



**Verso Paper Corp.**  
6775 Lenox Center Court  
Suite 400  
Memphis, TN 38115-4436

**For details, contact:**

Robert P. Mundy  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

T 901-369-4128  
[robert.mundy@versopaper.com](mailto:robert.mundy@versopaper.com)

[www.versopaper.com](http://www.versopaper.com)

# news release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Verso Among Elite Group to Sign *Save Energy Now* Leader Pledge**

**MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 3, 2009** -- Verso Paper Corp. (NYSE: VRS) announced today its participation in the Department of Energy's (DOE) *Save Energy Now* Leader program in which the Company has pledged to reduce energy intensity by 25% over the next ten years. Verso representatives, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Jackson, and Director of Energy Technology, Mark Daniel, officially signed the pledge at a ceremony hosted by Assistant Secretary of Energy Cathy Zoi at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, DC on December 2, 2009.

"The *Save Energy Now* program fits well with Verso's energy strategy, which is to reduce energy consumption overall, generate more green energy from renewable biomass, and reduce our carbon footprint, while simultaneously reducing cost," said Verso's President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Jackson. This partnership pledge offers Verso an opportunity to utilize the expertise of the DOE staff and our engineers to implement the projects necessary to achieve the Company's energy efficiency goals."

The DOE established the *Save Energy Now* Leader initiative to partner with industry and contribute to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act goals through industrial energy intensity and carbon reductions. Through partnerships with states, local entities, utilities, associations and end-users, industry can leverage resources to increase energy efficiency and save energy and money. Presiding over the signing ceremony was the DOE's Industrial Technology Program Manager, Douglas Kaempf, who recognized the participating companies as having "distinguished themselves as energy-management champions among their industry peers."

In addition to the *Save Energy Now* program, Verso has been actively working with the DOE on a variety of energy initiatives. In October of this year, Verso received a \$9.3 million grant award from DOE, which was equally matched by the Company, to install 12 energy projects in three of Verso's four mills. These projects are shovel ready and are designed to reduce the thermal energy needed in the pulp and papermaking process to produce Verso's coated paper products.

**Verso simple.**

## **About Verso**

Based in Memphis, Tennessee, Verso Paper Corp. is a leading North American producer of coated papers, including coated groundwood and coated freesheet, and supercalendered and specialty products. Verso's paper products are used primarily in media and marketing applications, including magazines, catalogs, and commercial printing applications such as high-end advertising brochures, annual reports, and direct-mail advertising. Additional information about Verso is available on the Company's Web site at [www.versopaper.com](http://www.versopaper.com). References to "Verso" or the "Company" mean Verso Paper Corp. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted.

## **Forward-Looking Statements**

In this press release all statements that are not purely historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "project," "plan," "estimate," "intend," and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available business, economic, financial and other information and reflect management's current beliefs, expectations and views with respect to future developments and their potential effects on Verso. Actual results could vary materially depending on risks and uncertainties that may affect Verso and its business. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, please refer to Verso's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Verso assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement made in this press release to reflect subsequent events or circumstances or actual outcomes.

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