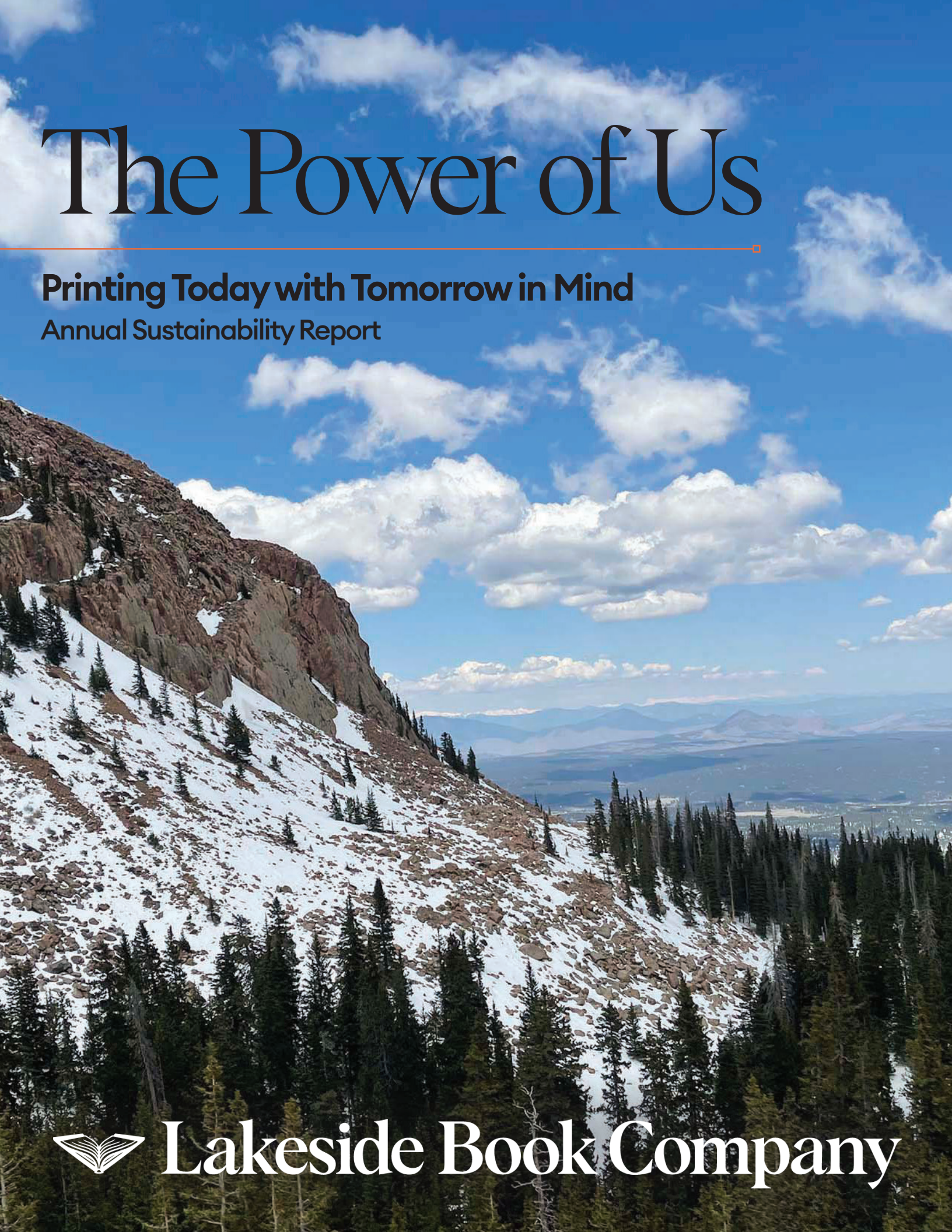
The Power of Us

Printing Today with Tomorrow in Mind

Annual Sustainability Report



Lakeside Book Company

Reflections from Our CEO

We believe in the power of books. As critical pieces of both our history and our future, every book we manufacture, store, and sell tells a story that sparks imagination and bridges divides. The physical book itself is a remarkably sustainable medium – requiring no external power, containing no heavy metals, and built from renewable, recyclable materials designed to stand the test of time. At Lakeside Book Company, we are proud to be a vital link in the supply chain bringing these books to life.



