

# Top Reasons To RECYCLE

1. **Recycling saves trees.** Half the Earth's forests are gone, and up to 95 percent of the original forest area in the U.S. has been cut down.
2. **Recycling protects wildlife habitat and biodiversity.** Using recycled materials reduces the need to extract natural resources such as timber, crude petroleum and mineral ores.
3. **Recycling reduces the use of toxic chemicals.** Making products from already refined waste materials reduces – and often avoids altogether – the need for manufacturers to use toxic chemicals, essential when using virgin materials.
4. **Recycling helps curb global warming.** Recycling one ton of glass results in energy savings of more than 300% and lowers carbon dioxide emissions by 3.46 tons.
5. **Recycling reduces water pollution.** Turning trees into paper is the most water-intensive industrial process in the United States. Paper recycling mills nearly always use less water and they don't pollute the water nearly as much.
6. **Recycling reduces the need for landfills.** Toxic pollution from landfills – including cyanide, dioxins, mercury, methane, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and lead – escapes into the air and leaches into groundwater.
7. **Recycling reduces the need for incinerators.** Municipal waste incinerators spew out all kinds of air pollutants, and are often located in urban neighborhoods.
8. **Recycling creates jobs and promotes economic development.** The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission found that recycling added about \$18.5 billion in value to the economies of 12 Southern states and Puerto Rico in 1995.

