

Recycling Makes a Difference in Georgia

Recycling is good for the environment and good for Georgia's economy

- Paper mills use 40% less energy to make paper from recycled paper than they do making paper from virgin timber. (Dept of Energy)
- A ton of paper made from recycled fibers conserves 7,000 gallons of water (DOE)

Recycle 4 Our Economy

Georgia has strong markets for recyclables

Georgia's Paper Industry:

- Recycles almost 8% of all the paper consumed in the United States
- Includes 16 paper mills using recycled content, 9 relying exclusively on recycled fiber

Plastic Beverage Containers (PET)

- 1/3rd of all Plastic Beverage Containers recycled in N. America get recycled in Georgia – turned into carpet

Aluminum Recycling

- Novelis, one of the largest aluminum recyclers in the world, processes used beverage cans in Greensboro GA, with its North American headquarters located in Atlanta

Glass Recycling

- 3 Manufacturers in the state use recycled glass to make new glass products

Recycle 4 Georgia

We need to recycle: Paper, Glass, Metal, and Plastic

Georgians annually throw away an estimated:

- 1.9 million tons of paper a year
- 1.0 million tons of plastic
- 360,000 tons of metal
- 240,000 tons of glass

If we recycled just 1.7 million tons of the aluminum, paper, glass, and plastic thrown away annually in Georgia, we would:

- Conserve 4% of the total energy consumed annually within the state or the equivalent of the transportation energy consumed by over 1,000,000 Georgians each year; and
- Conserve over 7 million barrels of oil

Georgia has the 2nd largest end use market infrastructure in the nation for recovered materials - meaning what we recycle in Georgia can be used in our state or within very close proximity of our state borders for re-manufacturing of goods containing recycled content.

Recycle 4 You!

Individual action does make a difference.

Did you know that recycling can save enough energy to offset the energy you consume to light a room, run a computer, and watch TV? It can even offset the water you use in your shower!

- Recycling 1 glass bottle will save enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hrs
- Recycling 1 aluminum can will run a computer for 3 hours
- Recycling 1 soft drink bottle will save enough energy to run a TV for 1 ½ hours; and
- Recycling 5 lbs of paper will conserve enough water to "offset" the water used in a typical shower.

Recycling Resources for Georgia

HOMES

GRC - Ecoville www.georgiarecycles.org
Earth 911 - www.earth911.org

RECYCLING PROGRAM MANAGERS

Curbside Value Partnership Recycling Coordinator's Toolbox

<http://www.recyclecurbside.org/toolkit>

EPA Region 4 Municipal Government Toolkit www.epa.gov/region4/recycle

Georgia Waste Composition Model www.recycle4georgia.com

BUSINESSES

P2AD Sustainable Office Toolkit (Waste Reduction Module)

http://www.p2ad.org/toolkit/modules_1_1.html

Georgia Recycling Markets Directory www.recycle4georgia.com

America Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA)

Guides to establish sustainable recycling programs in offices, schools and

communities http://www.afandpa.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Environment_and_Recycling/Recycling/Recycling.htm

Earth 911-Helping Business Help the Environment

www.Earth911Business.com

EVERYONE

Aluminum Association www.aluminum.org

American Chemistry Council-Plastics Div www.plastics.org

American Forest & Paper Association www.afandpa.org

Carpet America Recovery Effort www.carpetrecovery.org

EPA www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/index.htm

Georgia Beverage Assoc www.georgiabev.org

Glass Packaging Institute www.gpi.org

National Recycling Coalition www.nrc-recycle.org

SERDC www.serdc.org

Steel Recycling Institute www.recycle-steel.org

US Composting Council www.compostingcouncil.org

US EPA Greenscapes www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes

STATE AGENCY ASSISTANCE

Georgia Dept of Community Affairs www.dca.state.ga.us (Click Environmental Mgmt)

Keep Georgia Beautiful www.keepgeorgiabehautiful.org

Georgia DNR-Environmental Protection Div www.epd.org (Click Land)

Environmental Education in Georgia www.eeingeorgia.org

Georgia DNR-P2AD www.p2ad.org

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority www.gefa.org

