



the
DULUTH MILL
at-a-glance



VERSO CORPORATION is a leading North American producer of graphic and specialty papers, packaging and pulp.

Duluth, Minnesota

The Duluth Mill overlooks the city's busy international seaport on St. Louis Bay, just south of the western-most end of Lake Superior, opposite Superior, Wisconsin. Duluth has been ranked as one of the top places to live based on its quality of life, scenic locale and numerous attractions.

Began operations in

1987

The Duluth Mill began operating as Lake Superior Paper Industries in 1987 and was a joint venture between Minnesota Power and Pentair, Inc. The M.L. Hibbard Steam Station, unused since the 1970s, was re-commissioned to provide the steam needed to make paper. In 1993, the Duluth recycled pulp mill, built by Minnesota Power, was added to the paper mill.

The Duluth Mill encompasses

90

acres

and includes one paper machine, three supercalenders, two winders, a pressurized groundwood pulp mill, and a recycled pulp mill with a wet lap pulp machine.

The Duluth Mill employs approximately

235

people

The Duluth Mill has the capacity to produce approximately

270,000
tons of paper per year

The mill makes graphic papers used for magazines, catalogs and retail inserts and packaging recycled kraft paper used for a variety of bag, sack and converting applications.

zero
injuries goal

Verso's steadfast commitment to being "safe from the start" – one of our founding principles – permeates our culture and drives our effort to reduce injuries at the Duluth Mill. Our entire workforce is dedicated to promoting a safe work environment for our employees and the community, and has achieved more than one year without a recordable injury three times in the last seven years.

Manufacturing excellence

Verso's operational excellence model is the core of our operations strategy. The model focuses on three key objectives: making best practices common practices, supporting and enabling our managers to lead continuous improvement, and providing an integrated set of tools to aid our improvement efforts.

Benchmarking brings the model to life. At the Duluth Mill, we benchmark our current manufacturing practices against world-class practices to identify opportunities for improvement, and then develop targeted action plans to close the realizable gap between the two. The end goal is for a highly skilled, fully committed team to provide superior products and services to our customers at the lowest cost and with the absolute simplest of technical and organizational designs.



100% sustainability commitment

Papermaking is a resource-intensive business. At the Duluth Mill, our goal is to use these resources – trees, water, energy and chemicals – as efficiently as possible while assuring that we don't harm the environment along the way. This is the core of our sustainability philosophy ... making the products our customers need while leaving the smallest possible footprint behind. Verso's sustainability principles, which focus on responsible sourcing, environmental and safety improvement, product stewardship, stakeholder partnerships and transparency, serve as guideposts on our path to a sustainable future. Using continuous improvement as the yardstick to gauge our progress, our mill team is dedicated to doing what's right for our company, our community and our planet.

VERSO'S SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES:

- Procure wood only from sustainably managed forests
- Continue to improve the environmental and safety performance of our operations
- Develop innovative products that provide both economic and environmental benefit
- Partner with customers and other important stakeholders on sustainability issues
- Continue to evaluate and report progress toward our sustainability goals

OUR COMMUNITY

Together with our employees, the Duluth Mill supports a wide range of community organizations and events with a focus on education, sustainability and local health and human service needs. The mill's community participation is driven by our employees who generously contribute their time and talents in various company-sponsored and individual volunteer efforts to enhance the quality of life in Duluth and the surrounding area.

RESPONSIBLY SOURCED FIBER

Verso actively monitors the forestry practices associated with tree harvests to help assure that the fiber in our products is legally sourced from responsibly managed forests and meets the criteria in Verso's Wood Fiber Procurement Policy, a policy that complies with the harvested wood requirements of the U.S. Lacey Act. Verso is committed to sourcing third-party certified and chain-of-custody (CoC) certified fiber in our products. All of Verso's mills have been independently audited and certified to the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® - C014984), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ (PEFC/29-31-12) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI - 00081) CoC standards.