

## Capital Markets Day 2024

# "Evolve & Strengthen" Strengthen

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### Agenda

13:00	<b>Our Way Forward</b> <i>Ivar Vatne, CEO</i>	14:45	Embed sustainability in everything we do Ulrika Wedberg, EVP Sustainability
13:30	<b>Region North America – Evolve</b> Doug Schwartz, President North America Brian Boland, SVP Marketing North America	14:55	Financial targets and capital allocation Andrei Krés, CFO
14:00	Break	15:20	Q&A
14:15	<b>Region Europe – Strengthen</b> Ivar Vatne, CEO Gert Larsson, SVP Operations Billerud Europe		Concluding remarks Mingle and refreshments

### Our Way Forward





### This is Billerud...

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This is Billerud...

### We are a leader in high performance paper and packaging materials

Materials used by millions of people all over the world, every day

Industry know-how and production expertise to develop and produce outstanding material quality

Dedicated to a future where lighter, stronger, more durable, and sustainable materials are the norm, not the exception



#### *This is Billerud...* We supply customers in over 100 countries





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#### This is Billerud.

# We are a primary fiber producer and operate in ~20% of the global paper and board universe



#### This is Billerud... The expansion to North America has fundamentally strengthened Billerud

Net sales (SEK bn)



Region North America

Region Europe & Other





## *...enabling a well diversified business*



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#### This is Billerud...

## Strong positions in core markets due to our superior product performance and manufacturing expertise





Working with customers and applications requiring lighter, stronger and more sustainable materials

### We asked our customers...

"What are the first attributes you spontaneously think of when hearing the name Billerud?"



### This is Billerud... We are known for our high-quality products

Quality. The products that we buy from Billerud are recognized as market leaders.

- Cartonboard Customer

#### "

I consider them to be the best.

- Paper Customer

#### "

Product quality is the first thing I think of, and especially that it is consistent.

"

- Paper Customer

They always maintain

- Containerboard Customer

excellent quality.

The quality is really very good.

- Cartonboard Customer

The best today on package forming compared with others.
Liquid Packaging Board Customer

They are innovative. They are always finding ways to try and improve their product.

- Paper Customer

Quotes from Customer Survey 2024, answering the question: "What are the first attributes you spontaneously think of when hearing the name Billerud?"





#### This is Billerud...

#### ...empowered by our solid assets



Pulp mills	ktons	Number of pulp lines	Recovery boiler start-up (latest rebuild)
Gruvön	670	3	2000 (2024)
Gävle	700	3	1968 (2010), 1987 (2009)
Frövi	280	2	2023
Skärblacka	450	3	1975 (2013)
Karlsborg	350	1	1980 (2003)
Rockhammar	150	1	-
Quinnesec	475	1	1985 (1995)
Escanaba	430	2	1972 (1996)





# Our relative profitability position has strengthened within the industry



Peer group: Stora Enso Packaging Materials, MetsäBoard, Holmen Board & Paper, SCA Containerboard, Nordic Paper, Mayr-Melnhof Board & Paper



# Gruvön KM7 ramp-up has gained excellent momentum and there is still more growth potential





#### Key deliverables in recent years Efficiency enhancement program delivering ahead of time



**190** initiatives across all functions

**50%** of impact delivered from cross-functional activities

>200 employees actively engaged in initiatives



#### Expansion into North America - a success



#### Key deliverables in recent years New recovery boiler in Frövi completed

- On time, on specifications, on budget, done safely
- Increased efficiency
- Improved environmental performance
- A platform for further growth



### Changing conditions





# The operating environment has changed – in Europe in particular





# The entire European pulp & paper industry is under structural pressure





## However, the long-term potential of fiber based packaging is significant



2023

2028

Global packaging market, fiber (USD bn)

### **Our Way Forward**



### Billerud's strategy

**Safety first:** We choose to be safe every day

**Our purpose guides us:** We make high performance packaging materials for a low carbon society

> We lean on our values: "We care for each other" and "We do what we say"

Region North America:

Commitment to graphic / specialty papers – Evolve towards packaging materials

#### Region Europe:

Strengthen performance through existing asset base

Stronger performance culture Embed sustainability in everything we do

# Updated targets with focus on profitability and asset efficiency





### This is Billerud going forward...

- Predictability of our strategic choices
- Continued leader in high performance paper and packaging materials
- Industry leading sustainability performance
- Stronger focus on value creation
- Profitability over sales growth
- Adapt capacity to run at higher efficiency when beneficial
- Modest strategic capex focus on North America

### Region North America – Evolve



**Doug Schwartz** President North America



**Brian Boland** SVP Marketing North America



# We have the capacity to supply over 1 million tons of paper and market pulp per year

Split by product category<sup>1</sup>



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## Access to abundant low-cost fiber in the upper Midwest

**Net Annual Increment (NAI), removal and surplus** Michigan Upper Peninsula & WI Northeast



#### Regional fiber procurement costs





## Our capability, unique geography and industry structure give us the right to win

Commitment to graphic and specialty papers Evolve towards packaging materials with modest capex Optimize capacity utilization and strengthen profitability

EBITDA >18% over a business cycle

# Increasing capacity utilization by expanding into paperboard

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### What is Coated freesheet (CFS)?

