

# Recycling Facts



- ❑ Every year, each Kansan produces an average of more than 3/4 of a ton of trash, yet we recycle only about 20% of this waste. This compares to a national average of 28%. *(Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment.)*
- ❑ Recycling creates ten times as many jobs as landfilling. *(Source: Institute for Local Self Reliance.)*
- ❑ The U.S. is 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources. *(Source: Environmental Protection Agency.)*

## **FACTS: PAPER**

- ❑ Recycled paper supplies more than 37% of the raw materials used to make new paper products in the U.S. Without recycling, this material would come from trees. *(Source: National Recycling Coalition.)*
- ❑ If we recycled all of the newspapers printed in the U.S. on a typical Sunday, we would save 550,000 trees-or about 26 million trees per year. *(Source: California Department of Conservation.)*
- ❑ If every household in the U.S. replaced just one roll of 1,000 sheet virgin fiber bathroom tissues with 100% recycled ones, we could save: 373,000 trees, 1.48 million cubic feet of landfill space, and 155 million gallons of water. *(Source: Seventh Generation Co.)*

## **FACTS: ALUMINUM**

- ❑ Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 3 hours. *(Source: S. Carolina Electric and Gas Co.)*
- ❑ Aluminum can recycling saves 95% of the energy needed to make aluminum from bauxite ore. *(Source: National Recycling Coalition.)*
- ❑ Energy savings in the U.S. in 2003 alone were enough to light a city the size of Topeka for 10 years. *(Source: Can Manufacturing Institute.)*

Making cans from recycled aluminum cuts related air pollution by 95%. *(Source: Can Manufacturing Institute.)*

- ❑ Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. *(Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook.)*

## **FACTS: PLASTICS**

- ❑ In 2005, Americans drained more than 50 billion single-serving PET plastic beverage bottles. An estimated 40 billion ended up landfilled or littered. *(Source: The Container Recycling Institute.)*

**Get Caught !**

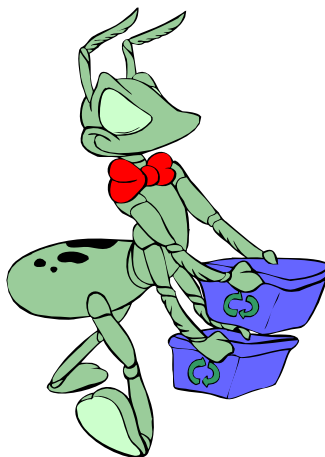
- ❑ Half of all polyester carpet made in the United States is made from recycled plastic (PET). *(Source: EPA.)*
- ❑ On average, it takes 70% less energy to recycle plastic than it does to make it from raw materials. *(Source: Center for Ecological Technology.)*
- ❑ The U.S. plastics recycling industry employs more than 53,000 persons. *(Source: American Plastics Council.)*

### **FACTS: GLASS**

- ❑ Recycling one ton of glass saves 10 gallons of oil. *(Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources.)*
- ❑ Glass never wears out -- it can be recycled forever. We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled -- sand, soda ash, limestone, and feldspar. *(Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook.)*
- ❑ A ton of glass produced from raw materials creates 384 pounds of mining waste. Using 50% recycled glass cuts it by about 75%. 27.8 pounds of air pollution are created for every ton of new glass produced. *(Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook.)*
- ❑ Recycling glass saves 25-32% of the energy used to make glass. *(Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook.)*

### **FACTS: NON-RECYCLABLE STYROFOAM - POLYSTYRENE**

- ❑ It is un-recyclable—you can't make it into new Styrofoam—don't BUY it!
- ❑ Each year American throws away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups. *(Source: Green Consumer.)*
- ❑ Even 500 years from now, the foam coffee cup you used this morning will be sitting in a landfill. *(Source: The Recycler's Handbook.)*



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