

Robert Buckingham

Good morning. My name is Robert Buckingham, R-O-B-E-R-T, B-U-C-K-I-N-G-H-A-M. I am co-president of North Pacific Paper Company, NORPAC. And I'm speaking, uh, for the group today. We appreciate the opportunity to be here. We'd like to offer support and consideration for climate offsets, with respect to waste reduction from landfills. NORPAC based in Longview Washington is currently in the commissioning phase of a \$50 million capital expenditure and a recycled fiber prop [unintelligible 00:21:26]. The Washington economic development finance authority issued bonds on behalf of NORPAC to finance the project. This project will redirect waste paper and old corrugated containers, OCC from landfills to our plant. So we can turn recycled papers into high-quality, lightweight, recycled packaging papers. Specifically, with this new equipment, NORPAC will increase the amount of waste paper and OCC diverted from landfills and transform them into usable packaging papers. In 2021, NORPAC consumed almost 300,000 tons of mixed paper and OCC. In 2023 with the new [unintelligible 00:22:05] online, NORPAC is projected to use a meaningful, additional volume of mixed and OCC papers. When fully functional, NORPAC will be one of the largest single sites for the purchasing, processing, and consumption of waste paper in the country. By keeping hundreds of thousands of tons of waste paper out of regional landfills through the recycling process, we are substantially reducing methane greenhouse gases for being emitted into the atmosphere. We believe this should be recognized through the granting of credits to offset other emissions. As a department of ecology makes final decisions on the climate commitment act, NORPAC requests consideration to include projects such as our current recycled [unintelligible 00:22:47] project as offsets credits to a facilities compliance obligation. These projects are real permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable. Thank you for your consideration.