



Recycle at Work

PAPER

Recycling paper helps reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill and preserve natural resources. A piece of paper can be recycled five to seven times before the fibers become too short to be used again.

Closing the loop

When you purchase paper products made with recycled content, you complete the recycling process by ensuring that recycling markets stay strong.

The environmental benefits of recycling paper

Trees: The Metro region recycled 457,000 tons of paper in 2007, saving the equivalent of 3.6 million trees from being harvested. The United States in 2007 recycled 45.2 million tons of paper, tantamount to saving 206 million trees.

Air: Air quality is improved by recycling. Recycling 457,000 tons of paper reduces air emissions by 566,884 tons, or the equivalent to that produced by 68,000 cars driving for one year.

Water: In 2007, paper recycling efforts in the Metro region prevented 2,100 tons of waste from being released into our water supply. In addition, about 1 billion gallons of water were saved by recycling that paper.

Energy: Producing recycled paper requires about 40 percent less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp, and releases

38 percent fewer green-house gases that contribute to global warming. The paper industry is the third-largest user of energy in the United States.

Products made from recycled paper

Recycled paper currently accounts for 37 percent of the paper industry's fiber needs, an increase of 10 percent from 1990. There are six paper mills in Oregon with the capacity to produce approximately 10 million pounds of recycled-content paper per day, including the following types:

- Newsprint
- Cardboard boxes
- Toilet and facial tissue
- Paper office supplies
- Grocery and yard-debris bags
- Paper towels and napkins

Sources

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
www.treecycle.com
California Integrated Waste Management Board

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