

## Recycling Makes a Difference

Environmental problems have become so complex that many individuals feel they can have no effect on them. Problems like global warming, hazardous waste, loss of rain forests, endangered species, acid rain, the ozone layer, and the municipal waste crisis can feel out of our control. At the very least, these problems require group and corporate action or government intervention.

But there are some things the individual can control. Our waste reduction and recycling activities can make a difference. That's whyover 1,700 Pennsylvania communities recycle, over three times the number required to recycle by Act 101.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

## Recycling makes a difference! It's the right thing to do!



## Carnegie Recycling

## Carnegie Recycling Schedule by Street

http://carnegieborough.com/documents/RepublicRecyclingSchedule.pdf
Republic Services ~ 412-429-2600 or 800-464-2120

Place all of your recyclable materials in one container:
No separating or sorting needed. We'll do it for you! Recycle all of these items in your Single Sort Recycle Container: Plastics \#1 and \#2; metal beverage and food cans; plastic bottles with narrow necks; newspaper; magazines; junk mail; dry non-coated food paper; boxboard; small flat pieces of corrugated cardboard. (All cardboard must be broken down so it is flat and no more than 3 feet in length or width and tied in a bundle). Please place the materials listied above together loosely mixed in your recycle container.

## These items can't be recycled. Please put them in your trash:

Garbage, food waste, diapers, paper plates, meal or dairy plastic or paper packaging, wax paper, plastic wrap, plastic bags, plastic wrapping film, freezer food packaging, plastic deli take-out packaging or plastic utensils, formed or pellet styrofoam packaging, window glass, ceramics, or dishware, mirrors, light bulbs, glass bottles and jars.

## Holiday Service:

There is no trash or recycling collection on the following six holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Collection of garbage and recycling will be delayed one (1) day if an above mentioned holiday occurs on a Monday - Friday of a holiday week. If the holiday falls on the weekend, service will not be delayed.

## Appliances Containing Refrigerant:

Items such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, water coolers, or any other appliance containing refrigerant will only be picked up if the item has a sticker certifying the refrigerant has been removed. If there is no sticker certifying removal, the item will not be picked up due to laws prohibiting disposal without refrigerant removal certification. It is suggested that you have the company delivering the new appliance dispose of the old one to save on refrigerant removal costs.


Statewide recycling in Pennsylvania began in 1988 with the Municipal Waste Planning Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101) that requires larger municipalities to recycle.

Today, more than 11.6 million residents (at least $94 \%$ of the state's population) have access to recycling. About 79\% have convenient access through curb-side pickup programs. Since Pennsylvania is largely rural, 870 drop-off programs extend recycling to the greatest number of communities.
The Act established a \$2-per-ton fee on all waste disposed at municipal waste landfills. Waste-to-energy facilities established grants for local collection programs, public education, materials processing, composting facilities, equipment and technical training.

Act 101 also requires each county to develop plans to manage its own wastes and assure a minimum of 10 years disposal capacity. Each year, the counties report countywide municipal waste generation and recycling data to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for use in compiling a statewide analysis of recycling and its benefits. Counties are required to submit plan revisions to DEP for approval by the time their remaining disposal capacity is reduced to 3 years.

Pennsylvania recycling efforts cut more than 7.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the air. That same 7.5 million tons can also represent the amount of electricity saved in 1.03 million American homes per year and equals over 1.58 million in passenger vehicles taken off the road for one year.


## Boost your Recycling Skills

Natural Resources Defense Council www.nrdc.org

Tips for cutting waste boosting your recycling skills:

## Shop smart:

Purchase paper and other products for your home and office that are made with post-consumer recycled content and packaged in recyclable materials. Buy in bulk when you can to reduce the amount of packaging that gets thrown away.

## Convenience is key:

Put collection bins in various places around your home and office to make recycling convenient. Use different bins that follow your city's recycling policies, so you don't have to separate it out later.

## Don't forget to reuse:

Paper, plastic, glass and cans aren't the only items that should be diverted from incinerators and landfills. Reduce the environmental impacts of organic waste by composting food scraps, and by leaving short grass clippings on lawns to decompose. Donate old clothing to homeless shelters, thrift stores, animal shelters and other community organizations. Take advantage of manufacturer take-back programs for your unwanted electronics.

## Make waste an endangered species:



Bring your own reusable bags to local stores. Keep a ceramic mug for water or coffee at work rather than using disposable paper or plastic foam cups. Most cities in the United States have clean, drinkable water, so use tap water (filter it if you'd like) and refillable water bottles instead of buying bottled water.

## Talk to your local businesses:

Give positive feedback to store managers and manufacturers who are making good environmental choices.

Take your good habits on the road:
Recycling policies can vary from city to city and from state to state. A plastic container you recycle at home might be garbage-bound in another community. Or something you can't recycle at home might be recyclable in your school or workplace. When traveling away from home, learn the local rules (from municipal websites or signs) and follow them.


## NRDC

## Recycling 101

## Natural Resources Defense Council www.nrdc.org

Recycling is one of the most feel-good and useful environmental practices around. The benefits go way beyond reducing piles of garbage -- recycling protects habitat and biodiversity, and saves energy, water, and resources such as trees and metal ores. Recycling also cuts global warming pollution from manufacturing, landfilling and incinerating.

But recycling means a lot more than bringing your newspapers and cans to the curb. Truly successful recycling involves minimizing waste along the entire life cycle of a product, from acquiring raw materials to manufacturing, using and disposing of a product. Most environmental impacts associated with the products we buy occur before we open the package, so buying products made from recycled materials is just as important as sorting waste into the right bins.

And when we reduce the amount of stuff we buy in the first place, and reuse what we can, we reduce the environmental harm associated with acquiring raw materials and manufacturing.


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