It takes more energy to make a new product like a can or bottle from virgin materials than it does to make a product by recycling.

Recycling saves energy, natural resources, money, time, landfill space, makes less pollution including less greenhouse gasses and creates jobs!

Recycling Steel... Environmental Savings

When we recycle metal (steel), we
Use 40 percent less water than used to make virgin steel.
Reduce air pollution by 86 percent.
Reduce water pollution by 76 percent.
For every can we recycle, we
Save enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 26 hours.
For every ton we recycle, we
Save 2,500 pounds of iron ore. 1,000 pounds of coal and 40 pounds of limestone.

Litter Facts:
It takes steel cans up to 100 years to decompose.

Recycling Paper... Environmental Savings

For every ton of paper recycled, we...
Save 463 gallons of oil.
Save 7,000 gallons of water.
Make 60 pounds less of air pollution.
Save 3 cubic yards of landfill space.
Save 4,100 kilowatt hours of energy.
Save 17 trees.
Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds per year!

Litter Facts:
It takes paper up to one year to decompose.

Recycling Aluminum... Environmental Savings

When we recycle aluminum, we
Reduce energy use by 90 percent.
Reduce air pollution by 95 percent.
Save enough energy recycling just one can to run a TV for 3 hours.
For every ton we recycle, we
Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 13 tons!
Saves 237 Btu's of energy.

Litter Facts:
It takes aluminum cans 200 - 500 years to decompose.

Recycling Glass... Environmental Savings

When we recycle glass, we
Save 25 percent of the energy necessary to make glass with virgin materials.

For every ton of glass recycled, we
Saves 1,330 pounds of sand,
410 pounds of soda ash,
380 pounds of limestone, and
151 pounds of feldspar.
Reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 3.46 tons.

For every bottle we recycle, we
Save enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours.
Save the equivalent in energy of 10 gallons of oil.

Litter Facts:
Glass can last for thousands of years. It does not decompose.

Recycling Plastic... Environmental Savings

For every ton of plastic recycled, we...
Save 76 million Btu's of energy.

It takes 1,050 milk jugs to make one 6-foot plastic lumber park bench.

It takes 5 soda bottles to make the fiberfill for one ski jacket.

Litter Facts:
Plastic bottles can take over 1,000 years to decompose.

Write or call us:
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7253
(518) 402-8704

or email us at:
dshmwrr@gw.dec.state.ny.us

or visit our website:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/294.html

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

GEE WHIZ RECYCLING FACTS!

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