



Sustainable Business Executive Briefing and Conference

**Brad Morphy, President, Morphy
Containers Ltd., London, ON and**

Chairman, AICC

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Paper facts that may surprise you

Paper packaging is the only packaging material that's made from a renewable resource. Although, now we have polylactic acid (PLA) & starch-based polymers making an entrance.

Forest fires consume twice the area that's harvested by the wood and paper industries annually.

Just over 10% of all paper-based packaging is actually made from freshly-cut trees.

Almost 70% of all paper-based packaging used in Canada in 1996 was re-used or recycled.

Recycling in Canada is over 200 years old. Used linen and cotton rags were collected in Montreal and Quebec City in 1805 and shipped to Canada's first paper mill in St-Andrews, Quebec where they were used to make newsprint and wrapping paper.



Paper facts

Until last year no new (greenfield) packaging mills have been built in Canada for over 30 years. This does not mean that current mills are not modern: they constantly update machinery and equipment and convert old machines to new ones.

One major Ontario supermarket chain sends four times as many corrugated boxes for recycling as all the municipalities of Ontario combined.

The average recycled content of all paper-based packaging shipped domestically in 2006 is 66 per cent. Boxboard cartons (used for such things as cereal and detergent) average 83% recycled content.

There just aren't enough Canadians to supply the used paper needs of Canadian paper recycling mills. The mills import one million tonnes of old newspapers and half a million tonnes of old corrugated boxes every year because they can't get enough in Canada. Some 65% of Canadian packaging mills manufacture board from 100% recycled materials.

Packaging represented only 13% by weight of the municipal solid waste stream in 1996, down from 22% in 1988.















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