

Sustainable Production Policy

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Penguin
Random House
UK

Introduction

At Penguin Random House UK, thinking and acting for the planet underpins everything we do, every day. This policy highlights some of the key ways in which we aim to meet the high expectations of our authors, customers and partners when it comes to sustainable sourcing within our production teams.

Key Principles covered:

- Sustainable paper sourcing
- Plastic recycling and reduction
- Sustainable product design
- Supplier environmental management
- Our commitment to sourcing responsibly

Sustainable paper sourcing

Penguin Random House UK is committed to sustainable forest management. We recognise the importance of the ecosystems and forests around us, as well as the key part they play in providing biodiversity, fresh water, oxygen and shelter for animals as well as communities. We know unsustainable forest management can lead to deforestation, climate change, pollution and habitat loss. This is why we use the below initiatives to mitigate our environmental impact, ensure all of our paper is responsibly sourced, and ultimately drive global demand for sustainable forest management standards.

- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC™):** We source 100% of our paper through FSC™ certified sources, the globally recognised hallmark of responsible paper sourcing. We're also certified publishers of FSC™ (FSC-C018179) and will continue to work collaboratively with FSC™ to drive our shared goals of producing products from sustainably managed forests.
- **Paper Mill & Printers:** We have a close relationship with our direct paper mills who provide the bulk of mono paper for our books. These mills, primarily based in Sweden, with a small percentage in Finland, all have robust, verified and well managed procedures in place to handle their forests and pulping processes sustainably. If our printers are unable to use paper from our direct mills, we still always require the printer to source 100% FSC™ certified paper from another verified, sustainable source.
- **Carbon Footprint:** Our global ambition is to be climate neutral by 2030. We aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the paper we use by participating in programmes that prevent the loss of ancient and endangered forests that would otherwise contribute to deforestation and forest degradation. For example, our largest paper supplier, Holmen, uses 100% renewable energy and plants two trees for every one tree felled.

- **Laws & Legislation:** We comply with all applicable laws, including EU Timber Regulations which ban actions including illegal logging and trafficking of wildlife, including plants and plant products.
 - **Paper Strategy & Processes:** We aim to regularly monitor and manage our paper usage, increase paper use efficiency and will continue to maximize the use of FSC™ paper, whilst reviewing other environmentally responsible paper options where possible. We are pro-active in choosing to work with paper suppliers who act in a responsible and sustainable way, including investing in renewable energy resources and land conservation.
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Plastic recycling & reduction

Plastic has become an integral part of how our manufacturers produce and package our goods. It's versatile and durable, it protects products during transportation and, if made appropriately, can be re-used or recycled after use. However, single-use-plastic is a growing problem, with the majority ending up in landfill or in the ocean, which can cause significant health and climate impacts. That's why, in our long-term vision, we are working to eliminate single-use plastics in our supply chain. Below are a few of the things we are doing to reduce and remove plastic:

- **Reducing Plastic:** In 2019 we eliminated 37.6 tonnes of single use plastics from our supply chain by introducing innovative process (reducing our shrink wrapping, working with different packaging etc.). We now look to extend these methods out to our priority suppliers to help reduce their environmental impact to embed positive, lasting change.
 - **External Initiatives & Partners:** We are active participants in ongoing initiatives with other industry stakeholders aiming to reduce plastic from the publishing supply chain. These external workshops not only help to foster collaboration, but also can set industry standards and increase demand for new, innovative processes which are more environmentally friendly.
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Sustainable product design

We design all of our products with sustainability in mind, both our core product - the book - and non-book products such as toys. Our designers and production teams consider the overall environmental impact of a product when placing orders. We're always on the lookout for new ideas to embed into our production processes, including:

- **Material Choices:** We are researching new, innovative materials that could replace or reduce existing choices, such as ensuring our priority suppliers are switching to 100% vegetable-based inks and reviewing finishes on books. We're also commissioning research with a third-party to determine the carbon footprint of our paper to help us make more informed choices.

- **Recycled Plastic in Products:** We're currently working with a few identified manufacturers to increase the amount of post-consumer plastic waste in selected products. If successful, we'll look to extend this project out to other areas of our business to help create a circular economy and increase the use of recycled materials overall.
- **Internal Awareness:** We plan to raise internal awareness of how to design our products in a more environmentally friendly way. This will be through the use of a 'Design Guide', created by the [Book Chain Project](#), which aims to help publishers to switch to processes and materials with less impact on the environment.

Supplier environmental management

It's important that the suppliers we use have systems and processes in place to ensure product, factory and worker safety, as well as help mitigate any environmental impacts through production. Our indirect supply chain contributes the most to our carbon footprint so it's vital that we have the below initiatives in place:

- **Environmental Management Systems:** To continue to reduce our environmental impact, we ask all of our suppliers to obtain an ISO 140001 standard, which confirm they have a certified environmental management system in place. Our priority suppliers are also regularly audited against health and safety ILO conventions, and we have processes in place to work with them to address any ethical or environmental issues discovered during the audit.
- **Chemical Management:** We only use chemicals that are acceptable to use as stated by either REACH (European) or PROP 65 (Californian) legislation. We expect all our suppliers to comply with applicable global legislative and regulatory requirements, ensuring they keep up to date, with our help, on any upcoming legislative changes. To certify product safety, we test our books and components at random, continuing to work with our suppliers to ensure all products are safe from harmful chemicals.
- **2030 Commitments:** Our aim is to become a carbon neutral company by 2030. One of our largest contributing areas is our indirect supply chain. We have already made progress as a result of some of our printers switching to renewable energy. We plan to work with our printers, paper mills and component suppliers to ensure they reduce their overall carbon footprint. For example, this includes more sites switching to, or investing in, renewable resources, reviewing shipping methods and using more sustainable processes during manufacturing.