



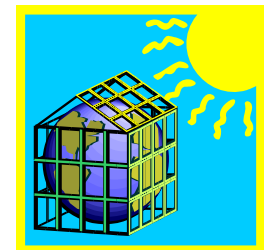
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING:

On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. The average person, yearly, throws away about 1 ton of garbage each. 2,000 pounds of trash for each person, can you imagine that piled in your back yard. No, of course not, the trash gets taken away to be buried in landfills. That is another problem. We are running out of landfills. Where to put the trash?

A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!

Almost any material can be recycled in some way. The most popular items that are recycled are paper, plastic, metals, and glass.

One reason we should all agree on for recycling is to conserve our resources for the future. Another important reason is to save energy. Can you imagine a life without TV or a dryer that makes your clothes so soft and fluffy?



Recycling also limits gas emissions that are causing the [Greenhouse](#) effect.

By changing one of your light bulbs to a qualified energy saving light bulb, we can conserve the energy to light 3 million homes for up to a year. That also saves \$600 million dollars in yearly energy bills. Not only that, but, the equivalent to 800,000 cars gas emissions will be eliminated. ***Just one light bulb can make a huge difference.***

Recycling Facts / Water



- ✓ A running faucet wastes 2.5 gallons of water each minute.
- ✓ Running your faucet for 5 minutes uses up enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 14 hours.

- ✓ A dishwasher uses 11 gallons of water per use.
- ✓ 75 percent of all water used in the household is used in the bathroom.
- ✓ A toilet made in 1992 or earlier uses up to 60 percent more water per flush than newer high efficiency toilets.
- ✓ Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and before bedtimes can save up to 8 gallons per day. This is a savings of 240 gallons per month.
- ✓ A full bath tub uses 70 gallons of water. A 5 minute shower only uses 10-25 gallons.



Recycling Facts / Paper

All those magazines, newspapers, and boxes, made from cardboard and paper, are the most thrown away material. These materials can be broken down to be remade into new paper products.

- ✓ During World War II when raw materials were scarce, 33% of all paper was recycled. After the war, this number decreased sharply.
- ✓ If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are in the U.S.!!!
- ✓ The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
- ✓ The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- ✓ When you smell a dump, what you actually smell is the paper in the dump!

- ✓ Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- ✓ Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.
- ✓ The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year.
- ✓ Most is packaging and junk mail.
- ✓ In 1993, U.S. paper recovery saved more than 90,000,000 cubic yards of landfill space.
- ✓ In 1993, nearly 36,000,000 tons of paper was recovered in the U.S.--twice as much in 1980.
- ✓ 27% of the newspapers produced in America are recycled.
- ✓ Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution!
- ✓ The 17 trees saved (above) can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year.
- ✓ Burning that same ton of paper would create 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- ✓ The construction costs of a paper mill designed to use waste paper is 50 to 80% less than the cost of a mill using new pulp.
- ✓ 37 percent of our garbage is comprised of paper products.
- ✓ 50 million tons of paper is used each year. Save the trees!
- ✓ Recycling 1 ton of paper products saves 17 mature trees (an acre of trees), 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4000 kilowatt hours of electricity. This is enough energy to power the average American home for 5 months.
- ✓ In America people who work in offices throw away enough paper to build a 12 foot high, wall that could connect New York City to Los Angeles City.
- ✓ A little more than 48 percent of all office paper is recycled. This is used to make writing papers, paperboard, tissue, and insulation.
- ✓ The [process of recycling](#) paper instead of making it from new materials generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water.
- ✓ Manufacturing recycled paper uses 60 percent of the energy needed to make paper from new materials.

- ✓ Over 73 percent of all newspapers are recovered for recycling. About 33 percent of this is used to make newsprint the rest is used to make paperboard, tissue, or insulation.



Glass Recycling Facts

Every month, we throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper. All of these jars are recyclable!

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or a compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in a landfill.



Mining and transporting raw materials for glass produces about 385 pounds of waste for every ton of glass that is made. If recycled glass is substituted for half of the raw materials, the waste is cut by more than 80%.

We are not recycling enough of our glass. Only about one-quarter of glass is recycled. There may not be enough recyclers who want to make the effort to melt down the glass to be reused. Different color glasses have to be separated in order to be melted down and reused for new products. We need to raise awareness that recycling glass can open a whole new field of opportunities.