Dave McCree

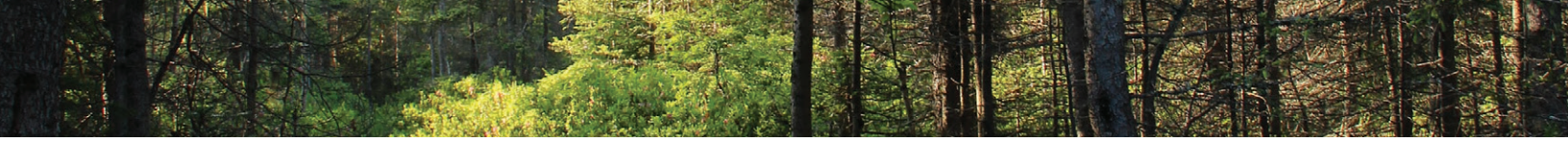
Our role is to advocate for the printed word while ensuring our manufacturing footprint supports long-term environmental stewardship and a vibrant future for readers everywhere. Our progress reinforces a fundamental truth: the future of printing relies on innovation and conservation going hand in hand. While modernizing operations to achieve speed, precision, and quality is essential to our strategy, it presents a unique challenge: balancing technological advancement with a dedication to sustainability. We approach every investment with a clear mindset –"Printing Today with Tomorrow in Mind"– optimizing workflows to reduce our environmental impact even as our manufacturing capacity grows.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in supporting our local communities and ecosystems. This report highlights the significant progress we have made together, but our work is far from finished. Our goal remains unwavering: driving long-term sustainability to continue bringing books to life for the next 160 years.



Dave McCree

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The Power of Us: Printing Today with Tomorrow in Mind

Our Sustainability Pledge

At Lakeside Book Company, we bring books to life while caring for our employees and customers, protecting the environment, and supporting our communities. We uphold this commitment to preserving the environment and safeguarding natural resources throughout our daily operations.

A new sustainability slogan, "Printing Today with Tomorrow in Mind," is rooted in the belief that our collective success is inseparable from the health of the planet, the well-being of our people, and the integrity of our culture both now and in the future. The slogan was created by Stephanie Hillis from our Owensville, MO facility, selected from nearly 100 employee suggestions.





This report is inclusive of operations at:

Lakeside Book Company

MARQUIS

Phoenix Color
A Division of Lakeside Book Company

Sustainability Goal Updates

In 2025, we worked on initiatives to reduce emissions and solid waste. Greater heating demand due to fluctuating winter temperatures led to higher natural gas usage and emissions slightly above our 5.5% target. Positively, lower electricity usage exceeded the target. Many locations met or surpassed the solid waste target, with increases at other sites attributable to new equipment installations and relocations. We expect normalization and a continued reduction of solid waste with the completion of these changes.

2025 Measurable Goals

Goal	Target	Result
Carbon Footprint Reduction (Electricity & Natural Gas)*	▼ 5.5%	▼ 5.17%
Electricity	▼ 5.5%	▼ 5.66%
Natural Gas	▼ 5.5%	▲ 5.07%
Solid Waste Reduction	▼ 10%	▲ 18.56%

Scope 1 Emissions

246.9 tons of Volatile Organic Compound (VOCs) emissions*

Lakeside Book manages several state and provincial air quality permits and permissions to track and control Scope 1 air pollutants under the Clean Air Act and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. These air permits are tailored to each print manufacturing facility and their unique processes, as our most significant air emissions come from VOCs produced by the inks and solvents used.

In addition to rigorous and careful management of our permits, chemical use, and air pollution control equipment, we are exploring options to reduce Scope 1 emissions and VOCs without impacting book quality.

Scope 2 Emissions

93,805.82 metric tons CO_2 equivalent emissions**

We are considering Scope 3 emissions for inclusion in future reporting.



*Scope 1 emissions are those directly emitted from manufacturing processes only, calculated based on mass balance or purchasing data as required by permit terms, and do not include all possible fugitive emissions.

**Emissions included in our target are Scope 2, or indirect emissions from purchased electricity and natural gas.

Looking Ahead: 2026 Sustainability Goals

- **5.5% decrease in emissions**
- **10% reduction in solid waste**
- **Continue a Life Cycle Assessment of our books**



Rolling 5-Year Strategic Plan (2026-2030)

Lakeside Book's 5-year strategic plan serves as a living framework of our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. Dynamic, flexible goals allow us to remain responsive to new innovations, emerging data, and shifting global priorities. By maintaining this agility, we ensure our efforts remain focused on delivering impactful, long-term value and innovative solutions for employees, customers, and the communities we serve.

