



Submitted by: Lisa Berghaus
Company/Organization: Monadnock Paper Mills
Number of Employees: 175
For-profit/ Nonprofit: for profit
Category: Environment

Challenge or Opportunity:

The US will import 24.8 million bags of coffee beans in 2017. That's a lot of burlap bags...and a significant number of them ended up in the landfill. Imagine approximately 55 million pounds of natural fiber. The retail coffee industry was seeking an alternative; a way to close a loop in their supply chain and create a second life for the bags.

Approach or Solution:

Monadnock partnered with Arch Paper and Whiting Paper, licensed the technology, and began using that reclaimed fiber in its production. Monadnock had to learn how to handle and process the new "Kona" fiber as it is physically very different from the wood, cotton and synthetic fiber it was accustomed to working with.

Impact:

Today we make Kona Label, Kona Box and Kona Tag - all new products we can offer retail and hospitality to help them source papers within the context of their corporate sustainability goals. This innovation opens the door for us to bring in other types of "non-wood" waste fiber like denim, t-shirts and agricultural by-products.