**Coated freesheet papers** are used in high quality printed communications, including direct mail, brochures, catalogs, magazines, corporate collateral, and books





## We are a market leader in North American produced coated freesheet



#### What are specialty label papers?

Our **specialty label papers** include face stock and release liner base papers for pressure sensitive, glueapplied and thermal applications





### We will also grow our position as a top North American producer of label materials




## We are well positioned to displace import volume as regionalization will likely grow in importance

Import volumes fill over 25% of NA market demand







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## **Evolution towards paperboard**





## White linerboards – an attractive opportunity



#### **Our opportunity**

- One producer ~75% of capacity
- Imports ~300 ktons per year
- No new capacity announcements
- Independent and integrated converters need supply



#### Growth in white cartonboards driven by plastic substitution and consumer preferences



#### **Our opportunity**

- Top 3 producers ~75% of capacity
- Competitor mills in the US South
- Imports ~500 ktons per year
- Strong base of independent converters



### Kraftliner is among the largest product categories in NA



#### **Our opportunity**

- Top 4 producers ~90% board, ~80% converting capacity
- Consolidated market
- No new capacity announcements
- Competitor mills in US South
- Large NA independent converter capacity



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### Midwest: some 145 prospective customers consuming nearly 7 m tons of paperboard per year





### Modest and scalable investments for growth



Woodyard upgrade, increase paper basis weights, roll handling, brown pulp to paper machine



Increase paper basis weights, sheet handling



#### Objective to evolve



Competitive asset base



Abundant low-cost fiber



Midwest advantage



Sustainability leadership



Low capital intensity



Evolution to paperboard fills capacity

# Region Europe – Strengthen





**Gert Larsson** SVP Operations Europe



## We have the capacity to supply over 3 million tons from 6 production units to our diverse customer base



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## There has been a structural change in the industry in Europe

#### Fiber cost increases

The impact on wood supply from the sanctions on Russia



Additional capacity installed in Nordics

#### Nordic countries, m tons of market pulp, paper and board capacity





### Our objective: Strengthen performance through existing asset base

EBITDA >15% over a business cycle

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### We have clarified roles for each category

<section-header></section-header>	Liquid packaging board	Maintain strong position		
	Cartonboard and coated liner	Accelerate growth		
	SC fluting	Drive value in selected applications		
	MG paper	Drive value with focus on medical/hygiene		
	Sack paper	Optimize target applications		

Key for maximizing the business over the cycle



Uncoated liner

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Other kraft and specialty applications



## We excel in segments with high barriers to entry – underpinned by attractive fundamentals and megatrends

#### **Selected examples**



QuickFill<sup>®</sup> Plus, ultra-breathable, yet very strong sack paper

Safe and strong liquid packaging board

Corrugated boxes to meet demanding transport chains, using Billerud Flute®

### Our mills are flexible – allowing us to maximize value from our asset base

	LPB	Cartonboard	Fluting	Liner	Sack paper	Kraft paper
Frövi / Rockhammar, SE	~	~				2
Gruvön, SE	~	~	~	~		
Gävle, SE	1			~		
Karlsborg, SE					$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Pietarsaari, FI					$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Skärblacka, SE			1		1	~



### These are the selective levers we will focus on to strengthen performance:

01

Secure cost competitive access to fiber in the Nordics

#### 02

Step change in mill operating efficiency 03 Fuel momentum from efficiency enhancement program 04

Be the preferred choice for our customers





#### Secure cost competitive access to fiber

#### **Objective: Reduce average cost of wood**





#### Billerud and Sveaskog establish partnership

# SVEASKOG

Signed letter of intent to create stronger ties

Gradually increase wood purchases across Sweden – including partnering to utilize Marma Skog forest holdings

Fuelling our joint sustainability agenda towards even higher standards



#### Grow with private forest owners



Long term target is 25% of total fiber purchases



"Billerud has a focus that appeals to me. I want to collaborate with sustainable companies that also benefit the local community. My experience of Billerud's work is that they really live up to their commitments."

Sonja Strömbäck, Norrbotten





#### Increase fiber efficiency and optimize fiber mix







### Growth without need for new capital investments







### Improved efficiency by implementing the Billerud Production System (BPS)









### Starting to see results in 2024

- o BPS was designed during 2023
- In 2024 we started the process to implement new ways of working in the mills
- All mills will be up and running in 2025



2.Step change in mill operating efficiency

#### The only planned sizable investment is a replacement recovery boiler in Gävle

We are exploring different options

Decision planned to be made in 2027





#### Fuel momentum from our efficiency enhancement program



### Pricing excellence

- Value based pricing
- Target pricing solution
- Al generated insights
- Clarified governance



- Unlock potential across functional silos
- Raw material alternatives
- Dosage optimization