Environmental

- Energy Efficiency: Initiate and conduct Energy Assessments at print facilities
- Waste Reduction: Conduct annual Trash & Recycling Stream Assessments at all facilities in support of a goal to reduce solid waste by 10%
- Green Space Expansion: Replace sections of lawn with tall grasses and flowers, plant trees, and add indoor plants in our facilities
- Life Cycle Assessment: Calculate the average emissions of a printed book and report the findings
- Product Sustainability: Increase the percentage of recycled content used in packaging and research alternative materials to replace plastics or non-recyclable packaging materials



Social

- Community Involvement: Identify strategic partnerships to foster youth literacy and increase engagement in community organizations

Governance

- Collaboration: Initiate conversations with other companies, sharing resources to collectively strengthen sustainability programs
- Sustainability Reporting: Create a more efficient process for generating customer reports in our new database, including reporting on Scope 3 emissions



Environmental

Energy Efficiency

Automation, productivity, and cost control are critical drivers in modern book printing and distribution. Our purposeful integration of automated workflows enables books to reach the market more efficiently and with a smaller environmental footprint. In 2025, we invested over $24 million on equipment: Purchasing 28 new pieces, upgrading 18, replacing 8, and relocating 7 more. By upgrading to modern, high-efficiency equipment, we actively advance our carbon reduction objectives while expecting lower electricity consumption and decreased waste.

92% of the energy used to power our Canadian printing plants and offices is generated almost entirely from renewable sources such as hydro, wind, and solar. Our Quebec energy provider even exports surplus electricity to the northeastern United States. Electricity Canada recognized our Toronto energy provider as a "Sustainable Electricity Leader" for their dedication to sustainable development.

Sustainable Electricity Leader



manroland Goss LITHOMAN press in Willard, Ohio
State-of-the-art controls and integrated systems reduce paper waste and solvent emissions. The thermal energy captured by incinerating solvents is then reused in the drying process.



Heidelberg XL-106 in Hagerstown, Maryland
Replacing three older units, this high-efficiency 10-color press features advanced LED curing and segmented light control, delivering an estimated annual savings of 1,097,575 kWh. It enables single-pass production for large format jobs, significantly improving our overall energy footprint.



AI-driven robotic depalletizing system from FANUC in Appleton, Wisconsin
Intelligent robotic materials handling greatly increases productivity and improves speed to market. Since its implementation in 2025, it has eliminated 45 million pounds of manual lifting.

Managing Waste Responsibly

Reducing

Plastic Reduction

Identifying and minimizing sources of excessive plastic waste remains a priority across our operations. Fulfillment sites in Wisconsin successfully transitioned to recycled paper packaging from plastic air bags, achieving both waste and cost efficiencies. Highly impactful, this initiative ***eliminated over four million square feet of plastic*** usage since its launch in early 2025.

Reusable pallet toppers now make stretch wrap unnecessary on most internal shipments between our largest Indiana print facility and book fulfillment locations. This change also saves time on the production floor. It takes only 20 seconds to secure a two-strap lid versus two-three minutes for a stretch wrap machine. We plan to assess more sites and processes to expand this initiative.

Other programs challenge employees to avoid single-use plastics at home and at work, including swapping to compostable plates, cups, and flatware in break rooms. Facilities continue to install water bottle filling stations, encouraging the use of reusable water bottles to ultimately reduce the amount of plastic water bottles purchased and used. At just one location, 15 filling stations replaced the use of an estimated 54,472 plastic bottles in 2025.

Chemical Reduction

Transitioning to chemistry-free printing plates at our Terre Haute, Indiana facility significantly improved operational efficiency, safety, and environmental stewardship. This shift drove consistent plate output and minimized the need for plate processor maintenance, which reduced downtime. Decreased power consumption yielded lower emissions and cost savings. Based on these successes, we are now assessing this process for implementation at additional facilities.





Goal of 10% reduction in solid waste in 2025

Reusing

Employees' creativity, resourcefulness, and company pride often involve repurposing materials. Their efforts help beautify our facilities and demonstrate a care for the environment. We are incredibly proud of the Green Teams for leading with ingenuity and identifying innovative new uses for what would otherwise be discarded materials.



A used wooden shipping crate became a beautiful flower box with detailed sanding and painting from one talented Lake Park employee.



Plastic bottles serve as lightweight fillers for outdoor planters at Airwest, creating space for aeration and drainage while keeping the planters light enough to move without injury.



Materials otherwise slated for recycling or trash were reused to craft decorations for the Indy North holiday party.

Recycling

Recycling Partnerships

Collaborating with an international recycling company expanded recycling options to materials not supported by local organizations. Facilities now offer collection bins for items such as earplugs, cigarette butts, CDs, plastic film, toner cartridges, breakroom items, and more.

Trash and Recycling Stream Assessments

Green Teams conducted facility-level Trash & Recycling Stream Assessments to ensure the proper disposal of recyclables. Following the assessments, teams added more recycling bins where needed, created improved labels in multiple languages for all disposal sites, and identified other materials that could be diverted from the landfill.



