



139 Main Street, Suite 401 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
802.254.3636 • www.nerc.org • info@nerc.org

Domestic Recycled Paper Capacity Increases - Updated

March 14, 2020

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.

The majority of new capacity increases in this list are for mills producing linerboard and corrugated medium. They will use old corrugated containers (OCC) as their feedstock. They are unlikely to use residential mixed paper (RMP) unless their stock preparation system allows for its use. However, up to half of these mills plan to use mixed paper. For the most part, mixed paper will be a minor input. Several mills, however, plan to consume significant amounts of mixed paper. In addition, 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. Whether or not all of the new capacity is realized depends, among other things, on overall economic circumstances and demand for the final products. Announcement of a new mill does not guarantee it will be built.

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 or actual 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. Resource Recycling Magazine publishes a map with detail on 18 of these facilities. See <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/08/27/these-projects-are-boosting-domestic-capacity-for-recycled-paper>.

Each facility is listed by name, location, whether new or converted, projected final production capacity in either tons per year (TPY), metric tonnes per year (MTPY) or tons per day (TPD), 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, 301-346-6507.

Fibre Box Association

Midwest Paper Group

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

Packaging Corporation of America

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

Hood Container

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

Grupo Gondi

- Monterey, Mexico
- New containerboard
- 441,000 TPY
- OCC
- April 2020

International Paper

- Riverdale, Alabama
- Conversion to linerboard and containerboard using some OCC
- 450,000 TPY
- OCC
- April 2020

Packaging Corporation of America

- Wallula, Washington
- Conversion of fine paper to linerboard
- 350,000 TPY
- OCC
- Last quarter 2020

Fibre Box Association + additional sources

Copamex

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

Pratt Industries

- Wapakoneta, Ohio
- New
- 360,000 MPTY recycled corrugated packaging
- OCC, RMP, double-lined kraft
- 2019

Bio Pappel/McKinley Paper Co

- Port Angeles, Washington
- Closed graphic paper mill
- 250,000 TPY containerboard
- OCC, mixed paper
- March, 2020

Nine Dragons

- Biron, Wisconsin
- Convert existing machine to produce corrugated medium and linerboard along with new production of recycled pulp
- 250,000+ TPY linerboard and corrugated medium
- New 400,000 TPY recycled pulp line primarily for export to China
- OCC, mixed paper
- First quarter 2020 conversion of existing machine to recycled linerboard and corrugated medium

Verso Corporation

- Duluth, Minnesota
- Addition of new recycled packaging capacity at mill previously only making virgin graphics paper
- OCC
- 90,000 TPY recycled packaging paper
- First quarter 2020

Nine Dragons

- Fairmont, West Virginia
- Existing mill produces recycled content bleached kraft pulp mill for packaging and tissue products
- New mill to increase production capacity to 220,000 TPY and ship recycled 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
- 2020 60,000 tons recycled pulp for export
- 2021 60,000 tons recycled pulp for export

Port Townsend Paper

- Port Townsend, Washington
- Existing mill 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
- 2020

Nine Dragons

- Rumford, Maine
- New recycled pulp facility at existing mill
- 400,000 TPY pulp (ship to China)
- OCC, RMP
- Fourth quarter 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 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. Total output is 700,000 TPY.
- Mill began production of bleached virgin hardwood pulp on May 23, 2019.
- OCC, RMP
- Third quarter 2021 for recycled pulp mill

Total Recycle Fiber

- Chesapeake, Virginia
- New mill
- Recycled pulp
- 300,000 tons mixed paper and other recycled fiber
- 2021

CorrVentures

- Albany, New York
- 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% of consumption)
- First quarter, 2022

Crossroads Paper

- Salt Lake City, Utah
- New facility to make containerboard for corrugated boxes.
- 350,000 TPY of “packaging paper” production
- 380,000 TPY OCC d mixed paper
- 2022

Graphics Paper, Inc.

- Kalamazoo, 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

Pratt Industries announced two new mills relying on OCC and mixed paper will be built by 2026. No locations were announced.

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
- Fourth quarter, 2020 plastic pellets, First quarter, 2022, paper pulp

Georgia Pacific Juno Technology

- Toledo, Oregon
- New
- 300 TPD containerboard
- Commercial waste from restaurants, airports, sports arenas, schools, etc.
- 2020

Conclusion

The total new capacity¹ that this information reflects the potential for:

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

¹ Source: Ken McEntee, “Gearing Up”, Scrap Magazine, July – August 2019