

Waste Facts

Last year alone, Americans threw out:

- Enough aluminum to rebuild the country's entire commercial airfleet four times
- Enough wood and paper to heat five million homes for the next 200 years
- Enough office paper to erect a 12-foot-high wall from New York to Los Angeles
- Enough motor oil to equal 41 Exxon Valdez spills
- Enough garbage to fill a convoy of trucks, bumper to bumper, halfway to the moon

Michiganders throw out enough garbage in one day to overfill the Ford Field

"We did not weave the web of life

We are but a strand in it

Whatever befalls the Earth

Befalls the people of the Earth"

- Chief Seattle

"Think Globally- Act Locally" Small steps can make a big impact

RECYCLE IT

A few simple changes over a year can make every day Earth Day. Here are some tips from Woman's Day that you can incorporate into daily life and can bring about great change.

If you recycle your Sunday paper every week, you will keep four trees alive per year and increase the earth's oxygen.

If you cut one 20-mile car trip each week by completing errands at once rather than making separate trips, you will prevent more than 1,200 pounds of greenhouse gas from being emitted and adding to global warming.

If you recycle a six-pack of aluminum cans every week, you will save enough energy to power a television for 936 hours. The recycling process uses about 75% less energy than using materials for the first time. Recycled aluminum is used in new cars, bikes, appliances and cookware.

If you cut 5 Minutes from your daily shower, you will save up to 9,000 gallons of water

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Recycling By the Numbers

544,000: trees saved if every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100% recycled ones.

20 million: tons of electronic waste thrown away each year. One ton of scrap from discarded computers contains more gold than can be produced from 17 tons of gold ore.

9 cubic yards: amount of landfill space saved by recycling one ton of cardboard.

\$160 billion: the value of the global recycling industry that employs over 1.5 million people.

79 million tons: the amount of waste material diverted away from disposal in 2005 through recycling and composting.

5%: the fraction of the energy it takes to recycle aluminum versus mining and refining new aluminum.

315 kg: the amount of carbon dioxide not released into the atmosphere each time a metric ton of glass is used to create new glass products.

98 %: the percentage of glass bottles in Denmark that are refillable. 98% of those are returned by consumers for reuse.

51.5 %: the percentage of the paper consumed in the U.S. that was recovered for recycling in 2005.

“Recycling a ton of “waste” has twice the economic impact to burying it in the ground. In addition, recycling one additional ton of waste will pay \$101 more in salaries and wages, produce \$275 more in goods and services, and generate \$135 more in sales than disposing of it in a landfill.”

-- From Recycling: Good for the Economy, Good for the Environment