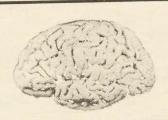


January 13, 2000

- The triangular shaped recycle symbol arrows found on products does not mean that the product necessarily has recycled content. It only reminds the consumer that the product can be recycled (where facilities exist).
- It takes 95 percent less energy to use recycled aluminum in cans than it does to make them out of new, mined aluminum.
- Generally recycled products create less air and water pollution than the same products made with virgin materials

Since we have a bit of recycling theme going on this week, it seems that a few tips on how to buy recycled products are in order. It is not quite enough to just recycle products you've already bought. It is also important to complete the cycle and buy the products which are fashioned from recycled materials, which will show manufacturers that there is a market for recycled goods, and that consumers are now demanding this sort of more sustainable production.

- Check for labels, and select products which have the highest percentage of 'post-consumer' recycled materials.
- Beware of claims that a product is 'eco-safe,' 'environmentally friendly,' or 'earth-safe.' The only way to tell for sure is to check for the recycled content.
- You can always be fairly certain that aluminum cans, glass, steel cans and egg cartons (pressed pulp containers) contain at least 25 to 50 percent recycled materials.



BRAINS NEEDED

If you can contribute, come to a meeting.

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Ouestion:

Hey greengirl, the article in the paper [Nike, environment, and social activism in one breath? Melanie Wright, November 25, 1999] was informative, although I think that 'NIKE' will have long decades of repentance before they can claim to be an ecologically coherent corporation. But, what about the recycling of shoes? I think the public would greatly appreciate a few tips on how to recycle runners and other odd articles.

Spiritually I like the idea of my old Adidas being reincarnated into a pair of karate shoes, please show the public how to put their shoes to rest. And what shoe companies are more environmentally friendly than others? Thanks, '6 billion people, 3 million shoes, a lot of wasted sole.'

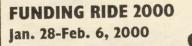
Answer:



Kudos to 'wasted sole' for being the first real person to ask green girl a question! And what an excellent question it is. So excellent in fact, that the editor decided to feature the answer in a whole article ... which is definitely not to be mistaken for a scramble to fill space after coming back from the holidays. So let your eyes wander over to the article entitled: Recycling your sole.

Send all questions and comments to: gazette@is2.dal.ca, or drop them off at the Gazette office, rm 312, SUB.

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