



Recycle MORE Minnesota

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Why Recycling MORE is Good for Minnesota

Environmental Benefits

- In 2006, 41% of municipal solid waste was recycled; this saved 46 trillion BtU's of energy— nearly enough energy to power all the homes in Ramsey County for one year.
- By increasing recycling, Minnesota can reduce the amount of waste that is landfilled. Landfills create harmful greenhouse gasses. In 2006, Minnesotans were responsible for landfilling over 2.1 million tons of waste.
- In 2003, recycling resulted in a net reduction of greenhouse gases of 6 million metric tons of CO₂ equal to taking more than 1.3 million cars off the road.
- Recycling reduces air and water pollution, as well as conserves our natural resources. Minnesotans save over 5 million trees each year by recycling.

Economic Benefits

- Minnesota throws away more than 1.3 million tons of recyclable material each year with an estimated value of \$312 million dollars. It costs Minnesota \$200 million to dispose of this material.
- Currently recycling rates remain flat, while Minnesota is producing greater amounts of waste.
- Minnesota's recycling industry is directly and indirectly responsible for 20,000 jobs; \$64 million in tax revenue; and adds \$2.98 billion to the state economy.
- From '01-'03, many sectors of the Minnesota economy lost jobs; the recycling industry gained 3.4% in employment.
- Minnesota's recycling and waste-to-energy facilities generate \$10 million in annual sales.

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. RAM is 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.

January 2008. This sample fact sheet was provided by the MPCA and RAM as a part of the Recycle MORE Minnesota Education Campaign. Please help us track the use of this campaign. Please send an e-mail to more@recycleminnesota.org with a description of how the article was used, the date it will be published, and the estimated circulation of the publication. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Maggie Mattacola 651-641-4589.

