

There are many reasons for one to recycle. Most people see these reasons as common sense. While others see the reasons as being pointless or unclear. Regardless of your point of view, all people should be educated about the benefits of recycling and should be compelled to make a positive change that will benefit both themselves and the environment. Recycling provides us with tons of positive outcomes such as reducing carbon emissions, lessening the burden on landfills, improving groundwater quality, reducing air pollution, increasing property value, as well as energy efficiency. There are so many reasons to get started today.

Landfills are probably one of the first things you think of when it comes to recycling. Today they are overflowing at alarming rates. For decades, ocean-side cities have been dumping overflow trash into nearby waters, releasing dangerous items and substances into oceans home to precious wild life. As much as 60-75% of the garbage that is in our country's landfills could actually, be recycled. This means if everyone took the time to recycle, we would require 60-75% less land space for garbage in the future.

Did you know that garbage in landfills can affect the local ground water in the area? Most trash in landfills are not biodegradable or environmentally friendly. The contaminants in these materials get into our water supply through rain and other runoff from landfills making its way to nearby ponds, rivers, lakes, or streams. This not only damages fragile ecosystems, it makes this once fresh water supply dangerous to drink. It is no longer safe to drink from these water ways today when out camping or hiking; even in remote areas.

Believe it or not recycling will actually increase your property value. Communities that recycle reduce the need for landfills. Landfills lower property value because nobody wants to live near a smelly garbage dump. The more your neighbors recycle, the fewer number of landfills your city will need. The little bit of effort it takes to separate and recycle your trash each week will eventually pay off everyone in the community.



Did you know it takes twice as much energy to burn plastic as it does to recycle it? It also takes 64% more energy to make paper than to recycle and reuse it. Companies that use recycled aluminum save 95% energy in the production of new aluminum products compared to companies that use raw materials. The companies also reduce the amount of toxins released in the air by using recycled materials instead of producing raw materials. Every ton of paper recycled, 17 whole trees are saved. This doesn't just save energy, it helps combat carbon gas emissions because each tree can remove as much as 250 lbs. Of carbon dioxide from the air each year. If we all took up these good habits of recycling, it would benefit personal individuals, businesses, and the environment.

A lot of people think that one person can't make a difference, but in the case of recycling, this statement is false. On average each American produces 1600 lbs. of waste every year. As much as 1100lbs of waste could have been recycled. That's over half a ton just for one person. A family of four could reduce waste by over two tons per year just by the simple act of recycling. You don't need to be a "tree hugger" or environmental activist to recycle. Recycling is a responsibility that everyone should be a part of. Its more than just common sense, it's a simple way to preserve our natural resources and protect our clean air and water.