

Resources Saved by Recycling  
**1 Ton of Newspaper  
SAVES 17 TREES**  
& an amount of energy equal to  
**100 gallons of gasoline**

**The Town of New Canaan recycles approximately 650 tons of newspaper a year. This is equivalent to 11,050 trees and the amount of energy equal to 65,000 gallons of gasoline.**

**The Town also recycles approximately 115 tons of cardboard and 260 tons of mixed paper.**

If Americans would simply recycle their paper, and use recycled paper, we could cut our municipal waste by 50%. We could save most of the water, energy, air pollution, and all the billions of trees that go into making paper out of forests. Recycling paper creates five times more jobs and it even saves money.

- Making recycled paper uses 30% to 55% less energy than making paper from trees.
- If you recycle a foot-tall stack of newspapers, you save enough energy to take a hot shower every day for a week.
- Other benefits of recycling: 95% less air pollution and one tree saved for every 150 pounds of paper you recycle.
- Americans already recycle 24 millions tons of paper a year, 29% of the paper we use. But there's room to improve. More than 50 million tons worth of room.
- For every household that recycles its daily newspaper, 5 trees are spared every year.
- Today, more than 50% of the printing and writing paper made in this country still uses virgin timber fiber. The United States makes and uses more than 80 million tons of paper every year, but less than a third of that is from recycled sources.

#### Recycled Content Paper

- Each ton of paper made from recycled paper over that made from virgin resources salvages about 3,700 pounds of lumber and 24,000 gallons of water, along with 4,100 kilowatts of energy.
- Recycled content in writing paper reduces energy use by 33%, air pollution by 73% and water pollution by 35%.
- Just one 3-subject notebook or ream of paper saves 10.2 gallons of water and prevents the release of 2.1 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Also, recycled paper saves more than trees. Compared to virgin paper, making recycled paper results in less paper being sent to landfills.

Resources Saved by Recycling  
**1 Ton of Plastics**  
an amount of energy equal to  
**1-2,000 gallons of gasoline**

**The Town of New Canaan recycles approximately 745 tons of plastics, cans, and glass. Because this material is mixed together (commingled) in the blue bins the exact breakdown isn't available. Most of the weight is attributed to 1<sup>st</sup> glass then cans and plastics.**

In the last few decades, plastic use in North America has risen dramatically. Plastic is probably the most popular with the on-the-go society of today but also most costly to the environment. There are good reasons why it's so popular -- it's lightweight, waterproof, strong and break-resistant. But plastics are made from petroleum and most don't decompose for a long time. In 1987, the US used almost one billion barrels of petroleum just to manufacture plastics. That's enough to meet U.S. demand for imported oil for five months. We can save that oil, and the disposal problems of plastic by recycling it.

- Incinerating 10,000 tons of plastic waste creates 1 job, landfilling the same amount creates 6 jobs while recycling the same 10,000 tons creates 36 jobs.
  - Plastic bags and more than 45,000 tons of plastic thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals annually.
  - Since 1950, we have consumed as much as all the generations before us combined.
  - Plastics can take up to 400 years to break down in a landfill.
  - 56% of recycled PET finds a market in the manufacture of carpet and clothing.
  - 29% of recycled HDPE bottles go into making new bottles.
  - If you lined up all the polystyrene foam cups made in just 1 day they would circle the earth.
  - In 1 year there would be enough waste to fill landfills stretching from the Earth to the Moon.
  - Recycled materials can return to the marketplace in as little as 30 days.
  - It takes 5 PET bottles to make 1 square foot of polyester carpet, an extra large t-shirt or filling for a ski jacket.
  - It takes 2 plastic soft drink bottles to make enough polyester fibre for a baseball cap.
  - Most families throw away about 88 lb plastic a year.
  - There are about 1,000 milk jugs and other bottles in a recycled plastic park bench.
  - Oil which is a non-renewable resource is in all plastic items.
  - Ford motor company indicates that 75% of every vehicle is recyclable.
  - The energy saved by recycling 1 bottle will power a computer for 25 minutes.
- Recycled plastic uses 88% less energy.

Resources Saved by Recycling  
**1 Ton of Aluminum**  
an amount of energy equal to  
**2,350 gallons of gasoline**

Of all the recyclable items, an aluminum can is the easiest to make into a new one. It melts at a relatively low temperature and saves a great deal of mining.

- It takes enormous amounts of electricity to refine aluminum from its ore.
- Recycling aluminum requires only a tenth as much electricity as making the same aluminum from bauxite ore.
- Using recycled content instead of bauxite ore to make aluminum cans reduces, water pollution by 97% and air pollution by 95%.
- Discarding an aluminum can wastes as much energy as if you filled the can half full of gasoline and poured it on the ground.
- It takes barely as much energy as there is in a tablespoon of gasoline to recycle that can.

Resources Saved by Recycling  
**1 Ton of Glass**  
an amount of energy equal to  
**10 gallons of oil**

Glass uses a variety of resources that accumulate to a ton of savings per ton of glass recycled. Resources saved by glass recycling are as follows: 1,330 lbs of sand, 433 lbs of soda ash, 433 lbs of limestone, and 151 lbs of feldspar, as well as the resources indirectly saved by the reduction in energy use.

- Recycling glass reduces air pollution by 20%, and water pollution by 50%.
- Every time you recycle a glass bottle, you save enough energy to light a 100 watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Recycled glass uses only 2/3 the energy needed to manufacture glass from raw materials.
- Glass manufacturing with recycled content reduces energy use by 5% and manufacturing waste by 75%.
- For every bottle you recycle, you save enough energy to run a TV for 1.5 hours.
- Refillable bottles don't need to be melted down before they're reused so they save 4 times as much energy.
- Only 27% of the glass used in the United States is recycled.