



# WHY Recycle...

in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont

## 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

There are six materials that **MUST** be recycled by all households in Vermont, including:

- Aluminum cans, pie plates, and foil
- Steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars from food and beverages
- Corrugated cardboard
- Paper – including white and colored paper, newspaper, magazine, catalogues, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags
- Hard plastics – specifically PET (#1) and HDPE (#2) plastic bottles and jugs

Many towns recycle more items than these. Visit [www.nekwmd.org/towns.html](http://www.nekwmd.org/towns.html) for information about the recyclables collected at your local facility.

**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

Municipalities in Vermont are required to implement a "variable rate pricing system", also known as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) for the collection of solid waste.

Basically, the town or hauler charges residents for trash disposal based on the amount they throw away. The key component of Vermont's law is that facilities that manage trash, including transfer stations, must also offer recycling and cannot charge a separate fee for it.

By making sure that you separate recyclable materials instead of combining them with your normal trash, you **SAVE** money on trash disposal.



**In the U.S., waste disposal costs communities an average of \$70 to more than \$200 per ton... compared to recycling program costs of just \$50 to \$150 per ton.**

**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](http://www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm).*