

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

The purpose of this informational guide is to inform the public on the benefits of recycling. According to the Californians Against Waste (CAW) the following are the benefits, facts, statistics, resources and legislation available on their website at <http://www.cawrecycles.org>.

- Conserve resources for the future.
- Prevent emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants.
- Save energy.
- Supply valuable raw materials to industry.
- Create jobs.
- Stimulate the development of greener technologies.
- Reduce the need for new landfills and incinerators.

SOME BASIC RECYCLING FACTS:

- Every ton of paper recycled a year saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.
- Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.

REDUCING POLLUTION

According to the U.S. EPA, methane is the second largest source of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, and landfills account for 37% of methane gas output. By reducing and recycling properly organic materials, including paper, we can divert them from landfill, thereby reducing anaerobic decomposition and the production of methane gas.

ENERGY SAVINGS

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
- The recycling of one glass container saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

- Every pound of steel recycled, it can save enough energy to light a 60-watt bulb for 24 hours.
- Every ton of paper recycled can save up to 4,200 kilowatt hours of energy.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- A Diverse Industry...Recycling Means Business in California.
- Economic Benefits...Recycling Adds Greater Economic Value than Throwing It All Away.
- Job Creation...Recycling Creates More Jobs than Landfilling.
- Urban Renewal...Recycling Creates Opportunities for Urban Renewal.
- Economic Growth...Recycling Generates Business Growth in California.
- Business Efficiency...Waste Reduction and Recycling Increase Business Efficiency and Competitiveness.
- Product Innovation...Recycling Encourages Product Innovation.
- Saving Business Money...Waste Reduction and Recycling Mean Cost Savings for Business in California.
- Saving Public Dollars...Waste Reduction and Recycling Are Cost Effective for Local Government.
- The Environment...Waste Reduction and Recycling Protect California's Environment.

COST SAVINGS

For many businesses, recycling has proven to be cost effective-using less energy to obtain and process materials, and reducing pollution and waste management costs. Here are a few examples:

- ❑ Every year, the makers of shipping pallets consume half of all hardwood and 10% of all lumber used nationally. At Eastman Kodak, redesigned shipping pallets and altered stacking patterns saved over 7 million pounds of wood and \$380,000.00 in a single year.
- ❑ At Hewlett-Packard's Roseville manufacturing facility, 93% of packaging waste generated is now re-used or recycled, saving the computer giant 1.45 million in disposal costs.

Recycling saves energy throughout the production cycle because recycled materials require less processing than raw "virgin" materials.

CALIFORNIA RECYCLING LAWS

Here are a few of the major recycling laws that have left a major impact on recycling in California.

- ❑ CA Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), not only created the CA Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), along with SB 1016 (2008) require local jurisdictions in California to reach waste reduction goals of 50%.

As a state, Californians have met that goal and have achieved a statewide diversion rate of 58%. Local governments have successfully implemented solid waste programs and policies, such as curbside recycling and landfill bans, that have decreased materials being sent to landfills, created a recycling collection infrastructure, and developed markets for recycled materials.

CalRecycle www.calrecycle.ca.gov is the new home of California's recycling and waste reduction efforts. Officially known as the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, CalRecycle is a new department within the California Natural Resources Agency and administers programs formerly managed by the State's Integrated Waste Management Board and Division of Recycling.

- ❑ California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act aka "The Bottle Bill" (AB 2020). To find a beverage container recycling center where

you will receive California Refund Value (CRV) visit www.BottlesAndCans.com.

- ❑ AB 3056 (Hancock, 2006) updated and FAQs from Department of Conservation.
- ❑ Electronic Waste Recycling Act (SB 20). Discarded electronic products can present environmental hazards if not properly managed. To find out more about California's electronic waste recycling law and what it means to you, visit www.eRecycle.org.
- ❑ Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act (AB 1125) went into effect in California on July 1, 2006, requires retailers that sell rechargeable batteries to take-back and recycle them. Modeled after the same take-back concept of the cell phone bill, this legislation creates convenience and incentive for consumers.
- ❑ Cell Phone Recycling Act of 2004 (AB 2901) went into effect in California on July 1, 2006. The CAW sponsored electronic waste recycling law requires retailers to take-back, at no cost to the consumer, to recycle or reuse old cell phones.
- ❑ Recycled Newsprint Act (AB 1305) passed in 1989, requires major newsprint consumers, such as newspapers, to use 25% recycled newsprint immediately, and 50% by the year 2000. Currently, at least 50 percent of the newsprint used by printers and publishers in California must contain a minimum or 40 percent postconsumer paper fiber. The CIWMB oversees these mandates and receive reports annually about the amount of recycled-content newsprint that is used.

OTHER RECYCLABLE MATERIAL

- ❑ Used Oil Recycling. Oil doesn't wear out it just gets dirty.
- ❑ Tire Recycling. Californians use a lot of tires, which can be recycled in California to produce crumb rubber for new products, recycled in rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC), used in civil engineering applications, or combusted as fuel.
- ❑ Food Waste. Food scraps can be turned into valuable soil amendments through the simple techniques of composting or feeding a worm box.

- ❑ Construction debris. Find out more about how to recycle construction debris such as asphalt, drywall, and metal at www.calrecycle.ca.gov.
- ❑ Recycling Tools. Learn more about recycling tools at www.calrecycle.ca.gov.
- ❑ School Waste Reduction and Recycling. Find out more about how schools can help communities reduce their waste, while saving money and teaching kids valuable lessons at www.calrecycle.ca.gov.

CalRecycle's website is designed for California consumers, businesses, recycling and waste-hauling industries, nonprofit organizations, educational facilities, and others. There you can watch the [Best Practices in Waste Reduction Video](#) and learn how reducing waste can save you money, conserve energy and resources, and reduce air, soil, and water pollution. CalRecycle can help you with technical, financial, and permitting assistance.

To learn more on the benefits of recycling, you can visit the following websites:

- www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ConDemo
- www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle
- www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Schools
- www.earth911.com
- www.co.kern.ca.us/wmd/Services/Recycle/recycle.html#demo
- <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/pdfs/KernCountyRecyclingGuide.pdf>

Recycling is the practice of recovering used materials from the waste stream and then incorporating those same materials into the manufacturing process.

Successful recycling also depends on manufacturers making products made of recycled materials. Do your part—"close the loop" and buy products made or recycled materials whenever possible.

LOCAL RECYCLING DROP-OFF SITES

- ❑ Benz Recycle, 19201 Neuralia Road (South), California City, CA 93505, (760) 373-8777.
- ❑ California Metals, 19577 Neuralia Road (South), California City, CA 93505, (323) 283-4678.