

why recycle?

how much we waste

- Every day, businesses in the United States generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times.
- Paper accounts for nearly 40 percent of all municipal solid waste in the United States.
- Each year, enough aluminum is thrown away to rebuild America's commercial air fleet four times.
- Texans spend over \$1 billion annually on solid waste disposal services for over 22 million tons of garbage.
- Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.
- The United States produces enough plastic film each year to shrink-wrap the state of Texas.
- Glass can be reused an infinite number of times, yet Americans threw away 12.5 million tons of glass in 2003.



how recycling benefits

- **Saves Natural Resources:** By making products from recycled materials instead of virgin materials, we conserve land and reduce the need to drill for oil and dig for minerals.
- **Saves Energy:** It usually takes less energy to make recycled products; recycled aluminum, for example, takes 95% less energy than new aluminum from bauxite ore.
- **Saves Clean Air and Water:** In most cases, making products from recycled materials creates less air pollution and water pollution than making products from virgin materials.
- **Saves Landfill Space:** When the materials that you recycle go into new products, they don't go into landfills or incinerators, so landfill space is conserved.
- **Saves Money and Creates Jobs:** The recycling process creates far more jobs than landfills or incinerators, and recycling can frequently be the least expensive waste management method for cities and towns.

recycling facts and figures

If We Recycle...

- One ton or approximately a dumpster full of paper, we save:
17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water
- One aluminum can, we save:
Enough energy to run a TV set for three hours
- One glass bottle, we save:
Enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours
- Every plastic bottle we use in the United States, we would keep:
2 billion tons of plastic out of landfills

Recycling Adds to Our Economy!

- The recycling industry in Texas employs 20,000 workers and adds \$2.9 billion in value to the Texas economy.

Source: Houston-Galveston Area Council & Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Houston-Galveston Regional Recycling and Conservation Guide" (2006)