

Several Good Reasons to Recycle

1. **Recycling saves natural resources like timber, oil, & natural gas.**
2. **Recycling protects wildlife habitat, biodiversity and open space.** Using recycled materials reduces the need to chop down, extract, process, refine and transport natural resources such as timber, crude petroleum and mineral ores. As a result, destruction of forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife is also reduced.
3. **Recycling lowers the use of toxic chemicals.** Making products from already refined waste materials reduces -- and often avoids altogether -- the need for manufacturers to use toxic chemicals, essential when using virgin materials.
4. **Recycling helps curb global warming.** Using recycled materials cuts down on the energy used in the manufacturing process, dramatically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. For example, recycling one ton of glass results in energy savings of more than 300% and lowers significantly lowers carbon dioxide emissions, a green-house gas.
5. **Recycling stems the flow of water pollution.** Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials. Turning trees into paper uses more water than any other industrial process in the U.S., dumping billions of gallons of wastewater -- contaminated with pollutants such as chlorinated dioxin -- each year into rivers, lakes and streams. Paper recycling mills don't pollute the water nearly as much, and almost always use less of it.
6. **Recycling reduces the need for landfills.** Toxic pollution from landfills -- including cyanide, dioxins, mercury, methane, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and lead -- escapes into the air and leaches into groundwater.
7. **Recycling creates jobs and promotes economic development.**
8. **Cities Save.** By recycling cities across the nation save money from recycling by avoiding disposal fees and selling the materials collected to global markets. Recycling is very costly, but the programs generally pay for themselves.
9. **Buying recycled products contributes to the demand for more recycled products.** This will, in turn, save more resources, reduce pollution and protect public health. As the size of the market grows, recycled product will cost less.

Aluminum Quiz:

How many aluminum cans did Americans fail to recycle in the year 2001?

Answer: In 2001, 50.7 billion cans were wasted in the U.S. alone, enough aluminum to reproduce the world's entire commercial air fleet of jetliners 2.5 times over (Container Recycling Institute, June 2002).

What can you do with 50.7 billion cans?

Answer: 50.7 billion cans is the equivalent amount of aluminum that would be required in the manufacture of 31,600 Boeing 737 airliners (Container Recycling Institute, June 2002).

Calculate your ecological footprint: www.myfootprint.org



Santa Monica Recycles: Some of the Basics

Santa Monica has an estimated residential population of 86,000, and a daytime population of 200,000. In the year 2004, Santa Monica recycled 67% of the 365,537 tons of waste generated. From the year 2000-2004, Santa Monica residents doubled their recycling rates. The City of Santa Monica collects trash and recycling for all residential customers and approximately 30% of commercial customers. The city hauls approximately 70% of the total Santa Monica waste stream, the remainder is hauled by private entities (8,000 residential, 42,000 multi-family and 1,600 commercial accounts).

- All the trash collected by Santa Monica is buried at Puente Hills Landfill, located in unincorporated Los Angeles County, adjacent to the City of Whittier. The 60 mile round-trip is made by transfer trailer truck (30 trips per day). Puente Hills Landfill is the largest in the nation - owned and operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles since 1970 – and it accepts 26,400,000 pounds of waste daily from 60 cities and private haulers – over ONE BILLION tons deposited to date.
- The Puente Hills Landfill has a permitted remaining capacity of 38 million tons, which, at an average rate of 12,000 tons per day, Puente Hills has a remaining life span of approximately 10 years. The Sanitation Districts have begun implementing plans for the eventual long haul of solid waste-by-rail to more remote disposal sites. Part of this waste-by-rail system includes a Materials Recovery and Rail Loading Facility (MRF) where waste is recycled and prepared for transfer to regional landfills in the short term, and to remote landfills by rail in the long term. Santa Monica will be sending non-recyclable waste to Puente Hills Landfill for decades to come – eventually sending the waste further and further away. Waste reduction and recycling is an important element of Santa Monica’s strategy to contain costs and build a more sustainable community.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – In that order

- **Reduce:** Recycling is the last step in a process that starts with reducing waste. Reducing waste can mean purchasing quality items of excellent design and quality, items that can be repaired or refurbished. Often the least wasteful product costs more up-front, but ends up costing less over the life of the product.
- **Reuse:** Often confused with recycling, reuse is simply the process of holding onto items that would normally be discarded for other uses. Creativity is key, a tire swing is a good example of reuse.
- **Recycle:** The last step in the process is recycling – a process of sorting unwanted items into like materials for commodity markets throughout the world, hopefully finding the highest good for the material.

What Can We Recycle in Santa Monica? Call 310.458.2223 for information.

Curbside & Drop-off	Community Recycling Center	Recycling & Transfer Station	Household Hazardous Waste Center
<p>cans, glass & plastic: glass bottles and jars, tin and aluminum cans, and plastic bottles & food containers. Plastic bags are welcome if bundled together.</p> <p>mixed paper: cardboard, newsprint, phone books, magazines, "junk mail", office paper, brown bags, etc.</p> <p>green waste</p>	<p>aluminum & steel cans</p> <p>valuable scrap metal</p> <p>glass bottles</p> <p>plastic bottles & food containers</p> <p>computer paper, white paper, mixed paper, newsprint, cardboard, packaging</p> <p>oil & oil filters</p>	<p>electronics, appliances</p> <p>tires</p> <p>construction & demolition debris (carpet, cement, asphalt, wood, plaster, metals, dry wall, etc.)</p> <p>green waste, food waste</p> <p>scrap metal</p> <p>cardboard</p>	<p>latex paint</p> <p>car batteries, household batteries</p> <p>fluorescent light tubes,</p> <p>motor oil & oil filters</p> <p>anti-freeze</p> <p>mercury</p>