Employee Electronic Recycling Drives



10,486 pounds
of employees' personal electronics recycled

Tire Recycling Drive



22.4 tons of tires collected
the equivalent of 159 tires

Facility Electronic Recycling



Over 10,000 pounds
of company-owned electronic waste recycled

Growth of Green Spaces

Expanding green spaces creates healthier, more productive environments that offer natural ways to regulate building temperatures and boost air quality. Green Teams coordinated the planting of 17 trees on our properties and more than 70 indoor air-purifying plants in offices, warehouses, and production floors. These efforts are amplified by employee-driven flower and vegetable gardens and Earth Day initiatives, including decorated rain barrels, that encourage sustainable practices at work and at home.

Our employees are active stewards of these landscapes. Over 200 employees and their families participated in onsite and community cleanups, successfully preserving outdoor areas and supporting local biodiversity. Complementing this, two locations started using environmentally friendly winter salt alternatives, which decreases sodium chloride pollution in waterways, protecting nearby vegetation and infrastructure. Together, these initiatives reflect a shift toward a more conscious way of managing our properties for the future.







When mature, each tree can absorb 48 pounds of CO^2 per year!

Life Cycle Assessment

To better understand the ecological impacts of our core business, we are engaging in a multi-year Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). This will examine the full process of manufacturing books, from the felling of the tree to the final slide of the printed book into the shelf. Through this assessment, we hope to gain additional insight into our processes and potential areas of improvement.

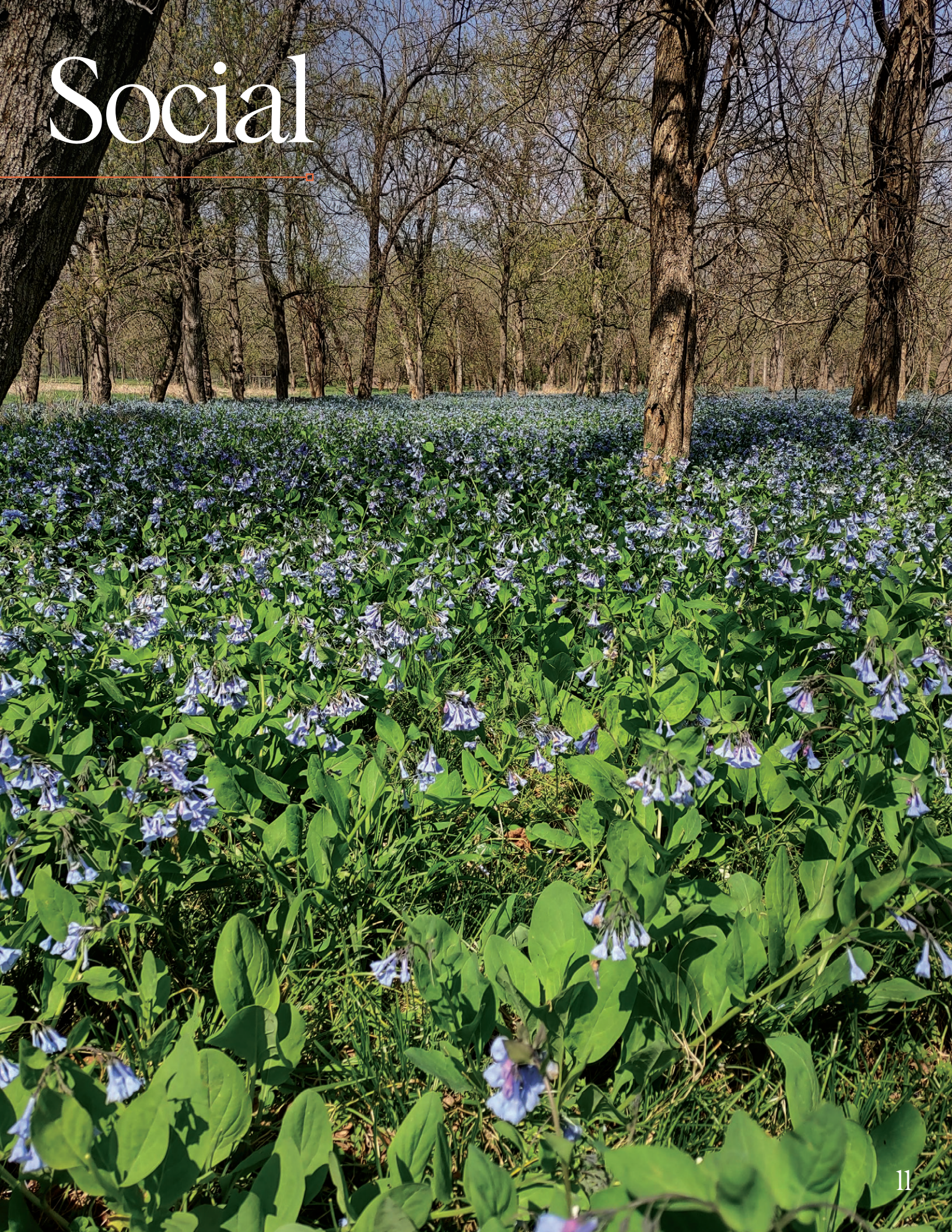
Phase one centered "forests," learning more about the paper we use, where it comes from, and the processes used to make it. This extended to the themes of employee education and engagement initiatives. As the LCA expands in 2026 to include our manufacturing processes, focus will transition to "air" and direct Scope 1 emissions.