### Fixed cost optimization

- Int./ext. benchmarks
- Preventive maintenance
- Enhanced AI focus for automation

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#### We are the preferred customer choice



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## Outstanding products through innovation led customer dialogue



Superior packaging materials e.g. strength, porosity, hygienic



Renewable and sustainable alternatives to plastics e.g. barrier and base papers



Sustainable and efficient usage of materials e.g. lightweight and fiber efficient processes





### Example of superior packaging materials: QuickFill Plus

QuickFill<sup>®</sup> Plus

15% faster filling **38%** dust reduction

QuickFill® Plus

\*vs standard high porosity paper



#### Example of efficient usage of materials: Billerud Flute and Pure Performance



\*vs customers' current fiber-based solution



## Examples of renewables and sustainable alternatives to plastics:

Kraft paper from Karlsborg with ConFlex Heatseal<sup>™</sup>





#### Est. **50% lower** carbon footprint vs plastic wrapping





Est. **50% less** CO<sub>2</sub>e vs plastic wrap





## Billerud (Europe) is the top industry performer in terms of carbon production footprint

Helping customers reach their own sustainability goals

- Supporting carbon reduction efforts Low CO<sub>2</sub> impact
- Supporting smart material choices shift from plastic to paper
- Materials that are 100% recyclable

**CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per ton of production – Scope 1 & 2** Kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / ton product (2023)







## Easy to do business with customer centric focus and commitment



Reliable, robust and efficient supply chain



Category and sustainability expertise and advice



Dedicated technical service and application development teams



#### Objective to strengthen



Operating environment has changed



Significant production flexibility



Clear role to strengthen performance from existing assets



Low capex profile



Clear category choices underpinned by attractive fundamentals



Four clear priorities to improve performance

# Embed sustainability in everything we do



Ulrika Wedberg EVP Sustainability





## Sustainable packaging materials – at the core of our business

#### Ambitious Science Based Targets since 2018

#### Wood supply from sustainable managed forests with biodiversity

### Plastic to paper driving demand in both regions







## EU regulations – opportunities for the business

#### Products

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation "PPWR"

European Deforestation (Regulation) "EUDR"

#### Fiber availability

- Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (Regulation) "LULUCF"
- Nature Restoration Law (Regulation) "NRL"




### We plan significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> and our greatest potential is in North America





#### Biogenic carbon capture storage and usage – a future potential business opportunity



**Carbon capture at Billerud mills** 

We will set the bar higher towards 2040

#### NET ZERO CARBON BY 2040

It might sound ambitious – but that's the point.



# Financial targets and capital allocation







#### Mixed financial performance in the wake of structural industry shifts



1. Combined EBITDA for Packaging Paper, Consumer Board and Corrugated Solutions segments for 2016-2018 2. Including currency hedging

## Return on capital employed impacted by recent strategic investments and mixed profitability



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#### We have a strong balance sheet

Net debt leverage well below target



#### Balanced debt maturity profile and diversified loan portfolio<sup>1</sup>





#### Made possible by prudent capital allocation

Capital allocation 5 years<sup>1</sup>

SEK bn





### While maintaining high level of shareholder remuneration



## New financial targets focusing on profitability and asset efficiency



- Return on capital employed is our main financial KPI securing returns on invested capital
- New EBITDA margin target reflects the structural change in the Nordic Pulp & Paper industry
- Cash conversion target maintained focus on cash generation across the Group

### The aim to achieve returns and profitability over a business cycle

Illustrative



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Year 2

Year 3

Year 4



### Our two regions are facing different end market and input cost conditions





### Profitability levers differ due to different cost structure and capacity utilization



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#### We target an EBITDA > SEK 6 bn per year

<sup>1</sup> From 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan 2027



### We will maintain disciplined capital allocation with selected strategic opportunities

Free cash flow allocation priorities

Maintain sound financial position to execute on dividend policy

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Evolve North American assets towards packaging materials with modest capex level

3

Disciplined capex in Europe, focus on maintaining competitiveness of the existing assets



#### Strategic capex concentrated to 2025

Escanaba Mill
SEK 1.2 bn
<b>2024 2025 2026</b> 0.2 1.0

Woodyard upgrade, increase paper basis weights, roll handling, brown pulp to paper machine



### Mid-term base capex of SEK 2.2 bn per year and select strategic capex focusing on North America



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#### Succeeding with our financial ambition will maintain strong Billerud and is an attractive value proposition



North America Commitment to graphic / specialty papers – Evolve towards packaging materials Disciplined capital allocation

Continued strong Billerud focusing on value creation

#### **Concluding Remarks**







#### Key takeaways

We have strong market positions and flexibility in our production

Long-term demand for fiber-based packaging is solid and growing

A more predictable Billerud and Our Way Forward:

- Evolve the product mix towards Paperboard in North America
- Strengthen our performance from existing assets in Europe
- Drive a stronger performance culture
- Embed sustainability in everything we do

Target to reach EBITDA > SEK 6 bn (~business cycle) @ 80% cash conversion

Modest strategic capex – focus on North America



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