



Editorial

How does recycling benefit the Environment?

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Recycling reduces the use of natural resources by reusing materials: 94% of the natural resources used by Americans are nonrenewable. Non-renewable, natural resource use has increased from 59% in 1900 and 88% in 1945. Recycling saves non-renewable resources. For example, by not recycling paper, 80% more wood will need to be harvested by 2010 to meet growing paper consumption demands. However, through active paper recycling, only 20% more wood will need to be harvested by 2010. It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials. Making products from recyclables results in energy savings. Recycled steel saves 60% production energy, recycled newspaper 40%, recycled plastics 70%, and recycled glass 40%. Using scrap steel instead of virgin ore to make new steel takes 40% less water and creates 97% less mining waste. How does recycling benefit the economy Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates 1 job, while landfilling the same amount creates 6 jobs. Recycling the same 10,000 tons creates 36 jobs! The National

Recycling Coalition reports that recycling has created 1.1 million jobs, \$236 billion in gross annual sales, and \$37 billion in annual payroll. By meeting the state's 50% recycling goal, California is expected to create about 45,000 recycling jobs, compared to 20,000 new jobs slated to be created for the manufacturing sector. Massachusetts employs more than 9,000 people in more than 200 recycling enterprises. About half of these jobs are in the recyclingbased manufacturing sector. These businesses represent more than half a billion dollars in value to the state's economy.

Recycling Statistics NIH's current recycling average as reported to Montgomery County during CY2019 is 71.31%, which includes both the mandatory and additional recyclables. The NIH recycling rate for the mandatory recyclables (mixed paper, commingled, cardboard, and scrap metal) was 65% for 2019. The current recycling goal for businesses in Montgomery County is 70% by 2020. The Waste Diversion Rate for CY2019 was 44%. This takes into account source reduction and reuse activities in addition to recycling. This does not include construction debris. At the NIH, each person disposes of 1.04 pounds of trash per day and recycles 1.93 pounds of material. During 2019, waste audits from buildings 10, 35, 37, 33, and 50 found less than 5% of recyclable material in the solid waste compactors. Buildings 13 and 31 A&B contained approximately 5- 10% of recyclable material in the solid waste compactors. Recycling waste saves over 30% of energy in the production of new packaging or materials. ... Recycling reduces water consumption and pollution. Only 2% of the water on earth is potable. Recycling contributes to reducing the emission of gases that cause global warming, which is real and exists.