

2020-2021 Environmental Progress Report
Hachette Book Group
December 2022

December 22, 2022

Hachette Book Group (HBG) is dedicated to protecting the environment and to the responsible use of natural resources. We are committed to publishing this annual report on our progress toward the goals laid out in our environmental policy.

New Global Carbon Reduction Strategy

HBG's parent company Hachette Livre completed an enterprise-wide sustainability project this year culminating in their announcement yesterday of a new global program to achieve 30% carbon reduction by 2030. Hachette Book Group and all Hachette businesses will contribute to this [30 by 30 Strategy](#), with details on US targets and initiatives to be announced in early 2023.

The 30 by 30 program will encompass Scopes 1, 2, and 3 in alignment with the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#). Scopes 1 and 2 cover direct emissions – vehicles and buildings, fossil fuel consumption, electricity – and account for 3% of Hachette Livre's total emissions. Scope 3 accounts for 97% of the company's total emissions and includes paper manufacturing, printing and binding, upstream and downstream transportation, and end of life of products sold. Hachette Livre has identified initiatives and drivers at every stage of the life of a book with the following key targets:

- **Overproduction:** an overall 30% reduction in the number of books shredded in 2030 vs 2019.
- **Paper:** a 26% reduction in the carbon intensity of paper production in 2030 vs 2019
- **Manufacturing:** an 18% reduction in carbon intensity of printing and binding from 2019 to 2030 (with most initiatives beginning in 2025)
- **Freight:** annual reduction of 1 and 1.5% for upstream and downstream freight respectively

Hachette Livre began their first carbon footprint report including Scope 3 in 2009, a first for the publishing industry. Over the past 12 years the company has significantly reduced its carbon footprint, decreasing emissions by 20%. The 30 by 30 strategy is a major expansion of Hachette Livre's policy and initiatives and follows a SBTi (Science Based Targets Initiative) approach as required by the Paris Agreement and the recommendations of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

Increasing Certified and Recycled Fiber

In 2021, 99.9% of HBG's overall paper usage came from FSC (Forest Stewardship Certified) and SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) fiber. In 2021, recycled fiber was 8.3% of our overall paper usage, a 10.8% drop from 2020 and our recycled tonnage decreased by 17.6% – these declines were due to an urgent lack of available recycled fiber. We remain committed to sourcing recycled papers when they are available in the marketplace and to push our suppliers to integrate recycled fiber into more paper products.

Protecting Endangered Forests

Our goal is to diligently oversee our supply chain to ensure that we avoid using paper originating from unacceptable sources of paper fiber, such as endangered forests, and require our paper to be free of unacceptable sources as defined by FSC's controlled wood standard. We regularly discuss paper sourcing with our suppliers and remind them of their strict adherence to HBG's paper and environmental standards.

Fiber Testing

In addition to working with our suppliers, since 2016 HBG has done fiber testing on our books in order to verify that the fiber used in our paper does not come from at-risk areas or tropical hardwood forests. Thus far, we have not found any fiber of these kinds in our title sampling. In 2021, we continued aggressive fiber testing and enforced strict rules on new papers outside of the PREPS (Publisher's Database for Responsible Environmental Paper Sourcing) rated papers. HBG will continue random fiber testing – to include current papers, new papers and substitutes – and will monitor results and manage our supply chain to align with our strict environmental policy.

Technology and materials

In early 2021 we installed new Boxsizer technology in our warehouse. The Boxsizer cuts cartons to fit their contents more tightly, reducing the amount of carton fill needed, reducing our shipping volume, reducing damages, and resulting in a greener, more efficient method of shipping books.

Monitoring and Reporting

HBG's environmental initiatives span many different areas, including paper sourcing, office recycling, energy usage, product transportation, and packaging. We are guided by our strong policy and our commitment to communicating consistently about our progress on our environmental goals.

Hachette Book Group CEO Michael Pietsch said, "I'm eager to have HBG's carbon footprint reduction aligned with the ambitious 30 by 30 program just announced by Hachette Livre. I look forward to our sharing our detailed targets and plans to reach those goals, in early 2023. Those plans will include employee engagement initiatives such as Green Week, Eco-design Week, and environmental challenges, as well as a concerted focus on reducing plastic usage. It will be exciting to be able to give HBG colleagues opportunities to get involved and contribute to making our company environmentally sustainable."