

RECYCLING FACTS

TRASH

- ♻️ In 2008, Americans generated **250 million tons of waste**. 83 million tons of that was recycled or composted (33%)ⁱ.
- ♻️ In 2008, each American generated 4.5 pounds of waste per day. 1.5 pounds of that was recycled or composted, leaving **3 pounds thrown away per person per day**ⁱ.
- ♻️ 31% of all waste comes from packagingⁱ.



PAPER



- ♻️ In the US, **paper makes up the largest portion of waste by weight**, at 31%ⁱ.
- ♻️ Newspapers have a high recycling rate – 88% of all generated are recycledⁱ.
- ♻️ Every 120 pounds of newspaper recycled saves 1 tree from being cut downⁱⁱ. The height of 120 pounds of newspaper is about **3 feet, 4 inches**.
- ♻️ Every ton of paper recycled **saves 463 gallons of oil**ⁱⁱⁱ.
- ♻️ Each ton of paper recycled **saves 17 trees**ⁱⁱⁱ.

GLASS

- ♻️ Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hoursⁱⁱⁱ.
- ♻️ Making material from **recycled glass uses 25% less energy** than making items from virgin materialsⁱⁱⁱ.

ALUMINUM

- ♻️ Recycling aluminum reduces energy use by **90%**ⁱⁱⁱ.
- ♻️ It takes the same amount of energy to make **20** recycled aluminum cans as it takes to make **1** from virgin materials^{iv}.



PLASTIC

- ♻️ Only **10% of water bottles are recycled** in the US^v.
- ♻️ In the US, we use **18 million barrels of oil** to produce the number of plastic water bottles we use in just one year^v.
- ♻️ Americans **throw away 100 billion plastic bags each year**--that's more than 300 per household^{vi}.
- ♻️ Currently, less than 1% of plastic bags used are recycled^{vi}.



COMPOSTING

- ♻️ 25% of the US's trash is food scraps and yard trimmingsⁱ.
- ♻️ In 2008, the US **composted about 21 million tons** of materialⁱ.

RECYCLING

- ♻️ Recycling:
 - Reduces the amount of greenhouse gases emitted (Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change)
 - Reduces air and water pollution associated with making products from raw materials
- ♻️ Recycling 83 million tons of mixed recyclables in 2008 is equivalent to removing 182 million tons of carbon equivalents from the atmosphere (or taking 33 million cars off the road)ⁱ!



ⁱ US EPA. <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw2008rpt.pdf>

ⁱⁱ WDNR. <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/anewpub/CE163.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ NYS DEC. http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/schoolhb.pdf

^{iv} <http://www.rollacity.org/waste/recycle.shtm>

^v NYS DEC. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/51377.html>

^{vi} NYS DEC. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>