

Recycling Fun Facts

*Courtesy of the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department --
(Visit www.HillsboroughRecycles.org for more info.)*

General Recycling Facts:

- The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5 percent of the world's people generate 40 percent of the world's waste.
- You can walk one mile along an average highway in the United States and see about 1,457 pieces of litter.

Environment/Energy:

- Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within six weeks.
- Trashing just one aluminum can is like wasting the energy equivalent of six ounces of gasoline.
- During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.
- Last year Hillsborough County residents recycled enough aluminum cans to offset the use of almost 2 million gallons of gasoline. That's enough gas to fill the average car more than 124,000 times!
- Recycling one glass bottle conserves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Paper mills use 40% less energy to make paper from recycled paper than they do making paper from timber.
- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- Last year, Hillsborough County residents saved over 345,800 trees by recycling 20,344 tons of paper.

Water Conservation:

- A ton of paper made from recycled fibers conserves 7,000 gallons of water.
- Recycled paper production uses 59 percent less water compared to paper production from virgin resources. Typically, older virgin paper mills will use 100 pounds of water to make one pound of paper.
- Recycling 5 lbs of paper will conserve enough water to "offset" the water used in a typical shower. Last year, Hillsborough County recycled over 20,344 tons of paper. By recycling this much paper, we saved 142.4 million gallons of water. That's enough water to fill almost 6,000 swimming pools! How's that for getting your feet wet?

Landfill Space:

- About one-third of an average landfill is made up of packaging material!
- On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a ton of trash per person, per year. (<http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>)
- Each year, the US population discards 16 BILLION diapers, 1.6 BILLION pens, 2 BILLION razor blades, 220 MILLION car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the US commercial air fleet four times over.
- Last year, Hillsborough County residents recycled enough materials to save 91,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

Our county-wide goal:

- If Hillsborough County recycled just 10 percent more this year, that would:
 - Offset enough to water the average lawn 917,000 times!
 - Be enough to run a television for 140 million hours
 - Take 11,000 dump trucks off Hillsborough County's roads

(Sources: Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department, www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html, Curbside Value Partnership, the Aluminum Association, US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Recycling Coalition.)