



America Recycles Day  
NOVEMBER 15

# Why Recycling Matters

## Fast Facts

### Why it matters to Richmond, Indiana

- Recycling allows materials to be re-used into new items
- Recycling saves space in the landfill
- Recycling with a blue Richie Roller is FREE

### National Snapshot

Recycling is a multibillion-dollar industry that employs millions of Americans and helps advance our clean energy economy.

Our national recycling rate of 34.7 percent:

— Saves the energy equivalent of nearly 229 million barrels of crude oil or nearly 20 days of all U.S. oil imports.

— Saves Americans the equivalent of the annual energy consumption of nearly 14 million US households per year.

— Avoids greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to removing more than 34 million cars from the road each year



### Aluminum

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run your television for 4 hours.<sup>1</sup>



### Glass

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a television for 20 minutes. That's a whole episode of your favorite show if you don't count the commercials!<sup>2</sup>



### Paper

In 2011, Americans trashed enough paper to cover 26,700 football fields in paper three feet deep.<sup>3</sup>



### Plastic

The amount of plastic bottles recycled in 2011 provided the raw material needed to make about 7 million extra large t-shirts.<sup>4</sup>



### Steel

Recycling steel saves 75 percent of the energy that would be used to create steel purely from raw materials. That's enough energy savings to power 18 million homes.<sup>5</sup>

***Recycling is the easiest things we can all do 365 days a year to save energy, conserve natural resources, and create green jobs.***

Sources: 1 Aluminum Association, 2 Glass Packaging Institute 3 America Forest & Paper Association 4 NAPCOR and American Chemistry Council 5 Steel Recycling Institute

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