



BASHUNDHARA PAPER SECTOR: LEADING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE EXCELLENCE



IN THE INTRICATE TAPESTRY OF global sustainability, the paper industry serves as a linchpin, with Bashundhara Paper Sector (BPML & BMPIL) at the forefront in Bangladesh. A steadfast commitment to environmental, social and economic responsibility defines the sector's sustainability journey, intricately aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Against the backdrop of a global call for mass sustainability, BPML & BMPIL emerge as trailblazers, reshaping the narrative of the paper industry.

Bashundhara Paper Sector envisions a world where paper becomes a catalyst for excellence in Education, Communication, Business and Salutariness through Sustainable Paper-Based Solutions. For them, sustainability transcends beyond ecological consciousness; it's a dynamic strategy for international business success. This approach seamlessly intertwines economic robustness with ESG responsibilities, ensuring that stakeholder benefits are woven into the fabric of their sustainability initiatives. Setting a bold stage in transparency, BPML & BMPIL published the first-ever sustainability report aligned with GRI standards in the region, marking a groundbreaking stride towards a sustainable and accountable future.

Bashundhara Paper Sector embarked on a comprehensive sustainability strategy, setting specific targets to achieve by 2030. The commitment encompasses responsible sourcing and production, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, promotion of circularity and the enhancement of employee livelihood—all aligned with the SDGs. Dating back to 1992, the facility has taken significant steps towards sustainability, including pioneering initiatives like the carbon sequestration project. In the present, the sector introduces "Project Surokha," dedicated to promoting environmental consistency, conservation and sustainability within the facility. At the core of their success lies a deep commitment to the well-being of employees, the communities they operate in and society at large. Additionally, "Project: Shobar Agye Tumi" has been



In a significant stride towards transparency, BPML & BMPIL released their inaugural Sustainability Report on January 15, 2024 led by Safwan Sobhan, Vice Chairman of Bashundhara Group and Md. Mustafizur Rahman, CEO of Bashundhara Paper Mills Limited. A team effort from Md. Towfique Hasan, Executive Director (HOD) - Marketing, BD & Sustainability and M. Mazedul Islam, Company Secretary of Bashundhara Group in the report reflecting a dedication to sustainable and accountable business practices.

launched to support and enhance the safety, well-being and growth of employees. Being responsible in the segment of social governance, BPML & BMPIL have recognised the importance of youth empowerment. The sector patronised "Project: Awdommo," aiming to foster youth development and strengthen community bonds through sports, contributing significantly to the growth and well-being of the community.

Bashundhara Paper Sector upholds ethical and sustainable sourcing practices through the exclusive use of certified materials from authentic sources that adhere to rigorous ethical and environmental standards. The facility is already certified in FSC CoC, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and has received other local & international recognitions such as the Superbrands Bangladesh status, Asisa's Greatest Brand award, Best Brand award, Digital Marketing award etc.

To minimize its environmental footprint, the company adopts sustainable practices through responsible consumption. In water management, it aims to reduce water usage in alignment with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Additionally, the company plans to increase the use of surface water instead of groundwater. The

individual facility aims to implement Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) by treating all liquid waste for reuse or recycling. This initiative is part of the broader 'Reviving Earth' project.

Right alongside water, energy stands out as one of the most critical resources, contributing to the production of Greenhouse gases (GHGs). The facility has set a target to annually reduce GHG emissions by 2%, achieving a remarkable 27% reduction in carbon footprint during the fiscal year 2021-22 compared to the base year 2018-19 (Pre-Covid 19). This accomplishment was made possible by the installation of a carbon sequestration plant, which absorbs carbon dioxide discharged from boiler and generator exhaust at a daily rate of 6.87 MT. and produces precipitated Calcium Carbonate (PCC) as a byproduct which enhances paper quality attributes such as brightness, opacity and smoothness. Furthermore, the facility has upgraded the heat recovery system and adopted Exhaust Gas Boilers (EGB) in all individual units. Under the project 'SolarSustain,' the facility is planning to cover 38,356 m2 of rooftops with solar panels, aiming to increase the use of renewable energy.

Towards circularity, the facility has achieved zero paper waste by adopting Dissolved Air Flotation

(DAF), fibers recovered from wastewater are reused in the process. The remaining fibers, collected as sludge after wastewater treatment, are used to create Sludge board for commercial consumption and in coiled punched form, among other applications. Embracing the 3R principle, the facility announced a campaign named 'Paper Recycling Circle,' collecting used paper through dealers. This initiative not only safeguards the environment but also reduces dependence on raw pulp.

Bashundhara Paper Sector aspires to transcend mere productivity, actively working towards enhancing employee livelihoods and well-being. The 'Shobar Agye Tumi' project underscores the prioritisation of employee needs. The facility upholds health and safety standards with initiatives like a specialised firefighting station and a medical centre. Nutrition is bolstered through subsidised meals. Using electronic payment methods for salary disbursement and fund collection among all the workers and dealers. Moreover, the corporation fosters a healthy work environment, stress reduction and overall well-being by granting access to diverse sports facilities under the 'Sport Sphere' campaign. Bashundhara Paper Sector has been at the forefront of nurturing advanced paper technologies around the country.

Since the inception of its journey, Bashundhara Paper Sector has established itself as a beacon of transparency and accountability. This commitment to sustainability extends the transparency ethos towards environmental, social and governance considerations. In the unfolding story of Bashundhara Paper Sector's sustainability, each turned page bears witness to an unwavering pledge to forge a brighter, greener future. The tale continues, with every recycled sheet and each innovative stride propelling Bashundhara Paper Sector further towards a circular and sustainable tomorrow—a resolute commitment to a world where transparency and sustainability, as embodied by Bashundhara Paper Sector, flourish for generations to come.