



# Shared Planet Solutions

*Simple - Affordable - Sustainable™*



## The Value of Recycling Stuff We Use Everyday

### What's in it for you?

**We all know that we should recycle, and it's easier than ever with the single stream recycling becoming more commonplace. But challenges still exist, especially when out and about, since only a few municipalities, parks, retail centers, and other places where people gather offer recycling. So here are some everyday examples that demonstrate the incredible value that recycling is to all of us. Hopefully, armed with this knowledge that you can relate to, it will be a no-brainer to go out of your way to responsibly dispose of things that can be recycled, in a covered container, of course.**

### Incredible Value...Needed by you & future generations!

#### **Plastic (bottles, cups, packaging, bags, etc.)**

- Recycling one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours.
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- It takes 70% less energy to recycle plastic than it does to make it from raw materials. This savings far outweigh the energy created as by-products of incineration and land-filling.
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space.
- When one ton of plastic bags is reused or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved.
- 31 million tons of plastic waste were generated in 2010, representing 12.4% of total municipal solid waste in America. But sadly, only 8% of the total plastic waste generated in 2010 was recovered for recycling.

#### **Aluminum & Tin Cans**

- If you recycle just one aluminum can, it will save enough energy to power a TV for three hours, and it is the equivalent of a cup of gasoline (and there's 16 cups in a gallon).
- One ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone.
- We use over 80 billion aluminum cans every year.
- Aluminum Can recycling rate hit 67% in 2012. While this is an improving trend, millions of barrels of oil are still wasted by not recycling the other 33%.

# The value of recycling stuff we use everyday

## (continued)

### Glass (bottles, jars, etc.)

- The energy saved by recycling one glass bottle can light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or run a computer for 30 minutes.
- Recycling glass causes 50% less water pollution than creating it from raw materials.
- Production of glass from raw materials creates approximately 385 pounds of waste for every ton of glass. If recycled glass is substituted for half of these materials, the waste would be cut by more than 80%.
- Glass food and drink containers made up 4% of all the waste generated in 2008. Sadly, only 28% were recycled.

### Paper & Cardboard

- Recycled cardboard only takes 75% of the energy needed to make new cardboard and lessens the emission of sulfur dioxide that is produced when making pulp from trees.
- Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 9 cubic yards of landfill space and 46 gallons of oil.
- Each Sunday, 500,000 trees could be salvaged if everyone recycled their newspaper. If all of our newspapers were recycled for the entire year, we could save about 250 million trees!
- Each year, Americans throw away enough office and writing paper to build a 12 foot high wall, stretching from Seattle to New York City.

## So how does this all add up for you?

- ✓ **Recycling saves natural resources.**
- ✓ **Recycling saves energy.**
- ✓ **Recycling saves money.**
- ✓ **Recycling reduces water & air pollution.**
- ✓ **Recycling minimizes our landfill mountains.**

**Smart people have created and continue to create countless things for our convenience, comfort, and utility.**

**Smart people also created recycling to take advantage of the intrinsic value of these things once they have served their purpose.**

**And it takes smart people to recycle instead of simply tossing, so are you one of the smart ones? *Your family and future generations are counting on it!***

**Remember that it's better to Reduce and Reuse so you can avoid recycling. Learn more at [www.SharedPlanetSolutions.com](http://www.SharedPlanetSolutions.com).**