



Recycle at Work ECONOMY

Recycling materials that otherwise would be thrown away brings significant economic benefits. The process of turning collected materials into new products creates a chain of economic activity that can result in business expansion and jobs – locally, nationally and globally.

Economic benefits of recycling

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

Creates jobs

Lowers disposal costs

Conserves energy

NATIONAL

Across America, more individuals, organizations, businesses, and government agencies than ever before are collecting materials for recycling. The number of curbside recycling programs has grown significantly over the past five years. In 2006, communities nationwide recovered one-third of all municipal solid waste.

Keeping valuable resources out of landfills is only part of the recycling story. Recycling creates new businesses that haul, process and broker recovered materials, as well as companies that manufacture and distribute products made with recycled content. These businesses in turn put people to work.

Recyclable materials, such as metal, paper fiber and plastic, are commodities used by manufacturers around the world. In

September 2008, global demand for finished goods dropped dramatically, resulting in a similar drop in market price for recyclable materials. Even when the economy is down, there remains a demand for recycled materials.

LOCAL

Oregon recycling markets are unique in the United States; historically we have had strong paper markets because of numerous paper mills that source material locally whenever possible. Most Oregon recycling programs separates glass bottles and jars from other materials, keeping our recyclables cleaner and therefore, more valuable and desirable. When glass does get mixed in with other recyclables, it can turn valuable materials into trash. It is even more important that the right materials are placed in recycling bins.

Source

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

For more information

Visit www.RecycleAtWork.com or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

Fact sheets were created by Metro and your local governments to help reduce waste in the business sector. Printed on recycled paper. 09150



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from Metro and your local governments