Social



Environmental Education

Lakeside Book recognizes the importance of expanding environmental knowledge within our workforce. We share engaging resources, including informational newsletters and hands-on activities throughout the year that educate employees on environmental concerns and how we can work together to mitigate impact. Many activities were themed around forests, following the LCA's focus. Our annual nature photo contest proves to be incredibly popular, with nearly 200 submissions and many employee-taken images appearing in this report. The event encourages employees to immerse themselves in nature, experiences that benefit both mental and physical health.



Three new Green Teams, and a 30% increase in participation from 2024







Suggesting Sustainable Actions



Guided by site-level Green Teams, the Sustainability Suggestion Program solicits employee ideas on how to reduce our company's environmental impact. Participation in the program continues to grow, with 135 suggestions submitted in 2025, a 20% increase from the previous year. Teams took action to implement five of the most impactful ideas.

1 **SUGGESTION:** Conduct an audit to identify and address heat loss points throughout production and warehouse areas (doors, loading docks, walls, roof) to minimize energy waste.
ACTION TAKEN: Vendor hired to conduct energy audits of all locations to identify ways to lower our energy usage, heat loss, and demand during peak hours.

2 **SUGGESTION:** Plant wildflowers to reduce the amount of lawn space requiring mowing and maintenance, saving emissions, time, and costs.
ACTION TAKEN: Green Teams were asked to explore ways to replace some existing lawn, with resources available to guide selections of native tall grasses and wildflower species. Starting in 2026, sites can compete for the "Garden of the Year" award for their newly-planted garden or prairie.



3 **SUGGESTION:** Create real-time dashboards in the facilities displaying departmental energy consumption to encourage friendly competition between sites or shifts, promoting active reduction in energy use.
ACTION TAKEN: Using features in our sustainability database, internal energy dashboards will soon show energy usage per unit printed or shipped. Regular updates will offer site by site comparisons, with rewards available for the facility with the most reduced energy intensity.

4 **SUGGESTION:** Conserve water by installing motion faucets and auto shut-offs on equipment.
ACTION TAKEN: We initiated a trial of multiple water conservation methods at one facility before expanding the initiative to the rest of the platform.

5 **SUGGESTION:** Look for more eco-friendly cleaning products.
ACTION TAKEN: Green Teams evaluated current cleaning supplies against a recommended list of alternatives.

Investing in Professional Growth

We are committed to cultivating a workforce that is empowered, skilled, and ready to meet the challenges of the future. By creating opportunities for professional development and external certifications, such as Six Sigma Green and Black Belts and specialized trade apprenticeships, we ensure our team members have the expertise to excel at every level.

Collaboration with local organizations, universities, and career academies deepens employees' relationships to their communities. This focus on individual growth sharpens our operational excellence and fosters a culture where employees can advance their careers and contribute to the long-term success of Lakeside Book Company.

47
employees earned Six Sigma Green Belt Certifications

10
graduates and 27 participants in Bridge-to-Skills training program in Owensville, MO

7
Electrical, Mechanical, and HVAC apprenticeships in Willard, OH

177
employees attended Continuous Improvement classes in Harrisonburg, VA

20
graduates of apprenticeship programs in Crawfordsville, IN, a 150% increase from 2024

27
participants in English and French language courses at select Marquis Book locations



Recognizing Employee Success





Through company employee recognition programs, we celebrated the exceptional performance of 746 employees at all levels of the organization in 2025. Site-based Inspire Awards allow peers and supervisors to honor team members who exemplify Lakeside Book's mission and values. Recipients of our highest honor, the CEO Excellence Awards, are recognized for outstanding, company-wide contributions across critical areas such as Safety, Operational Excellence, Leadership Impact, Innovation, Customer Impact, Teamwork, and Community Hero. Their influence extends beyond the immediate scope of their role, benefiting the environment, the local community, and the entire company.

Fostering a Healthy Culture





Lakeside Book is dedicated to fostering a healthy and engaged workforce, recognizing that employee well-being is vital to thrive both at work and in the community. We demonstrate this through ongoing investment in comprehensive medical benefits, including access to key components such as preventive care visits, low-cost medications, annual health screenings, specialized chronic condition management programs, and convenient telemedicine options.

In 2025, we strengthened our commitment to employee well-being through several impactful initiatives. An impressive 91% of employees completed a wellness assessment, enabling them to earn a discount on insurance premiums and actively engage in their personal health. Expanded access to preventive care through onsite health screenings at nine locations served nearly 500 employees. New wellness committees at several facilities further support employee well-being.

