



- Front page
- Archives
- Arts/Entertainment
- Automobiles
- Births
- Classifieds
- Deaths
- Editorial cartoon
- Editorial comment
- Employment
- Food/nutrition
- Forums
- Free email
- Guestbook
- Health news
- Our Town
- Packers' corner
- Search
- Shop online
- Sports
- Stocks
- Week-in-review
- Weddings
- About us

Paper Council calls for reforms

News-Chronicle

The Wisconsin Paper Council is calling upon the State of Wisconsin to quickly establish economic development and environmental regulatory reforms to help save the remaining jobs.

The request comes after nearly 1,000 employees lost jobs during recent mill shutdowns by Stora Enso North America, Weyerhaeuser and P.H. Glatfelter.

"Wisconsin needs to act sooner, rather than later, in enacting economic development and environmental regulatory reform," said council president Patrick Schillinger in a news release.

Wisconsin leads the nation in papermaking and has done so for the past 50 years. Papermakers earn more than any other Wisconsin manufacturing employee, earning an average of \$49,000 per year.

The paper council issued a report in June which describes the challenges faced by the industry and offers solutions for improvement.

"The State of Wisconsin's Paper Industry: Recommendations for Action," advises tax and environmental regulatory reforms and the development of a strong energy policy to help boost the industry.

"If we can improve Wisconsin's business climate, we can maintain Wisconsin's paper industry, which is so vital to its economy," Schillinger said.

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The Green Bay News-Chronicle
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