



# Facts About Consumption and Waste

## Aluminum

- Recycling aluminum uses **less than 5 percent** of the energy used to make the original product.
- Recycling **one aluminum beverage** can save enough energy to run a **100-watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for three hours, or a TV for two hours.**
- Recycling **10 tons of aluminum** prevents the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as preserving more than **1.1 acres of forest** from deforestation.

## Plastic

Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only **two-thirds as much energy** as manufacturing it from new raw materials.

- Plastics require **100 to 400 years to break down** in a landfill.
- **Five 2-liter recycled PET bottles** produce enough fiberfill to make a **ski jacket.**
- The energy saved by recycling **one plastic bottle** will power a computer for **25 minutes.**
- Recycling **10 tons of PET plastic** prevents the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as removing more than **three cars from the road** for one year.



## Glass

- Producing glass from crushed, used glass requires **30 percent less energy** than producing it from new materials.
- The energy saved from recycling **one glass bottle** will operate a **100-watt light bulb for four hours.**
- It takes a glass bottle approximately **one million years to break down** in a landfill.
- The greenhouse gas emission reductions from recycling **10 tons of glass** are comparable to preventing the use of more than **eight barrels of crude oil.**

## Steel

- Tin cans contain **99 percent steel.**
- Recycling steel and tin cans saves **60 - 74 percent** of the energy used to produce them from raw materials.
- According to the Steel Recycling Institute, steel recycling in the United States saves the amount of energy required to power about **one-fifth of American households for one year.**
- **One ton of recycled steel** saves the energy equivalent of **3.6 barrels of oil and 1.5 tons of iron ore** over the production of new steel.
- Recycling **10 tons of steel** prevents the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as growing **470 tree seedlings for 10 years.**

## Paper

- Paper can account for as much as **60 percent** of school waste.
- Producing recycled paper requires about **60 percent of the energy** used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- Manufacturing **one ton of office paper** with recycled paper stock can save between **3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt hours** over the same ton made with virgin wood products.
- Preventing one ton of paper waste saves between **15 and 17 mature trees.**
- Recycling one ton of paper saves enough energy to heat an average home for six months.
- The greenhouse gas emission reductions from recycling **10 tons of mixed paper** are comparable to preventing the use of **94 barrels of crude oil.**

## Electronics

- Each year, more than **350 million inkjet and laser cartridges** are thrown away.
- Each year, **35 million cell phones** are disposed of.