

10 Reasons to Recycle

1. Reduces Waste

The average American discards seven and a half pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage goes into to landfills, where it's compacted and buried.

2. Good For The Environment

Recycling requires far less energy, uses fewer natural resources, and keeps waste from piling up in landfills.

3. Saves Energy

Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials. (Manufacturing with recycled aluminum cans uses 95% less energy.)

4. Preserves Landfill Space

Recycling preserves existing limited landfill space.

5. 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.

6. Reduces Water Pollution

Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.

7. Protects Wildlife

Using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.

8. Good For Our Economy

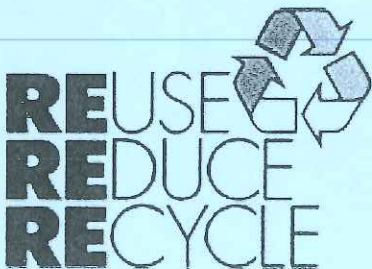
American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.

9. 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.

10. Creates New Demand

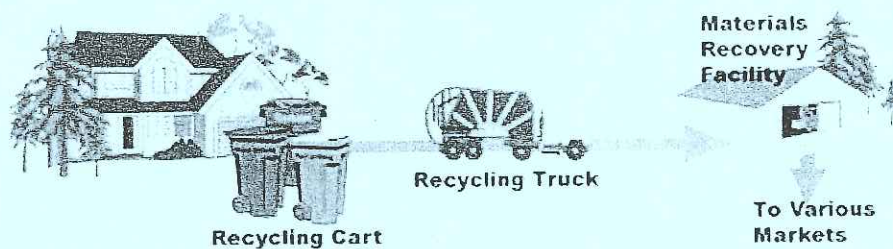
Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products, decreasing waste and helping our economy.



Source: National Recycling Coalition,
www.nrc-recycle.org

Close the Loop – Buy Recycled!

Recycling is great but it only works if you close the loop. So what does that mean? As you throw that used paper or that plastic bottle into the recycling bin you need to be aware that it has to be turned into a new product and purchased by someone in order to really close the recycling loop. It is estimated that over 100 million trees are cut each year just to supply fiber for copy paper in the U.S. Also, oil supplies around the world are being depleted partly so we can continue to produce all the plastic products we use every day. It's estimated to take up to 3 liters of oil to produce a single toner cartridge alone. Purchasing and using recycled products lessens the pressure put on natural resources and helps to keep functioning ecosystems intact. In addition, it saves energy and water, helps to preserve landfill space, supports recycling markets, and bolsters the economy. So not only do you need to recycle your items when you are done with them, but you need to buy the newly made recycled content products to truly support the process.



More information about the “3 Rs” can be found at the following websites:

Cal EPA www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm

California Recycles Day www.recycleday.org

California Integrated Waste Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov

California Materials Exchange www.ciwmb.ca.gov/CalMax/

Craigslist for the North Bay <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/nby/>

Dosomething.org – Social Action for Teens www.dosomething.org/recycling

Earth 911 www.earth911.com

Keep America Beautiful www.kab.org

Mendocino County Freecycle <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mendocinocountyfreecycle/>

Mendocino County Recycling Guide www.mendorecycle.org

National Recycling Coalition www.nrc-recycle.org