



[recyclemoreminnesota.org](http://recyclemoreminnesota.org)

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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.

### **Help 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 CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equal to taking more than 600,000 cars off the road.

### **Help 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.

### **Help 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, visit [www.recyclemoreminnesota.org](http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org).

**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. Established in 2008, we are working with our partners to promote recycling at home, work and on the go, with the goal of increasing the state recycling rate to 50% by 2011 through educational and social marketing efforts.

**Help us track the use of this campaign!**

This toolkit 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 [info@recyclemoreminnesota.org](mailto:info@recyclemoreminnesota.org) with a description of how and when the materials were used and, if published, the estimated circulation of the publication. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact us at (651) 296-6300.