

# THE FACTS ABOUT CORRUGATED SUSTAINABILITY

The corrugated industry has been providing cost-efficient fiber-based packaging solutions for over 100 years. We begin with renewable materials produced using over 60% renewable energy, incorporating on average, 43% recycled content and at 76% recover the highest amount for recycling of any packaging material. In addition, each package is specifically engineered to maximize performance and merchandising impact throughout its supply chain while minimizing material and its carbon footprint. In the U.S., corrugated containers are manufactured by more than 600 companies allowing them to be primarily locally sourced from over 1300 manufacturing locations nationwide, promoting continuous innovation and competition. The industry also provides a safe work environment and competitive wages to its workers, supports community recycling programs and provides social benefit through volunteers and direct donations in over 800 communities.

## Corrugated is Economical:

- U.S. corrugated manufacturing is a \$24.7 billion industry, **contributing to the GDP of America** while supporting distribution for over 100 years. (FBA)
- Manufactured in the U.S.A. where there are approximately 1300 facilities **providing jobs and benefits to over 80,000 employees** and their families. (FBA)
- On an inflation-adjusted basis, the **average cost of a corrugated container has decreased 25.3%** from 1995 to 2005. (FBA)
- Corrugated packaging is **vital to distribution systems in the U.S.** It is sourced by businesses and is the most frequently used shipping material because it is cost-effective, lightweight, functional and versatile. Its use contributes to more cost-efficient and fuel-efficient packaging of products from point of origin to point of sale and end use.
- Corrugated packaging is **custom designed for each product it protects**, allowing the use of minimized materials and the most efficient space utilization possible by reducing “head space” within the package and maximizing cube efficiency in trucks.

## Corrugated is Socially Responsible:

- Produced by an industry that **maintains high standards for worker safety**. The corrugated industry’s OSHA incident rate has fallen over 50% in the last ten years, from 9.8 in 1995 to 4.6 per 200 thousand hours worked in 2005. This performance ranks among the largest improvements and lowest incident rates of packaging material producers. (Bureau of Labor Statistics: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov))
- Produced by companies that **give back to local communities** through sponsorships and charitable contributions.
- The corrugated industry **supports education and training for future workforces** in skilled careers through the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF), which has donated over \$9 million of equipment and curriculum materials to post-secondary packaging schools.
- Corrugated manufacturers **help communities support recycling efforts** and educate their residents through school programs, public outreach, collection programs and more.

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## Corrugated Protects and Serves the Environment:

### Made from renewable resources:

- More wood grows in our nation's forests than is harvested (about 49 percent more), documenting wood fiber as a renewable resource. (USDA Forest Service)
- The forest products industry plants 1.7 million new trees every day, contributing to the long-term viability of North American forests, preserving wildlife habitats, sequestering carbon dioxide and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. (SFI)
- The amount of standing timber in the U.S. has increased by 39 percent since 1952, and by 10 million acres between 1987 and 2002. (AF&PA)
- Sourced responsibly with 93% of corrugated boxes supplied by Sustainable Forestry Initiative program participants. SFI program participants are committed to sustainable forestry on their own forests, and are required by the SFI Standard (SFIS) to encourage their suppliers to practice sustainable forestry.

### Uses renewable energy:

- Nearly 60 percent of the energy used by the U.S. paper industry comes from renewable biofuels. (AF&PA)

### Focused on source reduction:

- The corrugated packaging industry practices continuous source reduction. From 1994 to 2005 the amount of corrugated used to ship a unit of domestic industrial production has decreased by 19 percent. Corrugated manufacturers have contributed significantly to this reduction by designing more efficient packages, stronger papers and improving boxplant converting processes. (FBA)
- Because corrugated packaging is custom designed and can be printed with high-impact graphics, it is a shipping container that can double as a merchandising package, helping product suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging required to successfully bring their goods to market.

### Designed for reuse:

- Corrugated is reusable by businesses and households for transport and storage.

### Dedicated to recovering and recycling:

- The most recycled form of packaging today with 76.6% of all containers produced being recovered for recycling (24.7 million tons) and the average box consisting of 43% recycled fiber. (AF&PA)

## Resource Links:

**Abundant Forest Alliance**  
[www.abundantforests.org](http://www.abundantforests.org)

**American Forest & Paper Association**  
[www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

**Corrugated Packaging Alliance**  
[www.corrugated.org](http://www.corrugated.org)

**Fibre Box Association**  
[www.fibrebox.org](http://www.fibrebox.org)

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative**  
[www.aboutsfb.org](http://www.aboutsfb.org)

**USDA Forest Service**  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

**International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF)**  
[www.careersincorrugated.org](http://www.careersincorrugated.org)

