

Source: <http://www.oberlin.edu/recycle/facts.html#paper>

Each of us uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products per year. (EPA, 2008)

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months. ([EPA, 2008](#))

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for 3 hours, or a TV for 2 hours. ([EPA, 2008](#))

When you toss out one aluminum can you waste as much energy as if you'd filled the same can half-full of gasoline and poured it into the ground.

Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

Americans use 100 million tin and steel cans every day.

The 36 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million. (Some day we'll be mining our landfills for the resources we've buried.)

Americans go through 25 billion plastic bottles every year.

Source: <http://www.headwatersrecycle.com/why.html>

An average of 113,204 aluminum cans are recycled every minute of every day.

Recycling one ton of aluminum saves 37 barrels of oil.

It takes approximately 1 million years for a glass bottle to break down in a landfill.

Glass never wears out - it can be recycled forever.

PAPER

Americans use over 67,000,000 tons of paper each year, or 600 pounds per person.

It takes more than 500,000 trees to produce the newspapers Americans read each Sunday, yet only 30% of all newspapers are recycled.

Every day, Americans buy 62 million newspapers and throw out 44 million. That's the equivalent of dumping 500,000 trees into a landfill every week.

PLASTIC

Plastics require 100 to 400 years to break down in a landfill.

Over 1.5 billion pounds of post-consumer plastic bottles were recycled during 1999, accounting for 22% (by weight) of all plastic bottles produced in the U.S.

Recycling 1 ton of plastic can save 1-2 thousand gallons of gas.

Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the state of Texas.

STEEL

Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 lbs. of iron ore, 1,400 lbs. of coal and 120 lbs. of limestone.

Annually, enough energy is saved by recycling steel to supply Los Angeles with electricity for almost 10 years.

You can make 20 steel cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make 1 new one.

The average person throws away 4 pounds of garbage PER DAY.

Paper is the most common item found in our trash.

Product packaging accounts for 1/3 of our trash.

Solid waste disposal is the third largest municipal government expense after police protection and education.