

Top 10 Reasons to Recycle



- 1) **Good for our economy**
American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.
- 2) **Creates Jobs**
Recycling in the United States is a \$236 billion a year industry. More than 56,000 recycling and reuse enterprises employ 1.1 million workers nationwide.
- 3) **Reduces waste**
The average American discards seven and a half pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage goes to the landfills, where it is compacted and buried.
- 4) **Good for the environment**
Recycling requires far less energy, uses fewer natural resources, and keeps waste from piling up in landfills.
- 5) **Saves energy**
Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials. Manufacturing with recycled aluminum cans uses 95% less energy.
- 6) **Preserves landfill space**
No one wants to live next door to a landfill. Recycling preserves existing landfill space.
- 7) **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 greenhouse gases) into the air.
- 8) **Reduces water pollution**
Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.
- 9) **Protects wildlife**
Using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.
- 10) **Creates new demand**
Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products, decreasing waste and helping our community.

Source: The National Recycling Coalition