

## Why Recycle? Top 10 Reasons to Recycle

- **Good for the Environment:** Recycling requires far less energy, uses fewer natural resources, and keeps waste from piling up in landfills.
- **Reduces Waste:** The average American discards seven and half pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage goes into landfills, where it is compacted and buried.
- **Saves Energy:** Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials. (Manufacturing with recycling aluminum cans uses 95% less energy).
- **Preserves Landfill Space:** no one wants to live next door to a landfill. Recycling preserves existing landfill space.
- **Prevents Global Warming:** In 2000, recycling of solid waste prevented the release of 32.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MMTCE, the unit of measure for green house gases) into the air.
- **Reduces Water Pollution:** making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.
- **Protects Wildlife:** using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers, and other places essential to wildlife.
- **Good for the Economy:** American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.
- **Creates Jobs:** Recycling in the U.S. is a \$236 billion a year industry. More than 56,000 recycling and reuse enterprises employ 1.1 million workers nationwide.
- **Creates New Demand:** Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products, decreasing waste and helping our economy.

Source: National Recycling Coalition  
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