



# Recycling Facts



LET'S MAKE MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN.  
[MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://MilwaukeeRecycles.com)

Recycling is mandated by state law and City ordinance. Wisconsin passed a comprehensive recycling law that took effect in 1995. This law requires recycling by residents, businesses, government, non-profits, multi-family units, schools, parks, public venues and events.

Recycling saves the City money by avoiding landfill fees while also generating revenue from the sale of recyclable commodities.

The energy needed to replace all the aluminum cans wasted each year is equivalent to 16 million barrels of oil ñ enough to keep a million American cars on the road for a year.

The energy saved each year by steel recycling in the US is equal to the electrical power used annually by 18 million homes or enough energy to last Los Angeles residents for 8 years.

Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves the equivalent of 1-2,000 gallons of gasoline.

Recycling 1 ton of aluminum saves the equivalent of 2,350 gallons of gasoline.

If paper mills use recycled paper in their products, they save 60% of the water that would be used if they started with virgin pulp.

Reduce air pollution! By burning less fuel in the production of items made from recycled materials, we cut down on the amount of hazardous chemicals going into the air.

In Wisconsin, the 1.6 million tons of material diverted from landfills annually supports 97,000 jobs and contributes to the \$5.4 billion dollar environmental industry. Recycling in the U.S. is a \$236 billion a year industry.