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## **Domestic Recycled Paper Capacity Increases - Updated** *August 20, 2019*

The following is a list of announced increases in the capacity of North American paper mills to use recyclable paper as a raw material.

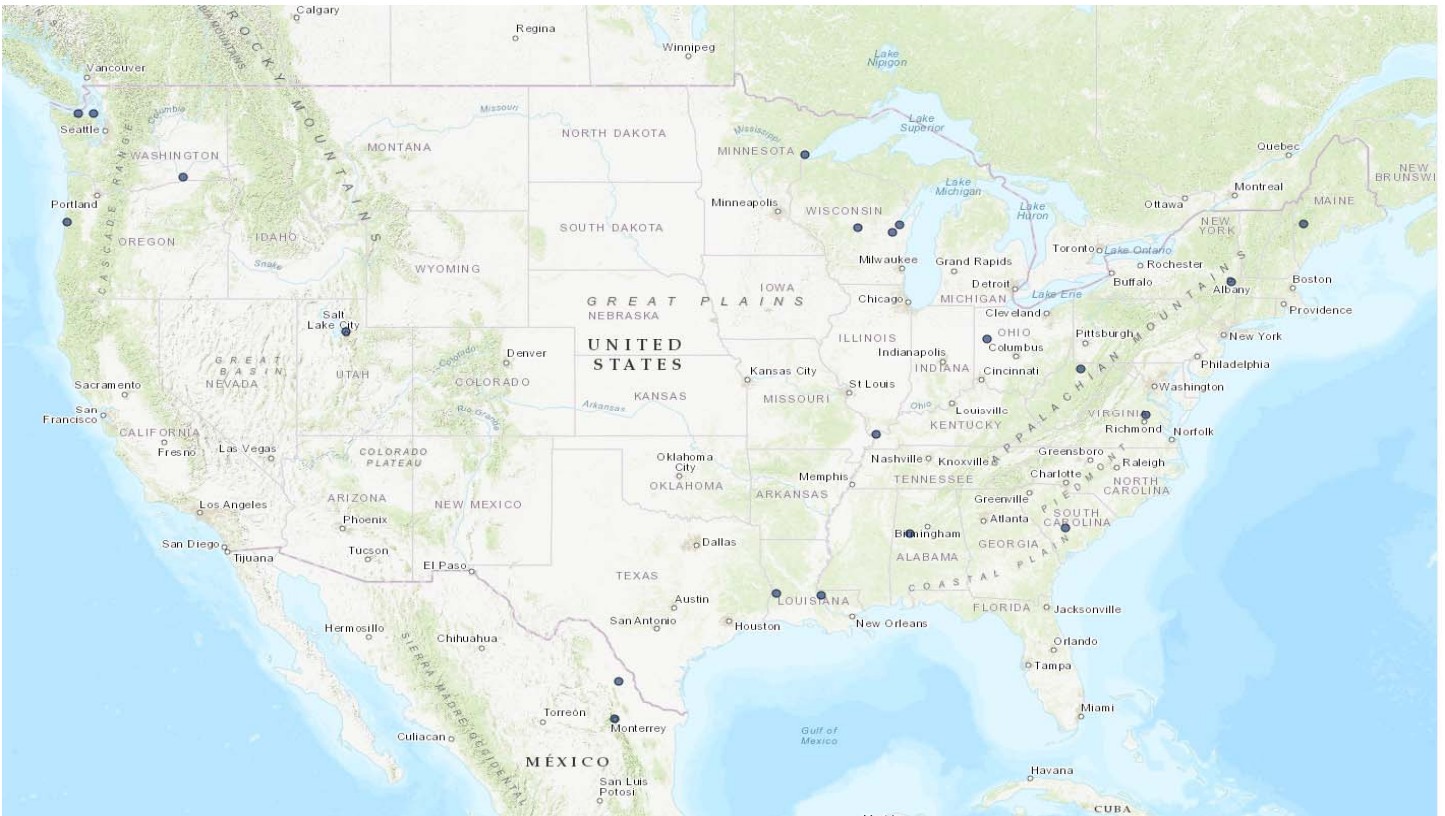
The list starts with six capacity additions on a list provided by Dennis Colley, CEO of the Fibre Box Association, in his presentation at the Fall 2018 NERC Conference. This information is supplemented with local news stories and company press releases. One conversion of a graphics paper mill to packaging paper was not included because of a lack of information about the raw material being used as a feedstock. These ten new capacity additions appear to be only using old corrugated containers (OCC) as their feedstock. However, it is likely it could also use residential mixed paper (RMP). More importantly, the price for mixed paper tracks that of OCC. Increased capacity for OCC should increase the price paid for residential mixed paper, therefore increasing the value of mixed paper.

The list includes new paper mills along with existing mills that are closed or are still operating but are being converted to produce different end products (e.g. from newsprint to packaging). It also includes two mills that will be using recycled feedstock other than OCC and RMP. One is a facility designed to produce paper pulp and plastic pellets using beverage cartons and aseptic packages as its primary feedstock. The other is a mill designed to use food contaminated paper from commercial sources.

The mills are listed in rough order of their projected opening. Sources include articles in Resource Recycling, Paperstock Reports, Recycling Today, Scrap Magazine, Waste 360 and Waste Dive along with company press releases, local or national newspaper articles and the data in the Colley presentation.

Each facility is listed by name, location, whether new or converted, projected final capacity in either tons per year (TPY), metric tonnes per year (MTPY) or tons per day (TPY), depending on the source, raw material feedstock and projected opening. Data is often incomplete because the individual companies determine what information they will release. This list will be updated as new capacity is announced or new information received.

