

RECYCLING

REDUCES

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

**U.S. = 32.5% 2006 RECYCLING RATE/
82 MILLION TONS RECYCLED = REMOVING
39.4 MILLION CARS FROM THE ROAD IN RE-
DUCED EMISSIONS (SOURCE: U.S. EPA 2006)**

**NEW MEXICO HAS AN 12.4%
RECYCLING RATE OF 250,490
TONS IN 2008 =
REMOVING 143,593 CARS FROM
THE ROAD IN REDUCED EMISSIONS**

RECYCLING:

- Reduces emissions from energy consumption. Recycling saves energy. Manufacturing goods from recycled materials typically requires less energy than producing goods from virgin materials.
- Increases storage of carbon in trees. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood, in a process called "carbon sequestration." Waste prevention and recycling of paper products allow more trees to remain standing in the forest, where they can continue to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills. Methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Note: Energy reduction factors based on direct fossil fuel and electricity consumption associated with raw material acquisition and manufacturing; electricity offsets; fossil fuel consumed for transportation and embedded energy.

**THE EPA RECOMMENDS 30 WAYS AN
INDIVIDUAL CAN REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**"REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE" IS SPECIFIED
FOR 3 OF THOSE 30 ENTRIES (AT HOME, AT
THE OFFICE AND AT SCHOOL)**

RECYCLED MATERIAL	ENERGY SAVINGS PER TON RECYCLED
ALUMINUM CANS	207 MILLION BTU
CARPET	106 MILLION BTU
PLASTIC CONTAINERS	51-56 MILLION BTU
COMPUTERS	44 MILLION BTU
STEEL CANS	20 MILLION BTU
NEWSPAPER	17 MILLION BTU
CARDBOARD	16 MILLION BTU
PHONE BOOKS	12 MILLION BTU
OFFICE PAPER	10 MILLION BTU
GLASS	3 MILLION BTU

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2005

**A FAMILY CAN PREVENT 2,400
POUNDS OF CARBON DIOXIDE
EMISSIONS A YEAR BY
RECYCLING HALF OF THE HOUSE-
HOLD WASTE GENERATED.**

New Mexico Recycling Coalition

NMRC is a statewide nonprofit education and advocacy group to promote increased recycling, reduction, composting and reuse. Our mission is to lead NM to value waste as a resource.

**FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN RECYCLE AT
WWW.RECYCLENEWMEXICO.COM**

RESOURCES

NEW MEXICO RECYCLING COALITION

WWW.RECYCLENEWMEXICO.COM

ONLINE RECYCLING DIRECTORY TO LOCATE RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR AREA

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT: SOLID WASTE BUREAU

WWW.NMENV.STATE.NM.US

NATIONAL RECYCLING COALITION

WWW.NRC-RECYCLE.ORG

EPA CLIMATE CHANGE

WWW.EPA.GOV/CLIMATECHANGE/WYCD/WASTE/

ON THE “TOOLS” LINK:

WARM–WASTE REDUCTION MODEL CALCULATOR

(TOOL FOR SOLID WASTE PROFESSIONALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MEASURE AND TRACK THEIR GHG REDUCTIONS)

RECON–RECYCLED CONTENT CALCULATOR

(CALCULATE ENERGY SAVED WITH RECYCLED CONTENT PURCHASES)

DURABLE GOOD CALCULATOR