Compliance

- We require our suppliers to comply with environmental laws and regulations applicable in their countries of operation.
- We expect paper mills to have an environmental management system such as ISO14001 in place.

## Recycled Fibre

- Where practical, and viable, we favour using paper products that maximises recycled content.
- We commit to ensure that our paper suppliers understand our interest in the development of commercially viable new grades of book paper that include recycled fibres.

## Certification and Forest Management

- We believe that forest certification plays an important role as a benchmark for well managed forests.
- We work with our suppliers to ensure that the paper we purchase comes from certified, well managed forests. We encourage and expect improvement and promote credible independent certification.
- We recognise the Forest Stewardship Council schemes (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC) which are both global in scope. The two most significant PEFC recognised schemes for us are the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) schemes.
- Where this is available, affordable and appropriate to our product mix, our preference is to purchase paper from forests that carry Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.
- We reject illegal logging of old growth forests.
- We are committed to support the protection of high conservation value forests. In cases of dispute, we would consult stakeholders on an appropriate response and as a minimum would expect our suppliers to engage with the appropriate regulatory bodies and NGOs.

## Climate change and other environmental issues

- Pearson made a commitment in 2007 to become climate neutral by the end of 2009 for those aspects of our operations under our direct control. We achieved the commitment and have renewed it every subsequent year.
- While this commitment does not include the greenhouse gas emissions relating to the paper we purchase, we do give preference to suppliers that share our commitment to taking steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions including the use of renewable energy.
- We give preference to processed and totally chlorine free papers.

## Paper efficiency

- Pearson is committed to continually investigate and adopt strategies to increase the efficiency of how we use paper.

- Where viable to do so, we will reduce the base weight of the papers we use, move to papers made from groundwood (the whole tree, not just selected parts of it) and blend physical and digital content

## Policy Implementation & Reporting

- Each of the purchasing functions have senior people responsible for managing the supply of their paper.
- A senior executive at Pearson has responsibility for ensuring that our environmental guidelines are followed by our businesses.
- We review the policies and performance of our suppliers against these standards and encourage improvement wherever possible.
- We set global targets to incrementally increase the use of recycled and certified fibres.
- Our standards for paper purchase, together with regular reports on our performance will be available through our website.

Pearson operations benefit globally from being a founder member of PREPS (part of the Bookchain project) and a member of the WWF UK Forest and Trade Network.

PREPS is a group of global book and journal publishers who came together to further develop their understanding of paper supply chains and, in particular, the related issue of responsible forestry sourcing.

Our membership of the WWF UK Forest and Trade Network helps us work with our suppliers to effectively meet our environmental responsibilities as a major paper purchaser. WWF UK provides us with an independent and credible source of information, practical advice and guidance on responsible paper sourcing issues.

## 3. Policy review date

- We will review this policy every 2 years. This policy was adopted in June 2018.

## 4. Useful contacts

- If you have any questions on the environmental aspects of Pearson's paper purchasing guidelines, please contact [sustainability@pearson.com](mailto:sustainability@pearson.com).