

Recycling and Sustainability

Linking recycling to the
sustainability movement on
campus



National Recycling Coalition

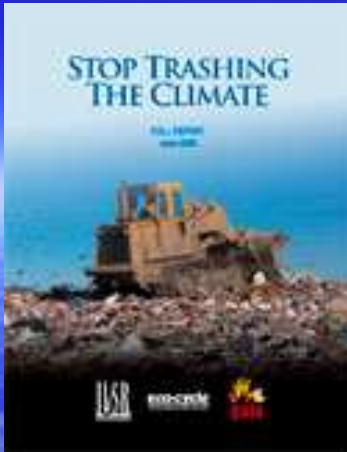
- Increasingly recycling professionals are being asked to justify and defend public investments in recycling. [NRC's Environmental Benefits Calculator](#) is a powerful tool that members can use to make a compelling case for the significant environmental benefits of recycling.
- Significant energy and natural resources are used to make products and packaging. When we recycle these materials, we keep the energy and resources embodied in those products working for us, rather than wasting them after just one use by burying them in landfills. While the savings vary from material to material, nearly all recycling processes produce significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials. Inputting EPA's national data for recycling into the calculator demonstrates recycling's substantial contribution to resource conservation in this country.
- You can use the [Environmental Benefits Calculator](#) to determine how much your program is doing to improve the environment. Simply enter data on the amount of materials recycled and the model will determine environmental benefits for four key areas:
 - Energy savings
 - Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
 - Reduction in emissions of air and water pollutants
 - Conservation of natural resources



US EPA Waste Reduction Model (WARM)

EPA created the WASTE Reduction Model (WARM) to help solid waste planners and organizations track and voluntarily report greenhouse gas emissions reductions from several different waste management practices. WARM is available both as a [Web-based calculator](#) and as a [Microsoft Excel spreadsheet](#) (502 kb WinZip archive).

WARM calculates and totals GHG emissions of baseline and alternative waste management practices—source reduction, recycling, combustion, composting, and landfilling. The model calculates emissions in metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE), metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E), and energy units (million BTU) across a wide range of material types commonly found in municipal solid waste (MSW). WARM is periodically updated as new information becomes available and new material types are added. Users may refer to the [model history](#) to better understand the differences in among various versions of WARM. WARM was last updated August, 2006.



Stop Trashing the Climate



KEY FINDINGS:

- A zero waste approach is one of the fastest, cheapest, and most effective strategies we can use to protect the climate and the environment.
- Wasting directly impacts climate change because it is directly linked to global resource extraction, transportation, processing, and manufacturing. When we minimize waste, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in sectors that together represent 36.7% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.
- Landfills are the largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions in the U.S., and the impact of landfill emissions in the short term is grossly underestimated — methane is 72 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20-year time frame.
- New policies are needed to fund and expand climate change mitigation strategies such as waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and extended producer responsibility. Policy incentives are also needed to create locally-based materials recovery jobs and industries.

Measuring Greenhouse Gas Emissions

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment
<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

The Climate Registry <http://www.theclimateregistry.org/>

The Climate Registry sets consistent and transparent standards for the measurement, verification, and public reporting of greenhouse gas emissions throughout North America in a single unified registry. The Registry is a non-profit organization that supports both voluntary and mandatory reporting programs, provides meaningful information to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and embodies the highest levels of environmental integrity.

Mt Trashmore represents the amount of trash generated on campus every 6 hours. The pile would be 4 feet taller if NU didn't recycle.



Giveaways promoted waste reduction



Resources

EPA WARM

www.epa.gov/climatechange

Freecycle

www.freecycle.org

EPEAT

www.epeat.net

RecycleMania!

www.recyclemaniacs.org

GRRN

www.grrn.org/campus/index.html

Junk Mail Reduction

www.newdream.org

Sierra Club 0 Waste Committee

<http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/>

Zero Waste Resolution

www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste

Zero Waste Int'l Alliance

<http://www.zwia.org/zwc.html>