



IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

When you recycle, you can be proud that you are saving money and reducing waste. Recycling helps to make our earth a cleaner and healthier place to live. It is one of the easiest ways you can have a positive impact on the environment.

Recycling helps you be more aware of how you use products and dispose of waste. Studies show that people who recycle save money because they cut down on buying unnecessary items. They instinctively think of what to do with the packaging or the product before buying it.

- Is the item and package easy to recycle?
- Does my recycling center accept this material?
- Can I purchase this same item in used condition or possibly borrow it for free?

Recycling five #1 labeled (PET) plastic bottles generates enough fiber to make one ski jacket.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

By recycling, communities:

- Save money on disposal costs
- Conserve natural resources, energy, and raw materials
- Return products and materials back into the economy and foster job creation

When you put your paper, plastics, glass and so on in the recycling bins, the contents are collected and either baled at the transfer station or picked up and combined with the same items from other transfer stations. They are sold through material brokers or directly to end users for recycling. Bottom line, recycling creates jobs – the labor involved in the logistics and processing of recycling streams is more than the labor needed to dispose of the waste.

Recycling 10,000 tons of waste creates 36 jobs! Incinerating the same amount of waste creates 1 job, and landfilling it creates only 6 jobs.



IT'S GOOD FOR THE WORLD

Improperly discarded trash has a negative impact on the natural environment. It can pollute waterways and roadways, and harms wildlife. By recycling, you can help your community be cleaner and healthier.

A recyclable product is something that can be turned back into a raw form and used to create a new version or completely different product. This reduces the amount of materials to make the new item and the energy and other resources that go into raw materials extraction, transportation, and processing.

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and 2 barrels of oil.

IT'S THE LAW

Although New Hampshire does not have any state-wide recycling laws, many municipalities have adopted recycling ordinances, including the following communities that are part of the North Country Council (NCC): Berlin, Colebrook, Conway, Franconia, Gorham, Jefferson, Lancaster, Littleton, Northumberland, Pittsburg, and Plymouth.

New Hampshire bans the following materials from solid waste disposal. These items should be managed as hazardous waste, recycled, and/or composted.

- Wet-cell batteries
- Electronics
- Leaf and yard waste
- Construction and demolition (C&D) debris
- Mercury products (e.g., thermostats, fluorescent lamps, and mercury fever thermometers)

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Every 1 pound of recycled #1 (PET) plastic used in place of virgin material reduces the energy consumed during production by 84%.

Recycling Saves Money

Many municipalities in New Hampshire use a "variable rate pricing system", also known as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) for the collection of solid waste.

Participating communities typically charge a fee for waste disposal, but provide free recycling for residents. Recycling not only reduces the amount of waste put in the trash for disposal, it saves residents money.

The following NCC communities have PAYT: Dalton; Franconia-Sugar Hill-Easton; Jackson; Lancaster; Lisbon-Lyman-Landaff; Littleton; Warren, and Whitefield. In these towns, the cost of recycling is typically lower than the cost of disposal.



In 2015, the net cost for recycling in the town of Littleton was \$62 per ton, compared with \$124 per ton for landfilling.

Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours.

*This handout focuses on the importance of **Recycling**. It is one in a series developed for rural transfer stations to improve safety and promote waste reduction. For additional documents visit: www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm.*