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Corrugated recovery hits an amazing 98%

Most widely recovered of all packaging materials

(15 December, 2015) The recovery of old corrugated containers (OCC) or boxes from Ontario households has hit an amazing 98 per cent. This is the highest recovery rate ever for the common brown box, and makes it the most widely recovered packaging material from Ontario homes.

“This is great news,” said John Mullinder, executive director of the industry’s environmental council, PPEC. “Corrugated recovery nationally from the back of factories, supermarkets and offices is high, we estimate about 85 per cent, but this number from Ontario homes is just the cream on the cake. Amazing.”

The latest data comes from detailed municipal and industry reports for 2014 that have been verified and audited by Waste Diversion Ontario and the Blue Box organisation, Stewardship Ontario.

Some 74% of the paper in Ontario homes was captured in the Blue Box, with old telephone books, corrugated boxes and old newspapers all having recovery rates in the 90s. Clear glass was next at 89% followed by old magazines at 79%, coloured glass (78%), and steel food and beverage cans at 73 per cent.

The recovery rates for the various packaging materials are listed in descending order below:

Old corrugated boxes (OCC)	98%
Clear glass	89%
Coloured glass	78%
Steel food and beverage cans	73%
PET bottles	66%
HDPE bottles	53%
Gable top cartons	52%
Aluminum food and beverage cans	49%
Old boxboard	46%
Other Plastics	33%
Aseptic cartons	21%
Steel aerosol cans	18%
Plastic film	13%
Paper laminants	8%
Steel paint cans	6%
Polystyrene	6%
Other aluminum packaging	5%
Plastic laminants	3%

Glass Packaging	86%
Paper Packaging	63%
Steel Packaging	62%
Aluminum Packaging	42%
Plastic Packaging	31%

Source: PPEC analysis of Stewardship Ontario Blue Box data (2014).

(30)



Contact:

John Mullinder, Executive Director, PPEC

Telephone: 905-458-0087

Email: ppec@ppec-paper.com

Website: www.ppec-paper.com

The Paper and Paperboard Packaging Environmental Council (PPEC) is a national trade association representing the Canadian paper packaging industry on environmental issues. Its membership includes paper mills producing containerboard, boxboard, and kraft paper packaging grades and the converters who turn this into corrugated boxes, paper bags and sacks, and boxboard or paperboard cartons. Associate members include material processors and recyclers, and suppliers of other goods and services to the industry.

PPEC has four websites:

[PPEC](#)

[Corrugated Boxes Canada](#)

[Paper Boxes Canada](#)

[Paper Bags Canada](#)