

Green Grades 2009

A Report Card on the Paper Practices of the Office Supply Sector

SUMMARY OF AMAZON.COM

The ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance Office Sector Scorecard assign grades for the forest-related environmental performance of corporate paper sourcing in the following areas:

- 1) Chain of Custody Systems**
- 2) Endangered Forests**
- 3) Plantation Conversion and Other Controversial Sources**
- 4) Sustainable Forestry**
- 5) Recycled and Reduction**
- 6) Climate and Forests**
- 7) Other Forest Ecosystem Conservation Leadership**

Scope of survey: all office and marketing papers bought and sold by the company, including office papers used for internal operations.

In December, 2008 a questionnaire was mailed to companies that were selected to be included in the 2009 ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance Office Sector Scorecard. In March of 2009 Amazon.com.com agreed to participate in the evaluation process, but in May, Amazon.com abruptly communicated that it would not be participating in our survey. To date, Amazon.com has not been transparent with ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance. As Amazon.com recently opened their office products store it is disappointing to see the lack of a clearly established environmental paper position. The following summary of the company's policies and performance is therefore based on independent research conducted by ForestEthics and Dogwood Alliance. Given that Amazon.com has not been transparent with ForestEthics or Dogwood Alliance for the seven categories surveyed, the possibility remains that positive and/or negative aspects of the company's policies and sourcing practices are not fully reflected in our evaluations.

Green Grades Report Card:

Amazon.com's Environmental Performance in Seven Crucial Forest-Related Categories:

CHAIN OF CUSTODY: The company does not apparently have a policy regarding Chain of Custody and therefore has no commitment to, or procedures for, identifying the forest sources of paper bought and sold by the company.

ENDANGERED FORESTS: The company does not apparently have a policy regarding sourcing from Endangered Forests (EFs) and therefore has no commitment or procedures for avoiding sourcing from EFs. Our independent research reveals that there are currently EF fiber issues in Amazon.com's supply chain.

Amazon.com sells 'PaperOne White' papers produced by April Paper Company in Indonesia associated with controversial EF, natural forest conversion and indigenous rights issues.

Amazon.com also sells a well known brand of cut sheet paper. produced by International Paper, a company known for controversial sourcing in the U.S. Southeast including in particular the Courtland, Alabama mill.. The Courtland mill most likely sources from EF on the Southern Cumberland Plateau an area with globally important conservation values. Amazon.com has not taken any actions to eliminate papers sourced from this company, nor has IP corrected its practices.

Amazon.com currently sells a number of products produced at the controversial Boise Inc's International Falls mill where fiber comes from AbitibiBowater's Fort Frances mill. The exact mill and relative quantity was not identified to ForestEthics or Dogwood Alliance, however AbitibiBowater is involved in the logging of endangered forests including caribou habitat in the Canadian Boreal forest. Products connected to this mill include Splox, Splox Plus, Splox recycled, X-9, Fireworx, Aspen 30% PCR, and Aspen 50% PCR.

Amazon.com has not taken any actions to eliminate these controversial sources.

PLANTATIONS AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES: The company does not have any policies or consistent measures to avoid sourcing paper from plantations established at the expense of natural forests, or from other controversial sources, e.g., illegal logging, violation of indigenous peoples' rights, etc. Our independent research reveals that there are currently plantation and other controversial fiber issues in Amazon.com's supply chain.

Amazon.com sells 'PaperOne White' papers produced by April Paper Company in Indonesia associated with controversial EF, natural forest conversion and indigenous rights issues.

Amazon.com also sells a well known brand of cut sheet paper. produced by International Paper, a company known for controversial sourcing in the U.S. Southeast including in particular the Courtland, Alabama mill. The Courtland mill has been associated with conversion of natural forests to plantations. Amazon.com has not taken any actions to eliminate papers sourced from this company, nor has IP corrected its practices.

RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY/FSC CERTIFICATION: The company does not apparently have any policies regarding sourcing from sustainable forestry sources. Therefore the company is at risk of sourcing and promoting the misleading Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification scheme which does not provide adequate providence that paper is indeed produced from responsibly sourced fiber.

While the company does sell two brands of FSC certified papers – 'Color Copy' and 'New Leaf,' there are no strong goals and timelines for increasing the proportion of its papers that are from credibly certified forests.

RECYCLING AND REDUCTION: While the company sells papers with recycled content, there are no policies and procedures to give a clear preference to paper manufactured with post-consumer recycled fiber. Amazon.com does have an ongoing packaging efficiency and reduction initiative.

CLIMATE AND FORESTS: The company has no commitment or initiatives to reduce its paper-related greenhouse gas footprint.