Connecting with Local Schools

Education is the foundation of a thriving community. Through active engagement with schools, universities, and youth-focused programs, we are fostering the next generation.

MENTORSHIP & CAREER READINESS

From mock speed interviews in Plainfield, Indiana to high school career talks in Hagerstown, Maryland, we help students build professional confidence.



RESOURCE SHARING

Our Montmagny, Quebec facility launched a sustainable paper donation program, diverting surplus production paper to five schools and three daycares. Inspired by employee ingenuity, this successful initiative is scheduled to continue on a biannual basis.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration with Purdue University includes hiring interns, facilitating academic tours, and engaging horticulture students to plan onsite green infrastructure.

YOUTH SUPPORT

Our Marquis Graphic Studio and Sherbrooke facilities in Quebec champion youth via direct engagement with organizations that foster environmental certification and action, homework help resources, and mental health outreach.



Uplifting Our Communities

Lakeside Book is proud to be a catalyst for good in the communities where we live and work. In 2025, our collective philanthropy and service resulted in $183,590 in donations distributed across 171 diverse organizations. This reflects a company-wide dedication to important local causes and initiatives and strong relationships with our neighbors through sponsorship and active volunteerism.

- Goat grazing for invasive species management
- Community volunteer days
- Environmental clean up-events
- Little Free Library sponsorship
- Health and wellness walks and fundraising events
- Food, clothing, back-to-school, and holiday drives for local families
- Industry board representation
- Chambers of commerce
- Collegiate and minor league athletic sponsorships



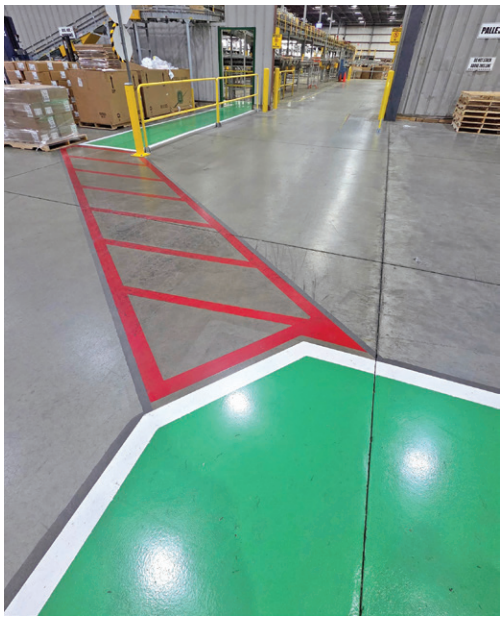






Governance

Building a World Class Safety Culture

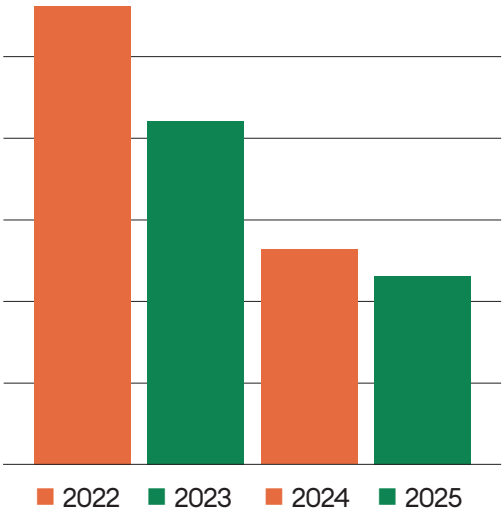


Safety is a core value which drives actions at every level of the organization. In 2025, we surpassed our Recordable Case Rate (RCR) target, with multiple locations achieving zero recordable incidents. Multiple initiatives helped fuel this success, including more employee participation in safety audits. A unique program at our Owensville, Missouri facility, the Zombie Prevention Team, addresses concerns that employees were going through the motions and at risk of becoming safety zombies. Unlike traditional committees, this initiative deepens employee engagement through a combination of continuous training, regular "zombie patrol" audits, and visible recognition, successfully growing participation to 10% of the plant's workforce.

Standardizing painted pedestrian walkways and crosswalks across the platform ensures employees and visitors understand the color system and can safely navigate any of our buildings. A pilot project of laser-projected walkways and stop signs at our Crawfordsville, Indiana site may eliminate the need for frequent repainting of high-traffic areas and improve control of powered industrial vehicle traffic, lessening interaction risks between pedestrians and equipment. Similarly, halo lights on forklifts project a highly visible zone around the equipment, alerting pedestrians to maintain a safe distance.



