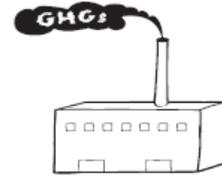


ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT COMPARISON TOOL

A tool for understanding environmental decisions related to the pulp and paper industry



GREENHOUSE GASES

EFFECTS OF NON-WOOD FIBER USE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Agricultural Residue vs. Dedicated Crops

Any global warming potential associated with crop residues would be predominantly allocated to the crop from which it originated. Carbon dioxide emissions associated with residue burning practices constitute a neutral greenhouse gas source, though other gaseous combustion products such as N_2O and CH_4 would have some contribution. The gain associated with using residues, as opposed to burning them, would have to be balanced against the direct and indirect emissions associated with additional soil fertilization requirements necessitated by residue recovery. Similar to the case for dedicated fiber crops, manufacturing emissions associated with chemical pulping of agricultural residues would be more significant, on a relative basis, than those related to using wood fiber, due to the advantages associated with wood-derived fuel.