

DID YOU KNOW? SOME USEFUL FACTS



One tonne of paper recycled saves three cubic metres of landfill space and approximately 19 trees.

It takes a 15 year old tree to provide 2,600 sheets of 8½" x 11" photocopy paper (about half a box).

Recycled paper requires up to 50% less energy to produce. The production of recycled paper uses 15% to 60% less water than the production of paper from virgin fibre.

Approximately 80% of office waste is paper.

Recycling one tonne of steel cans saves approximately 1.5 tonnes of iron ore and the energy equivalent to 568 litres of oil. If the oil were gasoline you could drive from Toronto to Edmonton and back at an average of 10 km per litre.

Throwing out one aluminum pop can wastes as much energy as pouring out a half-filled can of gasoline.

It takes 95% less energy to produce aluminum from recycled materials than from raw materials. For steel the saving is 74%, and for copper 90%.

For every tonne of old glass recycled there is an average energy savings of 30% of the energy used to produce the same amount of glass from virgin materials.

When waste glass is used in the manufacturing process, stack emissions are reduced; this means less air pollution.

Recycling one tonne of glass saves 135 litres of oil and 1.2 tonnes of raw material. Making one new bottle from recycled glass saves enough energy to illuminate a 100 watt light bulb for four hours.

When scrap iron is used to make steel instead of using iron ore, mining wastes are reduced by 97%, air pollution effluent by 85%, and waste pollution by 76%.

In Etobicoke, a Bell Canada building which houses 1,000 employees went from producing 820 kg. of garbage per day in 1989 to 65 kg. per day in 1991 and is projected to produce a measly 2.3 kg. per day by July 1992.

Recycling one tonne of paper means 27 kg. fewer polluting emissions in the air.

Recycled paper requires one-tenth the amount of bleaching compounds of virgin fibre papers.

About 4,100 kilowatt hours more energy is required to produce a one tonne of new paper than to produce recycled paper. That's enough energy to heat or air condition the average-sized North American home for almost six months.