

Recycling Matters!

How recycling benefits everyone in Massachusetts

Recycling saves money.



We throw away 1.5 million tons of paper every year. If we recycled half of this paper, we would save nearly **\$52 million** in disposal costs.

Recycling means jobs.



19,000 people are employed at 1,400 recycling businesses and organizations in Massachusetts. These businesses have an annual payroll of \$557 million and produce \$3.5 billion in sales receipts.



Recycling reduces greenhouse gases.

Recycling helps Massachusetts residents reduce the equivalent of **2 million metric tons** of carbon dioxide annually. That's like taking 1.6 million passenger cars off the road for a year.



Recycling conserves energy.

Recycling in Massachusetts saved over **85 trillion BTUs of energy** last year, enough to power 820,292 homes for one year.

Recycling saves resources.

Massachusetts recycled enough paper last year to prevent the cutting of nearly **17 million trees**.

Brought to you by MassDEP

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Recycle.

a little
effort
a Big
difference

Learn more:

www.mass.gov/dep

Does it really get recycled?

Where do my recyclables go after pick-up?

- Massachusetts has seven processing facilities that sort and bale over 500,000 tons of recyclables each year. After processing, your recyclables are ready to enter the “recycling marketplace.”

Who uses recyclables after they're sorted?

- Recyclables are valuable commodities in today's global economy. About half of the bottles, cans, and paper collected in Massachusetts are sold to manufacturing plants in the Northeast; the other half goes to markets in China, India, and Brazil.

What is made out of all that stuff?

- Paper and cardboard are turned into cereal and cracker boxes, book covers, and game boards at recycling paper mills in Fitchburg and Haverhill.
- Glass bottles and jars are melted and used to make new containers at facilities such as St. Gobain Containers in Milford.
- Plastic soda bottles become polyester fiberfill for jackets and sleeping bags, or polar fleece made by Malden Mills in Lawrence.
- Milk jugs, detergent bottles, and other #2 plastics become landscaping timbers and whiskey barrel planters made by Smartware Products in Leominster.

A Little Effort *Does* Make a Big Difference

Recycling - It conserves resources, supports local businesses, and saves YOU money.

To learn how to recycle in your community visit: www.earth911.org