

# WHY RECYCLE?



## Recycling is Good for the Environment

Recycling is a simple way to help make a cleaner, healthier environment for our families. When waste is sent to landfills or incinerators, it is either buried or burned, which results in harmful air and water pollution and further contributes to climate change. Recycling materials instead keeps them out of the waste stream, and allows them to be used again.

Recycling also saves energy. Recycling one ton of paper saves 4100 kilowatt hours of energy- enough to power the average American home for six months! That same recycled ton of paper also saves 17 mature trees, 7 gallons of water and 2 barrels of oil- so recycling also helps save our precious natural resources.

## Recycling is Good for the Economy

Recycling in the U.S. is a \$236 billion a year industry. More than 56,000 recycling and reuse enterprises employ 1.1 million workers nationwide. American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.

In Philadelphia, recycling saves taxpayer dollars as the City avoids paying \$70 a ton to a landfill, while also earning \$50 a ton for recyclable materials! A report by the City Controller in 2004 estimated that if Philadelphia recycled 35% of its waste it would save \$17 million a year! And now residents can also enroll in the Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program, which rewards participants with up to \$200 a year in coupons or discounts to businesses.

## Recycling is the Law

Philadelphia was the first city in the country to make recycling mandatory. This means that residents, businesses, schools, churches, office buildings- everyone- is required to recycle. Sidewalk and Walkways Education and Enforcement Patrol (SWEEP) officers issue tickets to offenders starting at \$75.

## Get started today!

Visit [www.recyclenowphiladelphia.org](http://www.recyclenowphiladelphia.org) for more information about what materials to recycle, how to get a bin or a recycling sticker for your own bin, and how to sign up for the Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program.

For more information, visit [www.recyclenowphilly.org](http://www.recyclenowphilly.org) or email [info@recyclenowphilly.org](mailto:info@recyclenowphilly.org)