The amount of glass jars and bottles recycled in the United States for a year, when lined up can reach the Moon and come half way back to Earth.

Glass can be recycled an infinite number of times.

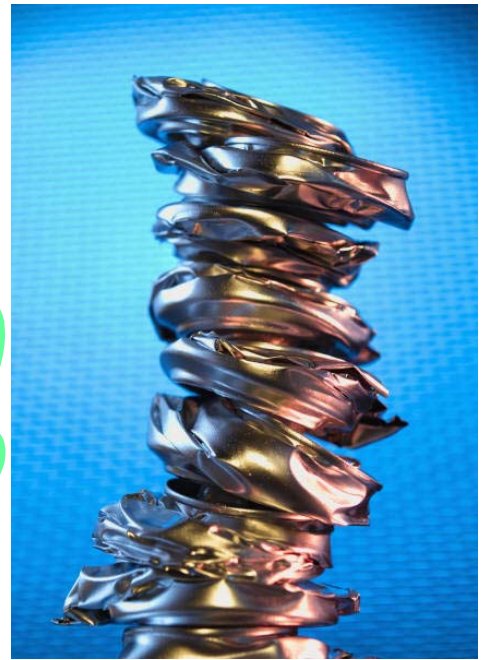


Recycling Facts / Metal

Metals are very costly to produce and are the world's most recycled material. Steel is the most recycled metal. Scrapes of steel and steel cans are sent to recycling centers to be melted down and purified for restructuring.

6.5 million tons of carbons by emissions are eliminated when 7 million tons of metals are recycled. It's like removing 5 million cars off the roads for a year.

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days.



Used beverage cans are the most recycled aluminum item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.

Because so many of them are recycled, aluminum cans account for less than 1% of the total U.S. waste stream, according to EPA estimates.

Aluminum can manufacturers have been making cans lighter -- in 1972 each pound of aluminum produced 22 cans; today it yields 29 cans.

An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be an aluminum can 500 years from now!



There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.

We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.

An estimated 80,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres of space -- that's almost 40 football fields. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people



realize it.

At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!

A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!

Americans throw away enough [aluminum](#) every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

When you throw away an aluminum can you waste as much energy as if you'd filled the can half full of gasoline and poured it into the ground.

95% of energy that is used to produce cans from virgin ore, can be saved by recycling aluminum cans.

Recycling steel and tin cans saves 74 percent of the [energy](#) used to make them.

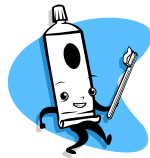


Every ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,000 of coal, and 40 pounds of limestone.

Americans throw out enough iron and steel to continuously supply all the auto makers in the entire nation.

A steel mill using recycled scrap reduces water pollution, air pollution, and mining waste by about 70 percent.

Tin is another metal that has great value. Did you know that tin, when recycled, is so pure it can be used



as Stannous [Fluoride](#).

Americans use 100 million tin and steel cans each day.



Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a 100 watt light bulb for 20 hours, a computer for 3 hours, and a TV for 2 hours.



Recycling Facts / Plastic

Plastic is a big issue. There are seven different types of plastics. Three of these types of plastics are able to be used for recycling. The recycling process for plastic can be tricky. Some can only be made into one kind of a product to be reused. Some cannot be mixed or will not be recyclable.

We are not nearly recycling enough plastic. This is due to the lack of support to tag our plastic products with the numbers 1-7 so recyclers will know what kind of plastic it is. **Look for symbols 2, 4, and 5, as these plastics are considered to be safest. These are the plastics to look for in terms of human and animal consumption.**



Juice and soda containers that are made from plastic can be recycled to make material for an insulation product used to fill that warm jacket you wear and the sleeping bags we use when we camp, also, carpets, brushes, sponges, parts for automobiles (pads), and even tennis balls.

Every year the number of recycling businesses grow, there are over 17,000 plastic recycling centers waiting for your plastics.

This new field of recycling plastic products alone produces more than 52,000 jobs for Americans. Think what it could do for your communities. Get involved.

Recycling can be fun and plastic is everywhere. You'll find it in detergent bottles, milk and water containers, trash cans, combs; the products of plastic are endless.

