



AMERICAN RECLAMATION

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American Reclamation's Recycling Facts

Recycling Saves Energy

It takes energy to make the products you buy, the services you provide and even the food you eat. Recycling helps to save energy, which can then be used for something else. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that recycling one ton (2,000 pounds) of paper can save enough energy to heat a home for up to six months. On a smaller scale, recycling just one glass bottle or aluminum can save enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for up to four hours.

Recycling Keeps the Air and Water Clean

Recycling also helps to keep the air and water clean by reducing waste and decreasing pollution. When trash goes to the landfill instead of the recycling center, it begins to break down, or biodegrade. As it biodegrades, it can begin to release toxic chemicals that can seep into groundwater and methane, one of the six greenhouse gases that cause climate change and pollute the air. According to the EPA, Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour. The EPA estimates that recycling just one ton of these plastic bottles can save up to 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space, which can significantly reduce levels of air and water pollution.

Recycling Conserves Natural Resources

Recycling helps conserve valuable natural resources, including trees, water and nonrenewable fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. Conserving these types of resources is important because they are only available in a limited supply and it's important to make them last as long as possible for future generations. For example, paper products account for over one-third of all recycled material, according to the EPA. The California Department of Conservation estimates that recycling one ton of paper can save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water and 463 gallons of oil alone.

Recycling Protects Wildlife

Recycling can also help protect wildlife and its natural habitats. According to Green SC, over one million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and 50,000 fur seals die annually as a result plastic litter floating in the water. Every year, 40 million acres of tropical rain forest are destroyed by logging or burning, leading to the extinction of approximately 100 species every day. Recycling protects the habitats of marine life by reducing the amount of trash in the water and helps slow the rate of extinction for animals and insects that live in forested areas.

Recycling Saves Money

Recycling can also help reduce your monthly trash bills. Being "green" includes encouraging people to recycle as much as they can in order to reduce waste, save energy and cut down on pollution. If you have employees and/or volunteers, you may be wondering how you can get them involved in helping your organization be green, and recycling can be a great first step. By educating your support staff about the benefits of recycling, you can motivate them to be proactive in helping the Earth while reducing costs for and enhancing the public image of your business or non-profit organization. For assistance contact American Reclamation at 888-999-9330.