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Corrugated Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) shows substantial environmental progress

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As every three years, FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) and CCB (Cepi Container Board) released the new “European Database for Corrugated Board Life Cycle Studies”.

This ninth 2018 report shows substantial improvements and demonstrates the efforts made by the European Corrugated Industry and its paper suppliers to lower their impact on the environment.

As experience grows and LCA methodologies evolve, opportunities to improve the quality of the collected and presented data are identified and implemented. This has led to a new calculation of the CO₂ emissions, moving away from the previous cradle-to-**gate** approach focusing on fossil emissions to the cradle-to-**grave** approach providing the overall carbon impact.

If we were to calculate the 2018 carbon impact of corrugated packaging using the same methodology as applied in those previous iterations, then the result would show a 11% improvement for 2018 compared to 2015.

More good news: since the last report in 2015, results per ton of corrugated boxes show:

- 12% reduction in fossil fuel consumption at the production sites,
- 40% decrease in emissions of particulates to air at the production sites,
- 538kg CO₂ cradle-to-**grave** carbon impact.

Details of the 2018 report can be downloaded at: <http://www.fefco.org/lca>

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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) represents the interests of the European Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 17 Association members, all European national corrugated packaging organisations. The role of the Federation is to investigate economic, financial, technical and marketing issues of interest to the corrugated packaging Industry, to analyse all factors which may influence the industry, and to promote and develop its image.

Europe's corrugated industry in Europe makes about 43.9 billion square metres of board per year, enough to cover Denmark. It has 401 companies, 700 plants and accounts for 100,000 jobs. Corrugated is already a complete, high-performance material design, and delivery system, with thousands of possible combinations of board types, depth, weight, adhesives, and coatings. The average box today is more than 5% lighter than 15 years ago and contains around 7% more recycled material.