



## RECYCLING

According to the EPA recycling is "the separation and collection of materials that otherwise would be considered waste, the processing and remanufacturing of these items into new products, and the use of the recycled products to complete the cycle." Recycling turns items like those bottles, paper, and cans that you're done with into new products. Recycling is the practice of reusing items that would otherwise be discarded as waste. Variations of recycling include:

**UPCYCLING**, which involves adding value to an item for reuse.

Here are a few examples of upcycling:

- Buildings constructed from shipping containers or materials salvaged from a dump.
- A [laptop](#) case made from fused plastic shopping bags.
- Sculpture created from junkyard finds.
- Broken electronic toys adapted to become musical instruments (known as [circuit-bending](#)).
- Jewelry fashioned from old computer parts.
- A bench made from wooden pallets.
- A blender integrated into a bicycle so that it works as the bike is pedaled

**DOWNCYCLING**, which involves breaking down an item or substance into its component elements to reuse anything that can be salvaged (destroyed).

**PRECYCLING**, an alternative approach, involves avoiding the acquisition of unnecessary items that would have eventually have to be recycled or dealt with as waste.

Examples of precycling include:

- Limiting purchases to things that you need.
- Delaying purchases that aren't urgently needed.
- Buying in bulk to avoid extra packaging.
- Selecting products that will last.
- Sharing items rather than buying individually.



**E-CYCLING**, is the practice of reusing, or distributing for reuse, electronic equipment and components rather than discarding them at the end of their life cycle. Discarded electronics and electronic components (e-waste) are creating a serious problem because of toxic elements involved in their manufacture. Usually, discarded computers and other electronic devices, such as cell phones, are functional and could be passed on to another individual or organization. Often, even non-functioning devices can be refurbished and resold or donated.

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/recycling>

### **Benefits of Recycling**

- Saving Space in Landfills – Garbage can take up a lot of space in landfills. Having too much waste in these landfills is dangerous for the environment and it is especially dangerous to the wildlife that exists in the area. Wildlife can go into landfills taking items like plastic, aluminum and rubber – to dangerous results. This should never happen and we should always have the best interests of our environment in mind.
- Energy Saving – Recycling also reduces pollution but it allows us to save energy. Saving energy is going to be important in the upcoming years as it will be undetermined how much energy we can rely on. Today it is taken for granted. No one knows where our energy will be coming from in the future. But options are being explored.
- Pollution Reduction – Yes, even the air and water is affected by how much we recycle. Recycling does help with reducing the amounts of waste that we experience on a daily basis. Reducing our pollution will provide healthier lives, allowing us to live a much more quality of life.

<http://www.recyclingfactsforkids.com/>



## **RECYCLABLE ITEMS**

### **Plastics**

In the United States alone there are 4 million plastic bottles used every hour. And of those 4 million plastic bottles roughly 25 percent of them get recycled. In 2011, over 3 tons were washed up on the shores on the United State. That still doesn't account for the plastic that is still floating out there.

By other way of interesting recycling facts for kids is that plastics are in everyday items (recycled of course) we use. Their pencils for school, pens, erasers, watches, and even their backpacks have plastic in it. Thanks in part to recycling, this is made possible. Pretty cool, huh?

### **Metal**

Metal is pretty cool (no pun intended). Metal is the easiest "element" to recycle and it is used in everything. From tin cans to car parts, you can find metal that is recycled from something or another. Over 80 tons of metal are scrapped each year and they all go into the recycling yards. Basically metal is melted down and poured into molds. Now that is cool. You can't argue with how cool that is because you're essentially taking a solid object, making it liquid, then shaping it back up. Recycling at its best.

### **Paper**

This is the most common recycled product. Paper recycling helps reduce air pollution by 74 percent and 35 percent less water pollution. Every ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees, 463 gallons of oil, and saves 5 yards of landfill space.

Paper is also the cheapest product to recycle because it is so quickly and easily made. The average American family wastes 150 pounds of paper a year. That does not make its way into the recycle bin.

### **Glass**

Glass is like metal. It can be recycled over and over and over again. Most "glass" products that you use are really only a quarter actual glass. It's amazing because glass isn't malleable – just highly liquefiable.

Of course there are a lot of other interesting and fun facts about recycling. No matter how interesting the fact is, we still have to recycle for the betterment of our environment. You will find it satisfying and rewarding.