

Did you know...

- Recycling saves energy, conserves natural resources, reduces amount of waste in landfills etc.
- Oxy recycles: aluminum, plastic containers bottles and cups, glass containers, paper (all types of carbonless paper), newspaper, cardboard, aluminum electrical wire, aluminum window and door frames, appliances, asphalt pavement, car batteries, carpet, electronic equipment, fluorescent light bulbs, mattresses, box springs, metal (copper and brass but not steel), tree trimmings and other green waste
- Recycling does NOT save Oxy money because of the number of hours that people spend to collect and separate materials
- Each year, Oxy spends \$80-100 thousand on landfill and waste disposal costs of solid waste, food waste, green waste, wood waste and off campus offices, this number has risen in the past years due to the increased number of students. This number could be reduced if more recycling took place
- The Oxy bookstore sells recycled items but they do not sell well (perhaps because they are more expensive)
- Recycled items can be mixed in bins and not be considered contaminated, but any food in these items contaminates the whole recycling bin
- Paper recycling bins cannot be placed in dorm hallways because it is considered a fire hazard, but they can be placed in computer labs. A problem with this is that it is sometimes very inconvenient to have to go to the computer lab just to recycle paper
- The amount of municipal solid waste increased from 2.7 pounds/person/day in 1960 to 4.62 pounds/person/day in 1999, even though the rate of recycling has increased from 10% of municipal solid waste in 1980 to 28% in 1999.ⁱ
- Disposal of municipal solid waste has decreased from 90% in 1980 to 72.2% in 1999, due to the amount of recycling that is being done.ⁱⁱ
- Steel production from scrap uses **a third** of the energy that production of steel from virgin ore uses.ⁱⁱⁱ
- It takes **94% less energy** to recycle aluminum than it does to smelt the virgin ore.^{iv}
- In Minnesota alone in the year of 2000, the recycling of paper, glass, metals, plastics and other materials saved nearly 22 trillion BTUs of energy (enough energy to power nearly 217,483 homes).^v
- The EPA's new campaign challenges the U.S. to raise the recycling rate from 28% to 35%, and to reduce the amount of thirty harmful chemicals found in hazardous waste by 2005.^{vi}
- Please RECYCLE!!!!!! It's not that hard!

ⁱ <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/mswfinal.pdf>

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ⁱⁱⁱ Lester R. Brown, "Designing a New Materials Economy", *Eco Economy*, (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2001), 136.

^{iv} <http://www.anchoragerecycling.com/benefits.htm>

^v <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/berc/marketdevelopment.cfm>

^{vi} <http://www.jxj.com/wmw/index.html>