

GOING DIGITAL: HOW PRODUCTIONS ARE REDUCING PAPER USE THROUGH DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION SOLUTIONS

Did you know it takes about [24 trees just to make one tonne of paper, which is about 200,000 sheets?](#) The TV and film industry can generate a significant amount of paper, particularly in offices at all phases throughout of the production - from hiring talent, purchasing goods and services, to writing scripts. Due to the confidential data and information processed in documents like deal memos, start packs, invoices, and scripts, switching from manual processes to digital can be daunting for productions.

Entertainment Partners (EP) is an industry leader in Production Finance and Production Management, delivering integrated, cloud-based digital solutions supporting every phase of production. Since 2020, EP has worked closely with Canadian productions to develop digital products that meet the needs of the industry, overcoming barriers surrounding privacy and security concerns through Military-grade cyber security.



The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a huge digital transformation that has changed the landscape of documentation processes in all industries, pushing a pivot to virtual solutions whenever possible. Not only do these solutions help streamline production processes that can be done contact-free, EP has seen first-hand that utilizing technology has significantly cut down on the amount of paper that is generated by productions. This digital, streamlined process can also save production costs related to human resources, printing, and postage.



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PRODUCT IMPACT

In 2021, EP Canada launched more digital products that contribute to their goal of avoiding physical paper. More Ontario productions are beginning to transition to these services, saving paper, trees, time, and money every day.

SmartStart

[SmartStart](#) is a hiring tool that creates digital start packs for crew members. Launched in Canada in January 2021, EP has set up over 30 productions to hire crew members using SmartStart. Typically, throughout the hiring process hundreds of pieces of paper could be printed to hire just one individual, per production.

As of December 2021, the combined tally among all their productions is **13,100** start packs consisting of approximately **1.1 million sheets of paper avoided**, equivalent to **saving more than 100 trees**. EP anticipates this figure will triple as they go into a second year with SmartStart in Canada.

EP Residency

[EP Residency](#) is a solution for collecting and vetting residency documents so that producers would have an increased ability to qualify for full tax credits wherever they film in Canada. Launched in June 2020, EP has over **11,500** profile submissions (and growing) across Canada, with each profile averaging **5 pages** for an approximate **50,000** sheets of paper avoided.

In addition to the paper, traditionally, these documents would have been filed in binders that would have been boxed up and shipped to EP's office at the end of the production, offering additional carbon reductions from shopping and handling.

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SmartPO

[SmartPO](#) is a digital solution for Purchase Order (PO) creation and approvals.

Launched in January 2021, EP has had over **15 Canadian productions** opt to use SmartPO. As each production's usage varies, they found the average number of POs used on one production was **2,238**. Using an average PO page usage at 1.5 pages per order, this can result in a total **3,357** sheets of paper used just for POs in a production. By switching to a digital PO solution alone, the average production could save approximately 1/3 of a tree from being cut down for paper.

Other EP digital products that allow for a near paperless production office include:

- **Scenchronize**: a cloud-synced solution to organize, manage, and distribute all your production documents and workflows digitally.
- **SyncOnSet**: the first and only digital solution for efficiently managing continuity, inventory, and budgets.
- **SmartHub**: a powerful, cloud-synced dashboard with military-grade, closed-loop security, makes it safe and easy for you and your team to manage, store, search, and access documents across all productions and every department together.



MAKING THE SWITCH TO PAPERLESS

Making the decision to go paperless is one step productions can take to reducing waste, primarily in production offices. There are plenty of helpful digital tools available that productions can use for production management, accounting, and script reading. Please visit the [Ontario Production Guide](#) to find additional services.

While it's not always possible to go completely paperless, you can still reduce your impact by following these sustainable best practices:

- Purchase paper with 30%-100% recycled content and is [FSC-Certified](#).
- Distribute information digitally and only print upon request.
- Provide recycling bins specifically for paper.
- Print double-sided when possible.
- Adjust margins and font sizes to reduce document size, when possible.
- Utilize a paper shredding service for recycling confidential printed documents.



A single piece of paper can be [recycled five to seven times](#). Recycling one tonne of paper can save about 17 trees; if it's recycled seven times, it saves 117 trees! Reducing and recycling paper reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with cutting down trees and creating new paper and helps protect wildlife.