



Recycle America
ALLIANCE



**Just a little effort makes a huge
difference to our environment.**

Recycling doesn't require much from us.

It doesn't take a heroic effort to become an environmental hero.

All it takes is a desire to make our earth a better place to live – today and for future generations – plus a commitment from each of us who feels a responsibility to our shared environment.

Of course, it's easy for each of us to do our part when we know just how big a difference we can all make. That's why Recycle America Alliance has prepared this brochure. It shows you what's at stake. So you understand how important your participation is to the effectiveness of our recycling programs.

Thank you for caring enough to make a difference!

How much trash does each of us generate?

- In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage – leaving a legacy of 90,000 pounds of trash for his or her children.
- Americans throw away enough office paper annually to build a wall 12 feet high, stretching from Los Angeles to New York City.
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

How many resources can recycling save?

Recycling just one ton of paper saves:

- 17 trees
- 6,953 gallons of water
- 463 gallons of oil
- 587 pounds of air pollution
- 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4,077 Kilowatt-hours of energy

Recycling just one ton of glass saves:

- 1330 pounds of sand
- 433 pounds of soda ash
- 433 pounds of limestone
- 151 pounds of feldspar

What does recycling do for our environment?

- Conserves our valuable natural resources.
- Saves energy.
- Saves clean air and water.
- Saves landfill space.

Things to do today:

1. pick up Carpool
2. Recycle/save world



But it pays huge dividends to our future.

What happens to the paper we recycle?

- Waste paper is collected, sorted, baled and transported to a paper recycling mill.
- At the paper mill, waste paper is fed into a huge blender called a “hydrapulper” which mixes water with the paper, pulling inks away from the paper fibers and separating the fibers themselves.
- The pulp mixture passes through several different-sized screens, which separate the paper fibers from paper clips, staples and other contaminants.
- In most cases, this clean pulp is then mixed with some new wood pulp to make the recycled paper stronger. The final mixture is pressed into sheets, dried, finished and placed onto rolls. Most fibers can be recycled several times.



Why should we recycle bottles and cans?

- Plastic bottles made from PET can be recycled into many products, including beverage bottles, plastic strapping, fleece jackets, sleeping bags, and carpets. Yet in 2002, less than a fifth of all plastic beverage bottles in the U.S. were recycled.
- Recycling glass yields a 10 percent energy savings and preserves the life of the glass furnace. Yet currently, less than a third of glass bottles sold in the U.S. are recycled.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to run a laptop computer for four hours.

Your participation can be as simple as separating your recyclables from your trash. Even that little effort can make a huge difference to our environment by conserving precious natural resources.



Resources:

Earthworks Group

Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

American Forest & Paper Association (www.afandpa.org)

Container Recycling Institute (www.container-recycling.org)

National Recycling Coalition (www.nrc-recycle.org)

Glass Packaging Institute (www.gpi.org)



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Recycle America Alliance, L.L.C.

For more information, visit us at

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