

WHAT'S UP WITH RECYCLING?

Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Collecting used bottles, cans, and newspapers and taking them to the curb or to a collection facility is just the first in a series of steps that generates a host of financial, environmental, and social returns. Some of these benefits accrue locally as well as globally.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

Recycling protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness.

Recycling reduces the need for land-filling and incineration.

Recycling prevents pollution caused by the manufacturing of products from virgin materials.

Recycling saves energy.

Recycling decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

Recycling conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and



minerals.

Recycling helps sustain the environment for future generations.

STEPS TO RECYCLING A PRODUCT

Recycling includes collecting recyclable materi-

als that would otherwise be considered waste, sorting and processing recyclables into raw materials such as fibers, manufacturing raw materials into new products, and purchasing recycled products.

Collecting and processing secondary materials, manufacturing recycled-content products, and then buying recycled products creates a circle or loop that ensures the overall success and value of recycling.

Step 1. Collection and Processing

Collecting recyclables varies from community to community, but there are four primary methods: curbside,

drop-off centers, buy-back centers, and deposit/refund programs.

Regardless of the method used to collect the recyclables, the next leg of their journey is usually the same. Recyclables are sent to a materials recovery facility to be sorted and prepared into marketable commodities for manufacturing. Recyclables are bought and sold just like any other commodity, and prices for the materials change and fluctuate with the market.

Step 2. Manufacturing

Once cleaned and separated, the recyclables are ready to undergo the second part of the recycling loop. More and more of today's products are being manufactured with total or partial recycled content. Common household items that contain recycled materials include newspapers and paper towels; aluminum, plastic, and glass soft drink containers; steel cans; and plastic laundry detergent bottles.

Upcoming NWOSU & Earth Friendly Events

NWOSU Science Fair.....	March 3
World Water Day.....	March 22
Earth Hour	March 28
THE BIG EVENT	April 10
NAS Art Show	April 10-24
Earth Day (40th Anniversary)	April 22
Arbor Day	April 30
World Environment Day.....	June 5

Check out our new website at
www.nwosu.edu/core

In 2008, the amount of paper recovered for recycling averaged _____ pounds for every person in the U.S. (Answer at the bottom of the page)

- A. 140 B. 260 C. 340 D. 420

any uncertainty regarding manufacturers' claims. For more detailed guidance, view a summary of the Federal Trade Commission's brochure *Sorting Out Green Advertising Claims* or their *Official Guidance for the use of environmental marketing claims*.

Recycled-content products are made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded. Items in this category are made totally or partially from material destined for disposal or recovered from industrial activities-like aluminum soda cans or newspaper. Recycled-content products also can be items that are rebuilt or remanufactured from used products such as toner cartridges or computers.

Postconsumer content refers to material from products that were used by consumers or businesses and would otherwise be discarded as waste. If a product is labeled "recycled content," the rest of the product material might have come from excess or damaged items generated during normal manufacturing processes-not collected through a local recycling program.

Recyclable products can be collected and remanufactured into new products after they've been used. These products do not necessarily contain recycled materials and only benefit the environment if people recycle them after use. Check with your local recycling program to determine which items are recyclable in your community.

Reprinted from the website <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/rcc/index.htm>

DID YOU KNOW?

LED lights consume roughly 10% of the power consumed by incandescent lamps.

The U.S. EPA estimates that 75 percent of our waste is recyclable.

Approximately 23.8 billion pounds of clothing end up in U.S. landfills each year, according to Goodwill.

Due to their inefficient use of energy, Congress has banned incandescent bulbs starting in 2012, with a complete phase out by 2014; even existing halogen bulbs will not make Congress' new mandate to make all bulbs 70 percent more efficient by 2020.

The time has come
To say fair's fair
To pay the rent
To pay our share
The time has come
A fact's a fact
It belongs to us all
Let's give it back
How can we dance when our earth is turning?
How do we sleep when our beds are burning?
- *Midnight Oil, "Beds are Burning," 1987*

Answer: C 340 lbs.



Recycled materials also are used in innovative applications such as recovered glass in roadway asphalt (glassphalt) or recovered plastic in carpeting, park benches, and pedestrian bridges.

Step 3. Purchasing Recycled Products

Purchasing recycled products completes the recycling loop. By "buying recycled," governments, as well as businesses and individual consumers, each play an important role in making the recycling process a success. As consumers demand more environmentally sound products, manufacturers will continue to meet that demand by producing high-quality recycled products. Learn more about recycling terminology and to find tips on identifying recycled products.

Reprinted from the website <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/recycle.htm> on Nov. 3, 2009.

BUY RECYCLED

Creating a strong market for recycled products is key to completing the recycling process or "closing the loop." Consumers close the loop when they purchase products made from recycled materials. Governments can promote buying recycled products through their own purchasing programs and guidelines. Manufacturers can participate as well by using recycled materials in their products.

Identifying Recycled-Content Products

Product labels can be confusing to consumers interested in buying recycled because of the different recycling terminology used. The following definitions might help clarify