

RECYCLING FACTS

TRASH

- ❁ In 2007, Americans generated **254 million tons of waste**. 85 million tons of that was recycled or composted (33%).
- ❁ In 2007, Americans generated 4.6 pounds of waste per day. 1.5 pounds of that was recycled or composted, leaving **3.1 pounds thrown away per day**.
- ❁ 30% of all waste comes from packaging.
- ❁ Roughly **30 cents of every dollar** consumers spend on packaged goods goes toward paying for the packaging.



PAPER



- ❁ In the US, paper makes up the largest portion of waste by weight, at 33%.
- ❁ Newspapers have a high recycling rate – 78% of all generated are recycled.
- ❁ Every 120 lbs of newspaper recycled saves 1 tree from being cut down. The height of 120 lbs of newspaper is about **3 feet, 4 inches**.
- ❁ Every ton of paper recycled **saves 380 gallons of oil**.
- ❁ Each ton of paper recycled **saves 17 trees**.
- ❁ Every day American businesses generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times.

GLASS

- ❁ Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours.

ALUMINUM

- ❁ Recycling aluminum reduces energy use by **90%**.
- ❁ It takes the same amount of energy to make **20** recycled aluminum cans as it takes to make **1** from virgin materials.

PLASTIC

- ❁ Only **10% of water bottles are recycled** in the US.
- ❁ In the US, we use **1.5 million barrels of oil** to produce the number of plastic water bottles we use in just one year.
- ❁ Americans use **8 billion plastic bags each year**--that's more than 300 per household.



RECYCLING

- ❁ Recycling:
 - Reduces the amount of greenhouse gases emitted (Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change)
 - Reduces air and water pollution associated with making products from raw materials
- ❁ Recycling 85 million tons of mixed recyclables in 2007 is equivalent to removing 193 million tons of carbon equivalents from the atmosphere (or taking 35 million cars off the road).