Did you know that there are other things that can be recycled? Clothing and textiles are also suitable for recycling. Only about 12 percent of these kinds of materials are recycled. 7 million tons of clothing and textiles are discarded. All of these materials can be reused and made into new products for mattress filling, absorbing products (sponges), wadding, and felt that is used to create fiber for clothing.

- ✓ Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!
- ✓ Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year!
- ✓ Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.



- ✓ Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups every year.
- ✓ Enough plastic is produced in the United States each year to shrink wrap Texas.
- ✓ In 1998 Americans used 2 billion pounds of [HDPE](#) (**High-density polyethylene**) to make plastic bottles for household products. That's the equivalent weight of 90,000 Honda civics.
- ✓ Approximately 88 percent of the energy is saved when plastic is made from plastic rather than from the raw materials of gas and oil.
- ✓ Enough plastic bottles are thrown away in the United States each year to circle the Earth four times.



Solid Waste and Landfills

About one-third of an average dump is made up of packaging material!

Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.

The highest point in Hamilton County, Ohio (near Cincinnati) is "Mount Rumpke." It is actually a mountain of trash at the Rumpke sanitary landfill towering 1045 ft. above sea level.



The US population discards each year 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades, 220,000,000 car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the US commercial air fleet four times over. Speaking of diapers, a cloth diaper washed at home costs 3¢ per use. A disposable diaper costs 22¢ per use. The difference can add up; a typical baby will use about 10,000 diapers!

Out of every \$10 spent buying things, \$1 (10%) goes for packaging that is thrown away. Packaging represents about 65% of household trash.



On average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$65 to \$75 to incinerate it.

Although 75% of our trash can be recycled, the EPA set a national goal of 25% for 1992.

The first real recycling program was introduced in New York City in the 1890s. The city's first recycling plant was built in 1898.

By 1924, 83% of American cities were separating some trash items to be reused.

Between 5 and 15% of what we throw away contains hazardous substances.

Miscellaneous Recycling Facts

Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!

A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh

water



Motor oil never wears out, it just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, re-refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil.



Every week about 20 species of plants and animals become extinct!

McDonald's saves 68,000,000 pounds of packaging per year just by pumping soft drink syrup directly from the delivery truck into tanks in the restaurant, instead of shipping the syrup in cardboard boxes!

The largest environmental organization in the world is the National Wildlife Federation. It has 5,600,000 members!

One-third of the water used in most homes is flushed down the toilet.

You can walk 1 mile along an average highway in the United States and see about 1,457 pieces of litter.

The Washington, DC-based Institute For Local Self-Reliance calculates that recycling creates 36 jobs per 10,000 tons of material recycled compared to 6 jobs for every 10,000 of tons brought to traditional



disposal facilities.

A typical family consumes 182 gallons of pop, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!

FIVE BEST REASONS TO RECYCLE:

- 1) Natural resources- recycling will save our much needed resources.
- 2) Energy- recycling will save our much needed energy.
- 3) Clean air and water- recycling will preserve these precious elements.
- 4) Landfill space- recycling will save the landfills from overflowing.
- 5) MONEY- is the most important. Recycling can create lots of new jobs.

Sources

<http://www.zerowasteamerica.org/Statistics.htm>

<http://www.visy.com.au/>

<http://earth911.com/>

Wikipedia Encyclopedia

For more information on the importance of recycling follow these links:

[Aluminum Recycling Prices](#)

[Copper Recycling Prices](#)

[Recycle Carpet](#)

[Recycling Cell Phones](#)

[Recycle Clip Art](#)

[Recycling Lead](#)

[Recycling Metals](#)

[Recycling Old Computers](#)

[Pallet Recycling](#)

[Recycling Paper](#)

[PET Recycling](#)

[Recycling Plastic Bottles](#)

[Recycle Plastics](#)

[Styrofoam Recycling](#)

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[Recycling Process](#)

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These recycling facts have been compiled from various sources including the National Recycling Coalition, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Earth911.org. Every effort to provide accurate information has been made, however there is no guarantee that the facts presented here are exact at the time of viewing. This document was generated June of 2014.

For even more information and additional recycling facts, please visit

[The National Recycling Coalition](#)