



recyclemoreminnesota.org

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It's Getting Hot In Here...

Did you know: Recycling helps slow the rate of climate change?

Climate change 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 climate change? 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:

The pulp and paper industry is 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.

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 leads to 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. 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 gases.

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

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 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.