



recyclemoreminnesota.org

Recycle MORE Minnesota

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Paper Recycling Benefits Minnesota

Energy, economy and the environment. What do these all have in common? Many people would agree paper recycling is good for the environment. But do you realize it is good for Minnesota's economy and reduces energy consumption as well? The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates that our state throws away 1.3 million tons of recyclable material each year. We can all do MORE. Minnesota residents, businesses, schools and organizations can help benefit Minnesota's energy, economy and environment by taking the simplest of actions...recycling paper.

- **Helping Reduce Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gases:**

According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the production of recycled paper used 65 percent less energy than producing paper with virgin materials and produces 95 percent less air pollution than paper production using raw materials. In 2006, Minnesota recycled more than 1 million tons of paper products, which resulted in a net reduction of greenhouse gases of 2.2 million tons of CO₂. This is equal to taking more than 600,000 cars off the road.

- **Helping Minnesota's Economy:**

The recycling industry is directly and indirectly responsible for 20,000 jobs in Minnesota. In fact, recycling creates four jobs for every one job created in the waste management and disposal industries. The recycling industry is responsible for adding \$2.98 billion dollars to the state's economy and there is still more material to be recycled. The Minnesota Pollution control agency estimates the value of the 1.3 million tons of recyclable material thrown away each year at \$312 million. It costs Minnesotans \$200 million to throw this material away. Put it back into our economy and recycle more paper.

- **Helping Minnesota's Environment:**

Recycling reduces air and water pollution, as well as conserves our natural resources. Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water; recycling the average Minnesotan's junk mail for a year would spare seven trees.

Do MORE, to find more information about how you can recycle more paper at home, at work, school, and on the go...check out: www.recyclemoreminnesota.org.

About RAM: The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with more than 200 members from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. The Minnesota affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition, RAM is committed to promoting

resource conservation through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting and purchasing practices using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods available in Minnesota.

About Recycle MORE Minnesota: The Recycle MORE Minnesota campaign is a joint effort between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Recycling Association of Minnesota to help increase awareness about recycling throughout the state. We are working with our partners to promote recycling at home, work and on the go. We are working to increase recycling rates in the state to 50% by 2011 through educational and social marketing efforts.

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