

# HOT Topics

presented by the  
**Education  
Committee**



## Washington State Recycling Association

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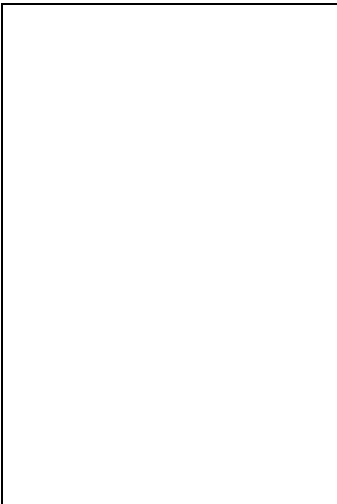
(206) 244-0311  
www.wsra.net

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State Recycling Foundation.*

*Printed on recycled paper.*



**For local information,  
contact:**



# Energy



## The Recycling Connection



One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television or computer for 3 hours or a 100-watt light bulb for 20 hours.

Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

Source: National Institutes of Health

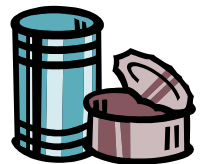


Recycling a one-gallon plastic milk jug will save enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for 11 hours.

Source: The Society of the Plastics Industry

Recycling one pound of steel conserves enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for 26 hours (5,450 BTU). (Approx. 7 cat food cans or 4 dog food cans = 1 lb. (EPA)).

Source: Steel Recycling Institute



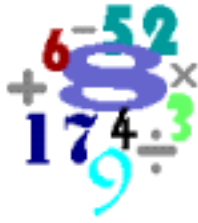
Recycling a one-foot high stack of newspapers saves 71.3 kilowatt hours of electricity... enough to heat a home for 17 hours.

Source: Weyerhaeuser

A six-pack of recycled aluminum cans saves enough energy to drive a car 5 miles.

Source: San Diego County Office of Education





**Use the Conversion Factors and Formulas below to determine how much energy your County or City saves by recycling:**

Recycling 1 ton of aluminum cans saves enough energy to power 950 computers or TVs for a week or 120 100-watt light bulbs for a year (approximately 10 homes). 53,333 aluminum cans = 1 ton (EPA).

**# of computers powered for 1 week =  $X$  tons x 950 computers/ton**  
**# of homes lighted for a year =  $X$  tons x 10 homes/ton**

Recycling 1 ton of glass bottles saves enough energy to light 471 100-watt bulbs for a day (about 39 homes). 2,824 8-12 oz. glass bottles = 1 ton (EPA).

**# of homes lighted for a day =  $X$  tons x 39 homes/ton**

Recycling 1 ton of plastic milk jugs saves enough energy to light a home for approximately 1 year. 10,000 plastic milk jugs = 1 ton (EPA).

**# of homes lighted for a year =  $X$  tons x 1 home/ton**

Recycling a ton of newspaper saves 4,074 kilowatt-hours of electricity... enough to heat about 6 homes for a week. A one-foot high stack of newspapers = 35 lbs. (EPA).

**# of homes heated for a week =  $X$  tons x 6 homes/ton**

Recycling 1 ton of aluminum cans saves enough energy to drive a car for 44,444 miles (or 4 cars for an average 11,111 miles per year).

**# of cars powered for a year =  $X$  tons x 4 cars/ton**

**For helpful information on how to calculate other recycling benefits, visit:**

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/member/advocacy/rworks/calculator.htm>

**For more information, contact:**

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