

# SUSTAINABILITY IN PUBLISHING

HarperCollins' Strategy

Reducing the environmental  
impact of books and maps' production



The environmental impact of books and maps production: a general overview



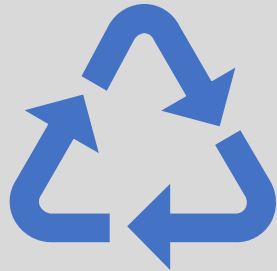
What HarperCollins are doing to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impact: our achievements and targets



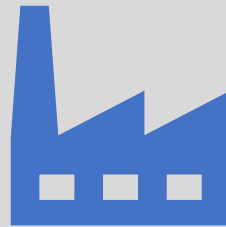
A case study of how sustainability and commercial viability can be improved: pocket maps

# THE ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT

## THE BIG THREE



**Paper** (largest impact): harvesting  
→ milling → pulp (high energy at every step)



**Printing:** energy-intensive industrial process



**Transportation:** freight and distribution emissions

# SUSTAINABLE PAPER CERTIFICATION & REGULATION

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- **FSC (est. 1994)**: voluntary certification for sustainable forestry
- Traces wood origin **forest** → **finished product**
- Widely adopted across industries; standard in publishing

# SUSTAINABLE PAPER CERTIFICATION & REGULATION

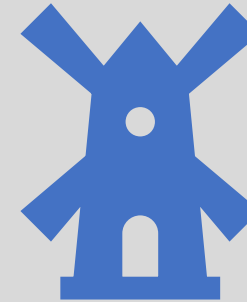
## EUROPEAN UNION DEFORESTATION REGULATION

- **EUDR signed 2023**; implementation now set for **Dec 2026**
- **Legal requirement**: demonstrate products are not linked to deforestation
- Printed products excluded, but **paper remains in scope** → benefits our supply chain

# ENERGY USE & EMISSIONS



**1 tonne of paper = 5-6 megawatt hours**  
= 5,000 paperback novels  
= Driving an EV London ↔ Istanbul  
(3,600 miles)



Carbon varies dramatically by energy source:  
**Renewables: ~60 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/tonne**  
**Coal: ~1,700 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/tonne**

# HOW WE DRIVE IMPROVEMENT THROUGH THE SUPPLY CHAIN

- We expect suppliers (paper mills, printers, freight) to:
  - maximise **renewable energy**
  - limit impacts on **water quality** and **biodiversity**
  - reduce **water consumption**
- We rely on internationally recognised audits, e.g. **SMETA**
- HC UK uses ~20,000 tonnes of paper a year → our leverage and responsibility are significant

# BEYOND FSC

## FIBRE TESTING & PAPER APPROVAL

Higher standards of paper approval:

- We conduct **fibre tests** to ensure no endangered/undeclared fibres
- Medium/high-risk regions tested **every 12 months**

2025 in figures

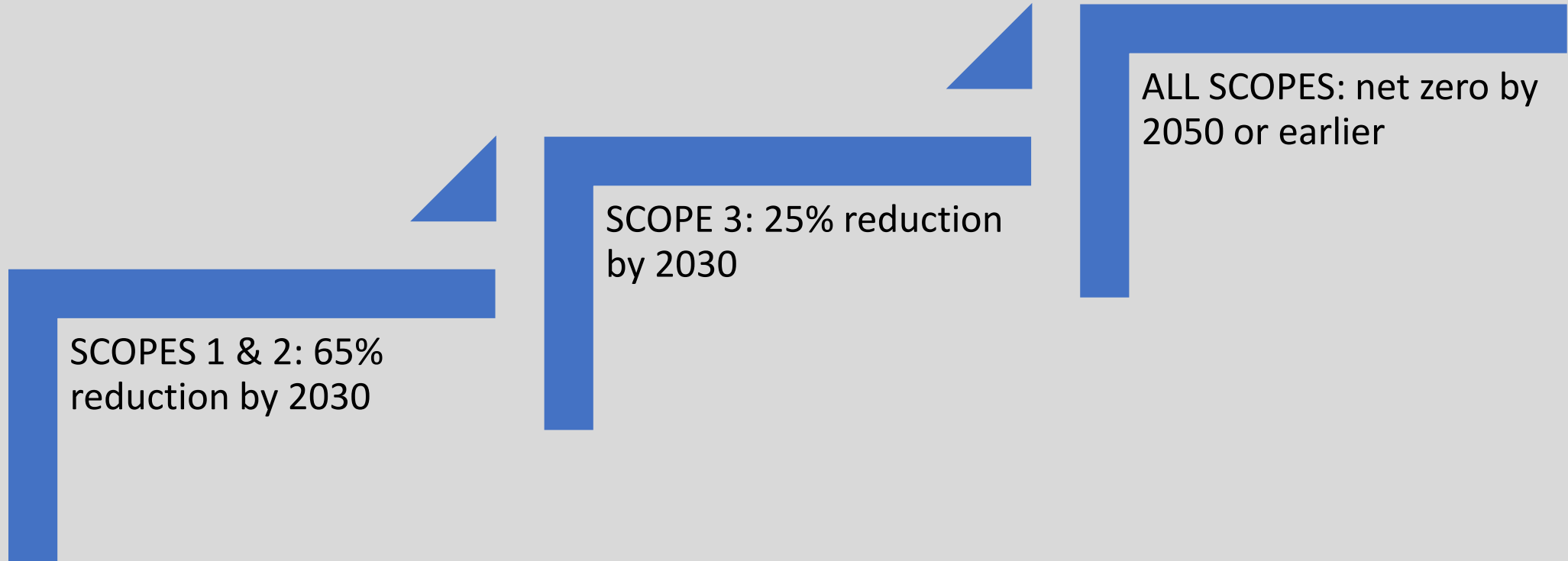
46 fibre tests  
completed

6 failed → 13%

All 6 replaced with  
sustainable  
alternatives

# SCIENCE BASED TARGETS

2016 baseline



# HC ACHIEVEMENTS

since 2023



**40% reduction** in Scopes 1 & 2



reduction in carbon emissions **year-on-year on target**



**Railfreight** from Europe: Milan → Glasgow warehouse  
= ~200 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> **saved/year**

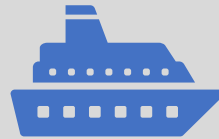
# POCKET MAPS



## CHALLENGES



Many pocket maps produced in **China**



High transport cost + long schedules → viable runs **800+ copies**



~**100 titles live**; only a minority can sustain high-run economics



Non-negotiables: **litho printing**, FSC/HC-approved materials, **maintain range**

# POCKET MAPS



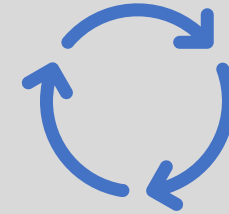
## SOLUTIONS



Group strong sellers with smaller titles (e.g. **200–300 copies/year**)



Share production costs across the batch



Less waste on press; consolidated folding/finishing; consolidated freight

# RESULTS (2025)