Total Recordable Case Rate

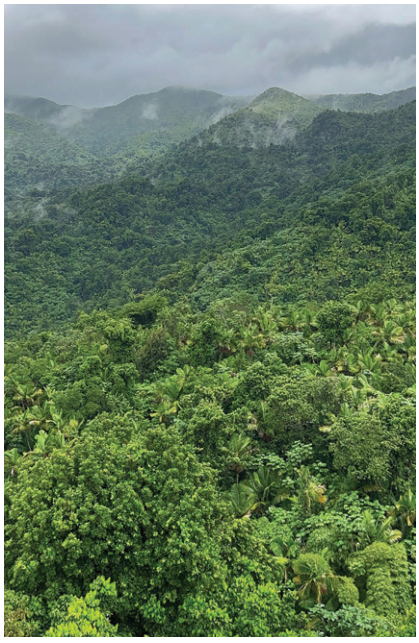


Data-Driven Insights

Our commitment to sustainability is backed by robust, actionable intelligence. A web-based data management system serves as a unified hub for safety and sustainability metrics, delivering the real-time visibility required to drive meaningful change. By streamlining data collection and reporting, we have empowered employees to take an active role in maintaining our high standards. This data-first approach facilitates better collaboration, smarter decision-making, and a more resilient, transparent organization.

We are continuously optimizing reporting processes by purchasing and utilizing more features in our database to provide data more efficiently for customers. New tools will make it easier to integrate Scope 1 emission tracking with the rest of our sustainability metrics.





European Union Deforestation Regulation Update

The European Parliament approved amendments to the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) that simplify implementation of the regulation. Printed products, including books, are no longer included within the regulation's scope. This change reduced complex compliance requirements for publishers and suppliers in the industry. Although books are excluded from the EUDR, Lakeside Book remains dedicated to responsibly sourcing materials.

Championing Reforestation



Lakeside Book is the first book manufacturer to offer customers reforestation and carbon offset programs through a partnership with PrintReleaf. Readers increasingly demand sustainable practices from publishers. In putting this solution into action, we believe in working together with our customers to invest in tomorrow.

Publishers showcase their progress to authors, stakeholders, and readers through real-time dashboards and marketing-ready materials. This verifiable environmental data resonates with eco-conscious readers.

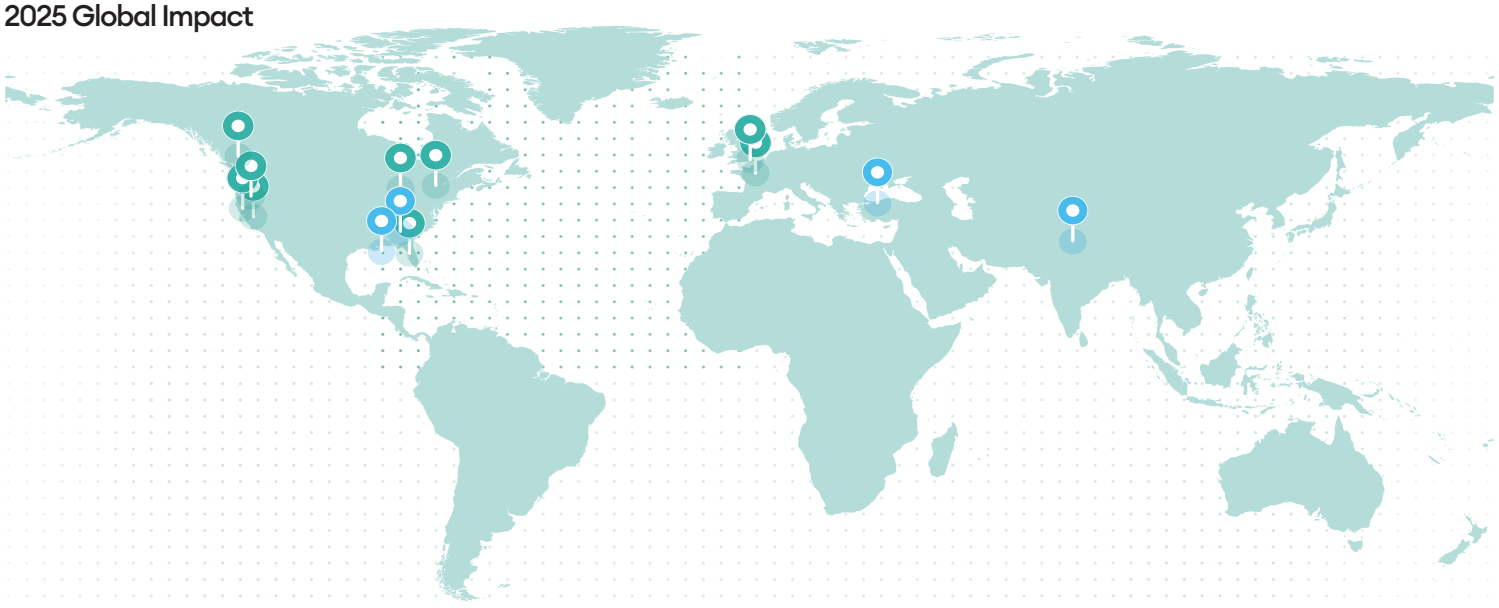
In 2025, Lakeside Book:

