



**Recycle MORE Minnesota**  
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## It's Getting Hot in Here...Did You Know Recycling Helps Reduce Global Warming?

Global warming is a hot topic these days; many people want to know what they can do to help. "Should I get an electric car?" "Should I live closer to where I work?" These are some of the questions Minnesotans face. Did you know there is an easier way to help mitigate global warming? When you recycle you are actually helping reduce harmful greenhouse emissions because it takes less energy to make products from recycled materials than virgin materials. Recycling helps in many ways, for example, manufacturers using recycled materials save more than 500 million dollars in energy costs per year.

### Recycling Paper:

- Pulp and paper are the fifth largest industrial energy consumer in the world! Production of recycled paper uses 65 percent less energy than paper production using raw materials. Reducing energy consumption reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Methane and nitrous oxide, both greenhouse gases, are emitted during wastewater treatment. Production of recycled paper uses 80 percent less water than paper production using raw materials, reducing methane and nitrous oxide, and therefore greenhouse gas emissions.

### Recycling Plastic Bottles:

- In 2006 Minnesotans recycled more than 48,000 tons of plastic, which equates to reducing CO2 emissions by 63,000 tons. That energy savings has a real cost savings as well: Minnesotans saved nearly \$1.5 million in energy costs by recycling plastic in 2006.

### Recycling Aluminum Cans:

Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours, according to the National Recycling Coalition. In 2006, we recycled enough metal, glass and plastics to heat more than 410,574 houses for one year. That's all the homes in Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, Minneapolis and St. Paul!

- By recycling aluminum there is a huge energy savings! Recycling of aluminum takes 95 percent less energy than it does to produce aluminum from virgin materials. Breathe easier. When you recycle aluminum you are making a huge impact on the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

Recycling your paper, bottles and cans really does have a great impact on Minnesota's economy and environment.

**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 to increase recycling rates in the state to 50 percent by 2011 through educational and social marketing efforts.

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