

Recycling



By the Numbers



544,000

Trees saved if every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100% recycled ones.



20 million

Tons of electronic waste thrown away each year. One ton of scrap from discarded computers contains more gold than can be produced from 17 tons of gold ore.



315 kg

Amount of CO₂ not released into the atmosphere each time a metric ton of glass is used to create new glass products.



\$160 billion

Value of the global recycling industry that employs over 15 million people.



79 million tons

Amount of waste material diverted away from disposal in 2005 through recycling and composting.



5%

Fraction of the energy it takes to recycle aluminum versus mining & refining new aluminum.



9 cubic yards

Amount of landfill space saved by recycling one ton of cardboard.



51.5%

percentage of the paper consumed in that was recovered for recycling in 2005.



98% : Percentage of glass bottles in Denmark that are refillable.
98% of those are returned by consumers for reuse.

Top 5 Recycling Countries



Switzerland **52%**



Austria **49.7%**



Germany **48%**



Netherlands **46%**



Norway **40%**

The Global Face of Recycling

India

- In Dharavi, India, many people make a living by creating their own recycling factories. It is estimated that the self-made recycling industry employs roughly **200,000** people. It's not merely taking care of waste, but a way of life and a source of income.
- India recycles roughly **40%** of their e-waste a year.

Europe

- Austria takes the cake by recycling roughly **60%** of its waste.
- The United Kingdom recycles roughly **17.7%** of its waste. Ireland, Italy, and Portugal are around the same percentage.

Japan & China

- The citizens of China who diligently collect recyclables off the street are numbered around **2.5** million people. These scrap collectors earn the equivalent of **\$150** a month which is roughly half of what a cab driver earns in that country in the same time frame.
- It is estimated that **20%** of the country's waste is disposed of improperly in China.
- In Japan, recycling is a **\$360** billion dollar industry.
- Beijing has built the world's largest recycling facility and continues to install recycling bins.
- Beijing hopes to increase their recycling rate from **10%** to **80%** by 2010.

South America

- In Brazil, nearly 500 cooperatives employ approximately **500,000** recycling collectors. This is a **\$3 billion** industry.
- Fifty percent of the **140,000** tons of trash generated daily in Brazil is recycled.
- Chile opened its 1st electronic scrap recycling facility in **2005**.
- Peru opened its first recycling plant in **2007**, which processes plastic packaging.

Africa

- The Glass Recycling Company has partnered with the government and glass manufacturers in South Africa in an attempt to increase the current glass recycling rate. This partnership increased recycling rates from **148,000** tons to **183,000** tons of glass recycling in roughly a year and a half.