If you have any questions about facilities on this list, please contact Chaz Miller, Chair, NERC-NEWMOA Regional Recycling Markets Committee, [chazmiller9@gmail.com](mailto:chazmiller9@gmail.com), 301-346-6507.



Location of paper mills identified in report. Map prepared by RRS.

**Fibre Box Association**

*Midwest Paper Group\*<sup>1</sup>*

- Combined Locks, Wisconsin
- Conversion of coated paper to packaging
- 400,000 TPY containerboard
- OCC, double-lined preconsumer kraft and mixed paper
- OCC pulping machine began July 2018

*Packaging Corporation of America\**

- Wallula, Washington
- Conversion of fine paper to linerboard
- 350,000 TPY
- OCC
- Last quarter 2018

*Packaging Corporation of America*

- DeRidder, Louisiana
- Conversion of newsprint to linerboard and corrugated medium
- 150,000 TPY
- OCC
- 2018

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<sup>1</sup> \* Indicates updated information.

### *Hood Container*

- St. Francisville, Louisiana
- “New recycling plant”
- 120,000 TPY
- OCC
- 2018

### *International Paper\**

- Riverdale, Alabama
- Conversion to linerboard and containerboard
- 450,000 TPY
- OCC
- 2019

### *Grupo Gondi*

- Monterey, Mexico
- New containerboard
- 441,000 TPY
- OCC
- 2019

### **Fibre Box Association + additional sources**

#### *Copamex*

- Anahuac, Mexico
- Convert existing graphic paper to recycled containerboard
- 220,000 TPY
- OCC, RMP
- “early” 2019

#### *Bio Pappel/McKinley Paper Co*

- Port Angeles, Washington
- Closed graphic paper mill
- 250,000 TPY containerboard
- OCC
- September, 2019

#### *Pratt Industries*

- Wapakoneta, Ohio
- New
- 360,000 MPTY cardboard
- OCC, RMP, double-lined kraft
- October 1, 2019

#### *Nine Dragons\**

- Fairmont, West Virginia
- Existing mill produces recycled content bleached kraft pulp mill for packaging and tissue products
- Existing mill makes 220,000 MTPY, new mill to increase production capacity and ship pulp to China
- Existing mill uses sorted office paper, newsprint, and other grades. New mill to use OCC (80%), RMP (15%), and sorted office paper/solid bleached sulfate
- 2019

#### *Port Townsend Paper\**

- Port Townsend, Washington
- Existing mill that makes 325,000 tons per year of kraft linerboard, corrugated medium, kraft converting paper and kraft pulp
- Expanding OCC capacity from 400 to 750 TPD
- End 2019?

#### *Nine Dragons\**

- Biron, Wisconsin
- Convert existing machine to produce corrugated medium and linerboard
- 250,000 TPY
- OCC, recycled pulp
- New 400,000 TPY recycled pulp line primarily for export to China
- January 2020

#### *Nine Dragons\**

- Rumford, Maine
- New recycled pulp facility at existing mill
- 400,000 TPY pulp (ship to China)
- OCC, RMP
- 2020

#### *Green Bay Packaging\**

- Green Bay, Wisconsin
- New mill replacing smaller existing mill
- 685,000 TPY containerboard
- OCC, RMP
- First quarter 2021

#### *Cascades\**

- Hanover, Virginia
- Convert closed recycled newsprint mill to recycled lightweight linerboard and corrugated medium
- 400,000 MTPY
- OCC, RMP
- First quarter 2021

#### *Global Win/Shanying; Phoenix Paper\**

- Wickliffe, Ballard County, Kentucky
- A new 700,000 TPY mill will produce recycled pulp for export to China. This new facility joins the conversion of a closed coated paper mill to kraft pulp and packaging using virgin raw material.
- Mill began production of bleached virgin hardwood pulp on May 23, 2019.
- OCC, RMP
- Third quarter, 2021

#### *CorrVentures\**

- Albany, New York (Rensselaer County)
- New mill built on site of existing facility
- 300,000 TPY 100% recycled lightweight containerboard: 70% linerboard and 30% corrugating medium
- OCC, RMP (330,000 TPY consumed – the mill expects mixed paper will be 13 to 22 percent of consumption)
- Fourth quarter, 2021

#### *Crossroads Paper\**

- Salt Lake City, Utah
- New facility to make containerboard for corrugated boxes.
- 1,000 TPD of “packaging paper” made from OCC and mixed paper
- 2022

#### *Graphics Paper, Inc.\**

- Ohio or Michigan
- New facility to make 500,000 TPY of coated recycled paperboard. Note: this facility displaces an equal amount of capacity that will be closed at other facilities.
- 2022

#### *Verso Corporation\**

- Duluth, Minnesota
- Addition of new recycled packaging capacity at mill previously only making virgin graphics paper
- 48,000 TPY
- 2022

#### **Mills not using OCC or RMP but using other grades of recycled paper**

##### *Ecomelida*

- Orangeburg County, South Carolina
- New
- Process food and beverage cartons including aseptic packages and paper mill pulp byproducts into 72,000 MTPY plastic pellets and 36,000 MTPY paper pulp for export to China
- 2019

##### *Georgia Pacific Juno Technology*

- Toledo, Oregon
- New
- 300 TPD containerboard
- Commercial waste from restaurants, airports, sports arenas, schools, etc.
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020

## **Conclusion**

The total new capacity<sup>2</sup> that this information reflects the potential for:

- 3.5 million tons new OCC and mixed paper consuming capacity; and
- 1 million tons recycled pulp

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Ken McEntee, "Gearing Up", Scrap Magazine, July – August 2019  
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