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Recycled content of paper-based packaging edges closer to 70 per cent

(October 22, 2007) Shipments of corrugated and boxboard material for use in Canada were close to 70% average recycled content in 2006, according to a national paper industry association.

The Paper & Paperboard Packaging Environmental Council (PPEC) reports that the average recycled content of domestic shipments of material to be converted into corrugated boxes and boxboard cartons jumped 9% in 2006 to reach 66 per cent.

"The average fluctuates according to marketplace changes such as machine or mill closedowns," says PPEC executive director, John Mullinder, "in this case reflecting the closure of two large virgin mills and the start-up of a new 100% recycled one. But 66 per cent is still a pretty impressive number."

Containerboard used to make corrugated boxes averaged 66% recycled content in 2006 while its lighter cousin, the boxboard carton, averaged 83% recycled content. Some 65% of Canadian packaging mills manufacture board from 100% recycled materials.

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