

Ec♻️Facts: Energy

Why use a valuable material or product one time, and then place it in your trash to be buried in a landfill? By recycling materials such as paper or glass bottles, you capture the energy and resources already used to make that product. Because recycled materials have been refined and processed once, manufacturing the second time around is much cleaner and more energy efficient.

How much energy can be saved by recycling?

Metro region residents and businesses recycled 978,900 tons of paper, glass, metal and plastics in 2003. This saved almost 25.3 trillion Btus of energy—enough to power nearly 250,000 homes for one year.

In addition to recycling, residents in the Metro region sent more than 252,000 tons of wood, tires, oil, paint

and solvents to fuel markets, primarily at regional paper mills. These materials generated 2.2 trillion Btus for industry use.

The 1.2 million tons of recovered materials collected in 2003 had a market value of about \$79 million. Paper and scrap metal accounted for more than 85 percent of this value.

A Btu is a British thermal unit – a common way to measure energy. There are 3,412 Btus per kilowatt-hour (kWh) or 3.4 Btu in one watt-hour.



Supplying recycled materials to industry typically requires less energy than supplying raw (unprocessed) material to industry. Less energy used means less burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. When fossil fuels are burned, they release pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide into the air.

In 2000, recycling in the U.S. saved the equivalent of more than five billion gallons of gasoline, reducing dependence on foreign oil by 114 million barrels.

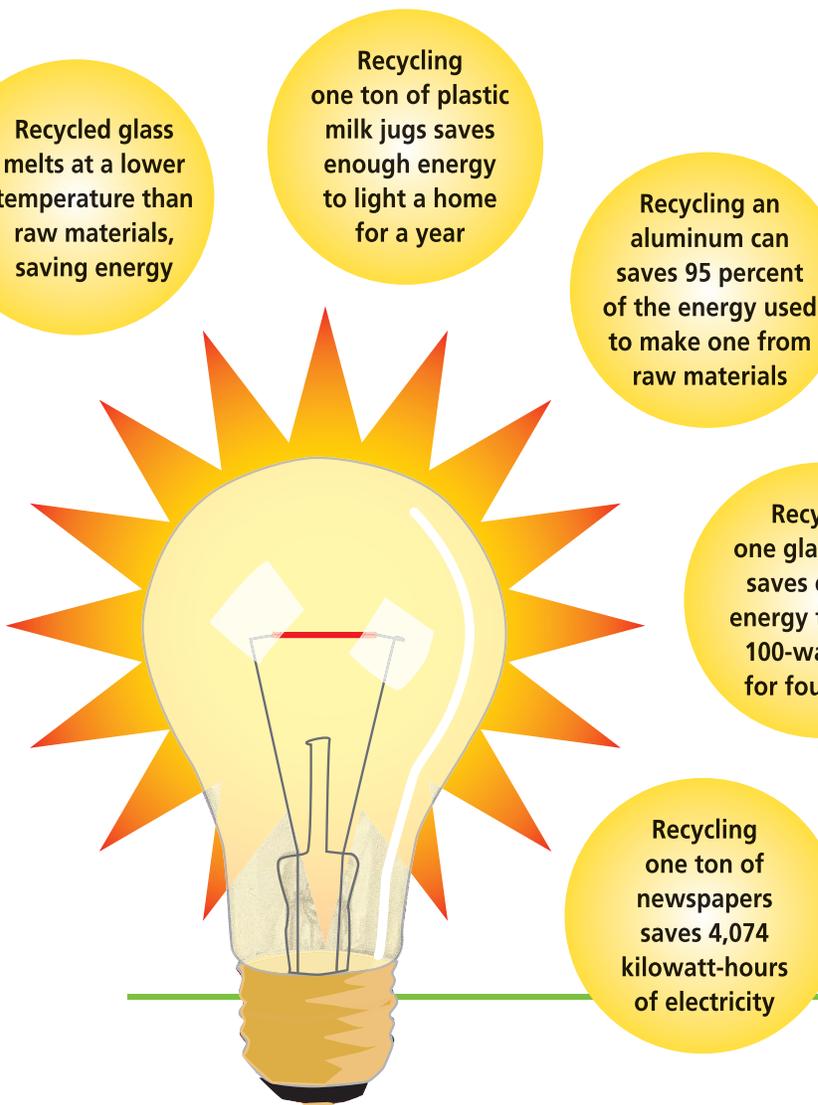
For more information

For additional resources, information or free assistance, please visit www.RecycleAtWork.com or call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.

These fact sheets were created by Metro and your local governments to help reduce waste in the business sector.
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METRO
PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES



Recycled glass melts at a lower temperature than raw materials, saving energy

Recycling one ton of plastic milk jugs saves enough energy to light a home for a year

Recycling an aluminum can saves 95 percent of the energy used to make one from raw materials

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours

Recycling one ton of newspapers saves 4,074 kilowatt-hours of electricity