

## Press Release

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### **Corrugated board industry welcomes decision to stop using plastic carrier bags**

Darmstadt, 3 June 2016 – The Association of the Corrugated Board Industry (VDW) supports the efforts of the German retail sector to replace plastic carrier bags by recyclable alternatives. “We welcome REWE’s decision to stop using plastic carrier bags,” says Dr. Oliver Wolfrum, Managing Director of the VDW. The corrugated board industry provides the retail sector with environmentally friendly and practical corrugated board boxes to aid shoppers. Such boxes have been in use at REWE alongside other alternatives to plastic carrier bags for some time now. “It makes environmental sense to fully replace petroleum-based plastic carrier bags with recyclable corrugated board boxes,” says Wolfrum.

The shopping boxes are made from renewable raw materials, can be repeatedly used and then conveniently recycled. “In Germany, corrugated board is almost entirely recycled, making it part of a materials cycle that is a model of effective recycling,” notes Wolfrum. He points out that corrugated board boxes are also versatile, even after shopping; they can serve, for instance, as collection containers in the luggage compartment of a car. “The construction consisting of air and paper is light, but stable,” says Wolfrum. Such shopping boxes are increasingly popular with consumers. Some EDEKA supermarkets are now also using corrugated board boxes as an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic carrier bags.