

Going Green at Bloomsburg



Little Known Recycling, Energy and Conservation Facts

- 25% to 30% of all the energy used in public schools across the U.S. is wasted.
- Turning off the lights in one classroom for one hour keeps over two pounds of pollutants out of the environment.
- The United States has about 5% of the world's population, yet we consume about 25% of the world's energy!
- It takes 16 times more energy to make a new aluminum can than it does to recycle one.
- Recycling one-aluminum saves enough energy to power a computer for 3 hours.
- Only about 700 paper bags can be made from one 15-year old tree.
- The typical American throws away 60 pounds of plastic packing each year.
- To produce one pound of butter, 10 gallons of water is required.
- About 75% of the water we use in our homes is used in the bathroom.
- Refrigerators in the U.S. consume equivalent of more than 50% of the power generated by all of our nuclear power plants.
- Lights consume about 20% of all the energy used in the United States.
- A ¼ inch crack under your front door will waste as much energy as a 2" X 2" hole in your wall.
- If we all installed "low-flow" showerheads, we could save billions of gallons of water every year.
- If we all recycled all our Sunday papers, 500,000 trees could be saved each week.
- A 10-minute shower can use more than 50 gallons of water.
- The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes.
- Every year Americans throw away enough office paper to build a wall 12 feet high stretching from LA to NY.
- At the rate Americans are generating garbage, we need 500 new dumpsites every year.
- Over a billion trees are used to make disposable diapers every year.
- Americans buy over a billion incandescent light bulbs every year. That's equal to 3 acres of bulbs a day.
- Compact florescent bulbs last 5 times longer than a conventional bulb and uses 70% less energy.
- Turning lights out 2 hours earlier each day at your school can save as much as \$500 per month or \$5,000 each school year. (based on 1,000 light fixtures).
- Turning lights off in one classroom for one hour keeps over 2 pounds of pollutants out of the environment
- Imagine how much energy your family car would use in 156 years! That is how much the world uses every second of every day. In the time it takes you to snap your fingers, the world uses the equivalent of 85,000 gallons of gasoline!
- Regular faucets use 3 to 7 gallons per minute of water, assuming 20 minutes of faucet usage per day that's 60 to 140 gallons of water each day or 1,800 to 4,200 gallons each month for each household. Low flow faucet can cut that usage in half!
- Everyday in the United States we withdraw 340 billion gallons of fresh water from streams, reservoirs, and wells – an amount equal to 1,000 gallons of water per person per day.
- Electrical energy used to power lights, computers, TV's, etc., is generated by power plants. These power plants use coal, oil, natural gas, or nuclear fuel to run them.
- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that an active energy conservation program can save as much as 30% of energy consumption.
- As much as 33% of our electric energy is used for lights or about \$2,000,000.00.watts they use.
- A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That's closed loop recycling at its finest!



- Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!
- There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.
- We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.
- At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!
- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- Recycling a single run of the Sunday New York Times would save 75,000 trees.
- If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year!
- If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25,000,000 trees a year.
- If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are in the U.S.!!!
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.
- Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year!
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
- An estimated 80,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres of space -- that's almost 40 football fields. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.
- Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!
- A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
- Motor oil never wears out, it just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, re-refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil.
- On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a ton of trash per person, per year.
- A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!
- Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for 3 hours or a tv for 2 hours.
- The aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 90 days after collection, remelting, rolling, manufacturing and distribution.
- An average of 113,204 aluminum cans are recycled every minute of every day.
- Recycling one ton of aluminum saves 37 barrels of oil.
- Recycling 125 aluminum cans saves enough energy to power one home for 1 day.
- It takes approximately 1 million years for a glass bottle to break down in a landfill.
- In the U.S. today, 34% of all glass containers are recycled.
- Most bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass.
- Glass never wears out - it can be recycled forever.
- Recycling glass saves 25-32% of the energy used to make glass.
- Glass containers save 9 gallons of fuel (oil) for every ton of glass recycled.
- Americans use over 67,000,000 tons of paper each year, or 600 pounds per person.
- It takes more than 500,000 trees to produce the newspapers Americans read each Sunday, yet only 30% of all newspapers are recycled.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, 7,000 gallons of water and 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity - enough energy to power the average American home for 5 months.
- Producing recycled paper requires about 60% of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.



- Every day, Americans buy 62 million newspapers and throw out 44 million. That's the equivalent of dumping 500,000 trees into a landfill every week.
 - If everyone in the U.S. recycled just 1/10th of their newsprint, we would save the estimated equivalent of about 25 million trees a year.
 - Plastics require 100 to 400 years to break down in a landfill.
 - Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from raw materials.
 - For every 7 trucks needed to deliver paper grocery bags to the store, only 1 is needed to carry the same number of plastic grocery bags.
 - By using plastic in packaging, American product manufacturers save enough energy each year to power a city of 1 million homes for 3 years.
 - As much as 40% of selected plastic parts from damaged or discarded cars are repaired and reused.
 - Over 1.5 billion pounds of post-consumer plastic bottles were recycled during 1999, accounting for 22% (by weight) of all plastic bottles produced in the U.S.
 - PET bottles (soda & water) and HDPE bottles (milk, laundry detergent) are the most commonly collected plastic materials in community recycling programs.
 - 95% of all plastic bottles in the U.S. market are manufactured from PET or HDPE. 56% of recycled PET finds a market in the manufacture of fiber (carpet & clothing). 29% of HDPE recycled bottles go into making new bottles and 18% goes into the plastic pipe industry.
 - Recycling 1 ton of plastic can save 1-2 thousand gallons of gas.
 - Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the state of Texas
 - The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.
 - A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!
- Computer monitors waste over \$900 million in electricity per year because:
- 60 % of all computers and monitors are left on at night!
 - 40% of all monitors are not enabled for power management!
- This electricity wasted is equivalent to 9 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year or the emissions of 1.5 million automobiles!

