

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

Recycling Facts (From Illinois Recycling Association)

- Recycling one ton of paper saves the equivalent of 17 trees, saves enough energy to power an average home for six months, saves 7,000 gallons of water, and keeps 60 pounds of pollutants out of the air.
- Making recycled paper instead of new paper uses 64 percent less energy and uses 58 percent less water.
- Americans throw away enough office and writing paper each year to build a wall twelve-feet high stretching from New York City to Los Angeles.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television, or operate a computer for three hours.
- Every glass bottle recycled saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.
- Each year, Illinoisans use and dispose 1.1 billion foam cups, enough to encircle the Earth 19 times.

Environmental Benefits of Recycling

- Recycling Saves Energy. Creating items from recycled material uses less fossil fuel than creating the item from raw natural resources. Reducing our energy consumption, in turn reduces our dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels and our emission of air and water pollutants.
- Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Since manufacturing recycled materials uses less energy, fewer fossil fuels are emitted and less carbon dioxide is emitted.
- Recycling Reduces Landfill Space. Recycling materials diverts them from entering landfills. This also reduces the amount of methane released when the product decomposes.
- Recycling Saves Trees. By decreasing the number of trees that are cut down, we are able to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide and increase the amount of oxygen in the air. One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.
- Recycling Reduces the Amount of 27 Different Types of Air and Water Pollutants. Compared to using virgin materials, using recycled materials reduces the amount of 27 different types of air and water pollutants.
- Recycling Conserves Natural Resources. By reducing the need for landfills, more land can be used in environmentally friendly ways. Recycling also reduces our dependence on trees and mining products.

Resources

- To learn more about Illinois recycling facts and news visit www.illinoisrecycles.org.
- To learn about the recycling options near you visit www.earth911.com.
- To learn more about Illinois recycling grants available through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity visit http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Recycling/irgp.htm.

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

100 West Randolph
Suite 15-200
Chicago, Illinois
60601
312-814-5220 phone
312-814-4862 fax

State House
Room 214
Springfield, Illinois
62706
217-782-7884 phone
217-524-6262 fax

GreenSolutions.il.gov