

RECYCLING

Did you know recycling is one of the best environmental success stories of the late 20th century. Recycling, including composting, diverted 68 million tons of material away from landfills and incinerators in 2001, up from 34 million tons in 1990. By 1999 more than 9,000 curbside collection programs served roughly half of the American population. Curbside programs, along with drop-off and buy-back centers, resulted in a diversion of about 30% of the nation's solid waste in 2001. In 2005 the national recycle rate is expected to reach 45-50% Keep up the good work!

1. Most glass bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass. Glass never wears out, it can be recycled for ever. We save over a ton of resources with every ton of glass recycled: 1,330 lbs of sand, 433 lbs of soda ash, 433 lbs of limestone, and 151 lbs of mining waste. Using recycled glass cuts it by about 75%.
2. Every day Americans use enough steel and tin cans to make a steel pipe running from Los Angeles to New York...and back. If we only recycle one-tenth of the cans we now throw away we'd save about 3.2 billion of them every year. Tin cans are actually 99% steel, with a thin layer of tin added to prevent rusting. Recycling steel and tin cans saves 74% of the energy used to produce them from raw materials. Americans use 100 million steel and tin cans every day.
3. If all morning newspapers read around the country were recycled, 41,000 trees would be saved daily and 6 million tons of recyclable newsprint would never end up in landfills. Recycled newspapers can be used again to make new newsprint, as well as other products.
4. The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world today. Recycling just one car saves 2,500 pound of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.
5. Recycled PET (soda bottles) and HDPE (milk jugs) are used to manufacture deli and bakery trays, carpets, clothing, textiles, agricultural pipe, bags, motor oil bottles, decking, and marine pilings just to name a few. More than 1,400 products are made from recycled plastic.
6. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that the 36 billion aluminum cans that were land filled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million. Over the past twenty years we've thrown away more than 11 million tons of aluminum beverage cans, worth over \$12 billion on today's market. Some day we will be mining our landfills to recover the resources we've buried.
7. The recycling process isn't finished until you buy new products made from recycled content.