



Recycling Fast Facts

There are a number of reasons to recycle. Here are a few “fast facts” to share with staff, students or local residents to promote recycling.

- Recycling is a continuous loop that works only if the collected materials are turned into products, bought and used again. Buying products made from recycled materials supports the markets for these products and keeps the cycle going. *Source: Washington Department of Ecology*
- The United States 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 population generate 40% of the world’s waste. *Source: Recycling-revolution.com*

PAPER

- Every ton of paper (approximately 12 cubic yards) made from recycled materials saves about 7,000 gallons of water, 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space and 4000 kilowatts of energy. *Source: EPA; Worldwatch Institute*
- Recovered paper is made into new products, such as corrugated boxes, paper bags, newsprint, printing and writing paper, tissue and towel products, paperboard packaging, and many specialty products like insulation, ceiling tile, and paper plates. *Source: WSRA*
- Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp. *Source: EPA*
- Making one ton of office and computer paper with recycled paper can save between 3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt hours over the same ton of paper made directly from trees. *Source: EPA*
- Recycling 1 ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees. *Source: EPA*
- Paper can be recycled up to seven times, depending on how long the fibers are to begin with. *Source: The Recycler’s Handbook*
- 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! *Source: Recycling-revolution.com*
- A fifteen year old tree can be made into 700 paper grocery bags. A busy supermarket can use over 700 bags in an hour. Bring your own bags to the grocery store. *Source: Recycling-revolution.com*



PLASTIC

- Recycled PET, from recovered drink bottles, can be used in making new food and beverage bottles, deli trays, carpets, clothing, automobile parts, and lumber. *Source: The American Chemistry Council*



- Recycled HDPE (#2 plastic), from recycled plastics like shampoo bottles and milk jugs, can become new bottles for laundry products and motor oil, recycling bins, bags, decking and plastic lumber. *Source: The American Chemistry Council*

- Nineteen PET (#1 plastic) bottles can be recycled into enough fiber to make an extra large t-shirt or a square foot of carpet. *Source: NAPCOR*

- Recycling a one-gallon plastic milk jug will save enough energy to keep a hundred-watt light bulb burning for 11 hours. *Source: The Society of the Plastics Industry*

- Recycling 1 ton of plastic bottles saves the equivalent of 3.8 barrels of oil. *Source: The Society of the Plastics Industry*

- The symbols on or near the bottom of a plastic container are plastic resin codes. They do not necessarily mean that a container will be collected by your local recycling program. Markets vary for particular types of plastics. *Source: Spokane Regional Solid Waste System*



- Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from raw materials. *Source: EPA*

- Plastics require 100 to 400 years to break down at the landfill. Recycle plastic bottles! *Source: EPA*

- Five 2-liter recycled beverage bottles make enough fiberfill to make a ski jacket. *Source: EPA*

- Americans use 4 million plastic bottles every hour! – Yet only 1 bottle out of 4 is recycled. *Source: Washington State Department of Ecology*



METAL

- Using recycled metal in new aluminum beverage cans uses 95 percent less energy and emits 95 percent less greenhouse gases than manufacturing cans from raw materials.
Source: Can Manufacturers Institute
- When you recycle a can, it is possible to recycle it into a new can and have it back on a store shelf in as little as 60 days! 34 cans can be made from just one pound of aluminum.
Source: The Aluminum Association
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.
Source: Can Manufacturers Institute
- Making new cans from recycling steel uses 60 to 74 percent of the energy used to produce them from raw materials. *Source: EPA*
- According to the Steel Recycling Institute, steel recycling in the United States saves the energy equivalent to electrical power for about one-fifth of American households for one year.
Source: EPA
- One ton of recycled steel saves the energy equivalent of 3.6 barrels of oil and 1.49 tons of iron ore over the production of new steel. *Source: EPA*
- It takes approximately 200-500 years for an aluminum can to break down at the landfill.
Source: Washington State Department of Ecology



GLASS

- When a glass bottle is recycled, 50% less water pollution is made than when a new glass bottle is made from raw materials.
Source: How on Earth do we recycle glass? Randolph Rott & Groves.
- Recycling just 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to light a hundred-watt light bulb for 4 hours, power a computer for 30 minutes, or a television for 20 minutes.
Source: Glass Packaging Institute
- Glass recycling is a closed-loop system, creating no additional waste or by-products. Over a ton of natural resources are conserved for every ton of glass recycled. For every six tons of recycled container glass used, a ton of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is reduced. *Source: The Glass Packaging Institute*
- Glass bottles and jars are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without any loss in purity or quality. *Source: The Glass Packaging Institute*
- Producing glass from raw materials requires 30 percent more energy than producing it from crushed, used glass. *Source: EPA*
- It takes approximately 1 million years for a glass bottle to break down at the landfill. *Source: EPA*



INFORMATION SOURCES ONLINE

- **The Aluminum Association** — www.aluminum.org
- **The American Chemistry Council** — www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/index.asp
- **American Forest & Paper Association** – www.afandpa.org
- **Can Manufacturers Institute** — www.cancentral.com/funFacts.cfm
- **The Clean Washington Center** — www.cwc.org/glass.htm
- **Container Recycling Institute**— www.container-recycling.org/facts/plastic/
- **Environmental Defense Fund Paper Calculator** – www.edf.org/papercalculator
- **Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept. of Energy** — www.eia.doe.gov
- **Environmental Protection Agency** – www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm
- **EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Emissions Calculator**—
epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html
- **The Glass Packaging Institute** — www.gpi.org
- **The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries** — www.isri.org
- **National Association for PET Container Resources** — www.napcor.com
- **National Recycling Coalition Recycling Calculator** – www.nrc-recycle.org/recyclingcalculator.aspx
- **Natural Resources Defense Council** — www.nrdc.org/cities/recycling/recyc/recytbls.asp
- **Recycled-Content Product Directory** — www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP/
- **The Society of the Plastics Industry** — www.plasticsindustry.org
- **Washington State Department of Ecology** – www.ecy.wa.gov
- **Washington State Recycling Association**— www.wsra.net
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** — www.epa.gov/wastes/conserves/rrr/recycle.htm
- **Zerofootprint Youth Calculator** - <http://calc.zerofootprint.net/youth/neew>

RECYCLING PROCESS VIDEO

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/multimedia.asp?mfile=be-a-better-recycler.wmv&loc=server#video>

RECYCLED PRODUCT VENDORS

This is a small listing of some recycled products vendors.
Search online for more resources.

- www.alchemygoods.com
- www.amazingrecycled.com/
- Bedrockindustries.com
- www.epromos.com/collection-recycled-products/_/N-14141
- www.greenearthofficesupply.com
- www.promoplace.com/millerpromotions/eco.htm
- www.rebinder.com
- www.recycledproducts.com/
- Shop.littleearth.com
- www.signaturemarketing.com/page/2
- <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>
- www.treesmart.com
- www.vivaterra.com

