



Why Recycle

Recycling is an important way for individuals to generate less waste and reduce the negative impact of that waste. Recycling is one of the best ways for you to have a positive impact on the world in which we live. Recycling is important to both the natural environment and us. We must act fast as the amount of waste we create is increasing all the time. Recycling contributes to a strong economy—for every 1,000 tons of recycled material 15 jobs are created as compared to less than one job created by land filling the material. (source: ILDCEO 2008)

Recycling Saves the Earth

Recycling different products will help the environment. For example, we know that paper comes from trees and many trees are being cut down just to produce paper. By recycling it, we can help lessen the number of trees that are cut down. Products made from raw materials that came from our natural resources should be recycled so that we can help preserve the environment.

Recycling Saves Energy

It takes less energy to process recycled materials than to process raw materials. For example, it takes a lot less energy to recycle paper than to create new paper from trees. The energy from transporting raw materials from the source is also saved. Saving energy also has its own benefits like decreasing pollution. This creates less stress on your health and our economy.

Recycling Helps Mitigate Global Warming and Reduce Pollution

By saving energy in industrial production through recycling, the greenhouse gas emissions from factories and industrial plants are lessened and the use of fuels that emit harmful gasses during production is also minimized. Recycling non-biodegradable waste (rather than burning it) will contribute a lot to help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gasses that depletes the ozone layer.

Recycling Reduces Waste Products in Landfills

Landfills are mostly composed of non-biodegradable waste which takes long time to decompose. By recycling, we can lessen the waste materials that are placed into landfills and we are able to make the most out of these materials. If we don't recycle, more and more garbage will go to landfills until they all get filled up. If that happens, where will the rubbish be placed? How would you like a land fill in you backyard?

Easy Recycling Tips

- Find a convenient place to collect recyclable items. Most things come from the kitchen, making it a good spot to set up a collection bin for recycling.
- Check the bottom of plastic items to identify what type of plastic they are. The Decatur Recycles program accepts plastic #1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7. Consider ways to reuse non-recyclable plastic containers.
- Save time when recycling cans and bottles. You no longer have to remove their labels.
- Recycle junk mail or reuse it as scratch paper.
- Divvy up recycling duties among family members and deposit recyclable items in your cart on a daily basis.
- Recycling includes more than just the typical paper, cans, and bottles. Every time that you donate your old clothes or have a yard sale, you are recycling.
- Please place all recyclable items loose in the cart. Do not bind or bundle any items.
- Flatten all cardboard/boxes and place in cart.
- Completely empty and rinse out all containers before recycling.
- No need to crush cans, metal, or plastic containers.