- Planted **61,241** trees, offsetting **5,090,045** lbs of paper consumption through reforestation
- Offset **6.273** MTCO2e emissions for the consumption of **7,361** lbs of paper

printreleaf

Reforestation projects supported through this initiative are located across the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, along with carbon impact projects in India, Turkey, and the United States.

2025 Global Impact



Materials Stewardship

Safety and sustainability are the cornerstone of our product development and supply chain management. We maintain rigorous Regulated Product and Materials (RPM) Safety Specifications to ensure every component of our products meets or exceeds the highest global safety standards. Our comprehensive safety framework demonstrates a proactive approach to material integrity.

Stringent Chemical Compliance

All primary raw materials, including inks, coatings, film laminates, paper, and paperboard, are strictly regulated for heavy metals, phthalates, and brominated fire retardants.

Global Regulatory Excellence

Materials comply with leading international standards, such as Europe's Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), as well as California Proposition 65, to guarantee our products are free from harmful carcinogens, mutagens, or reproductive toxins.

Ethical Sourcing

We monitor all materials for conflict minerals and comply with the Lacey Act to prevent the use of illegally sourced plant or wood-derived products.

Environmental Stewardship

We prohibit the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), ensuring our manufacturing processes protect the planet while providing safe finished goods.

Consumer Protection

For our most sensitive categories, such as children's products, we enforce additional safeguards, including strict formaldehyde emission limits and the total prohibition of asbestos, mercury, and radioactive substances, complying with Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA).

FORESTRY CERTIFIED PAPER USED IN 2025

Over
68,657,806
lbs Certified Product sold

32,456,177
lbs of Finished FSC Mix Certified Product

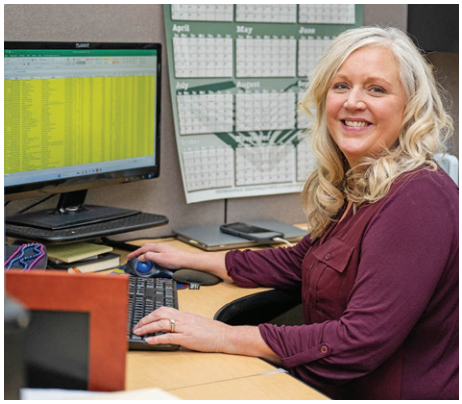
19,323
lbs of Finished FSC Recycled Certified Product

36,182,306
lbs of Finished SFI Certified Product

Resilience and Innovation in Technology

We significantly bolstered cybersecurity through enhanced monitoring, expanded employee training, and frequent phishing simulations. AI-powered email security tools proactively block threats, while infrastructure upgrades to firewalls and bandwidth increases in Montmagny, Quebec further harden our network.

To support operational excellence, we integrated a secure AI assistant in late 2025. This tool enables teams to troubleshoot equipment, analyze technical manuals, and synthesize project data in seconds. Automating administrative workflows and routine analysis reduces downtime, accelerates speed-to-market, and allows our experts to focus on the craftsmanship and creative problem-solving that define the Lakeside Book experience.





Leading with Integrity

Integrity is the cornerstone of our corporate identity, fostered by an unwavering commitment to ethical decision-making and accountability. Every team member has the resources and clear guidance necessary to act with integrity. By cultivating an open, honest culture, we empower employees at every level to stand up for what is right. Lakeside Book fosters a culture of belonging that respects the diverse experiences and unique viewpoints of our workforce. We celebrate these perspectives, ensuring our environment remains a place where all can learn, grow, and succeed together.







The Lakeside Book Company Difference

Lakeside Book Company offers integrated solutions to print, store, and sell customers' books. As North America's premier partner, we provide the expertise, infrastructure, and solutions needed to bring books to market with speed and precision. Our commitment goes beyond manufacturing and distribution; we place publishers' needs at the center of everything we do, ensuring every operational decision is made with integrity, sustainability, and long-term growth in mind.



Over
500+ million
books produced in 2025

Covering over
10.6 million
square feet of manufacturing and warehouse facilities

10
book manufacturing locations in the U.S. and Canada

9
fulfillment facilities in the U.S. and Canada

5,200
employees

Over
4,100
customers

We manufacture and ship books to
179
countries

Lakeside Book Company

lakesidebookcompany.com

printreleaf
AUTHORIZED PARTNER

Printed on 100% recycled paper