

Take the KICK THE CAN CHALLENGE



Waste Reduction and Recycling Facts



The average person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year.¹



The EPA estimates that 75% of the American waste stream is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.²



In the USA, 30-40% of the food supply is wasted, equaling more than 20 pounds of food per person per month.³



A glass container can go from a recycling bin to a store shelf in as few as 30 days.⁴



The average person (adults and children included) recycles about 340 pounds of paper waste every year. Recycled paper can be used to create newsprint, tissue, boxboard, containerboard, and other paper products.⁵



By producing a ton of paper from recycled materials, energy consumption is cut in half and 17 trees are saved.⁵



Recycled plastics can be used to create carpeting and clothing, new containers, pipes, lawn and garden products, plastic lumber, film plastics, moldings, and more.⁶



Americans throw away **25 billion** styrofoam coffee cups every year.⁷



The average American office worker uses about 500 disposable cups every year.⁷



Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.⁸



The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.⁸



Making a can from recycled aluminum saves 92 percent of the energy required to make a new can.⁹



Americans will use over 2.5 million plastic bottles every thirty minutes, and most of them are simply thrown away rather than recycled.⁹



Aluminum is a metal that has to be mined from the earth. Once we have mined it all, it's gone.¹⁰



Approximately 35% of municipal solid waste is packaging.¹¹



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Sources

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