



# recycle more

Every little bit counts.

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## FACTS

### General

- Recycling conserves energy and natural resources by decreasing the need to extract and process virgin material from the earth.<sup>i</sup>
- Recycling reduces pollution associated with the first two stages of a product's development: material extraction and processing.<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2012, Americans generated about 251 million tons of trash and recycled or composted almost 87 million tons of this material, equivalent to a 34.5 percent recycling rate.<sup>iii</sup>
- By recycling and composting 87 million tons, we saved more than 1.1 quadrillion Btu of energy; that's how much energy is consumed by almost 10 million U.S. households in a year.<sup>iv</sup>

### Aluminum

- Using recycled and scrap aluminum produces an energy savings of 92 percent compared to virgin material.<sup>v</sup>
- Tossing away one aluminum can wastes as much energy as pouring out half of that can's volume in gasoline.<sup>vi</sup>
- Recycling 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline.<sup>vii</sup>

### Glass

- Glass is 100 percent recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without loss in quality or purity — something no other food and beverage packaging option can claim.<sup>viii</sup>
- Over 1 ton of natural resources are conserved for every ton of glass recycled, including 1,300 pounds of sand, 410 pounds of soda ash, 380 pounds of limestone, and 160 pounds of feldspar.<sup>ix</sup>
- Recycling 1,000 tons of glass creates more than eight jobs.<sup>x</sup>

### Paper

- Every ton of mixed paper recycling can save the energy equivalent of 165 gallons of gasoline.<sup>xi</sup>
- Producing recycled paper takes 40 percent less energy than producing paper from virgin wood pulp.<sup>xii</sup>
- Recycled paper production creates 74 percent less air pollution and 35 percent less water pollution than virgin paper production.<sup>xiii</sup>

### Plastic

- Producing recycled plastic saves up to 87 percent in energy consumption compared to producing plastic from virgin materials.<sup>xiv</sup>

### Steel

- Recycling 1 ton of steel conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone.<sup>xv</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Missouri Recycling Association, *Show-Me Recycling*, 2008. Retrieved from [http://www.mora.org/uploads/1/4/0/6/14061154/smr\\_report.pdf](http://www.mora.org/uploads/1/4/0/6/14061154/smr_report.pdf) (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2012. *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2012*. Retrieved from [http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012\\_msw\\_fs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012_msw_fs.pdf) (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>v</sup> Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.isri.org/docs/default-source/commodities/fact-sheet---aluminum-copper-and-other-nonferrous-metals.pdf?sfvrsn=10> (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>vi</sup> Keep America Beautiful, *Recycling Facts & Stats*. Retrieved from [http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling\\_facts\\_and\\_stats](http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling_facts_and_stats) (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>vii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2012. *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2012*. Retrieved from [http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012\\_msw\\_fs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012_msw_fs.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> Glass Packaging Institute, *Glass Recycling Facts*. Retrieved from <http://www.gpi.org/recycling/glass-recycling-facts> (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>ix</sup> Glass Packaging Institute, *Why Recycle Glass*. Retrieved from <http://www.gpi.org/recycling/why-recycle-glass> (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>x</sup> Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.isri.org/docs/default-source/commodities/fact-sheet---glass.pdf?sfvrsn=6> (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>xi</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2012. *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2012*. Retrieved from [http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012\\_msw\\_fs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012_msw_fs.pdf)

<sup>xii</sup> Keep America Beautiful, *Recycling Facts & Stats*. Retrieved from [http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling\\_facts\\_and\\_stats](http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling_facts_and_stats)

<sup>xiii</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>xiv</sup> Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.isri.org/docs/default-source/commodities/fact-sheet---plastics.pdf?sfvrsn=8> (Feb. 3. 2015)

<sup>xv</sup> Keep America Beautiful, *Recycling Facts & Stats*. Retrieved from [http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling\\_facts\\_and\\_stats](http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling_facts_and_stats)