

# 17 Ways to Make a Difference this America Recycles Day

*This America Recycles Day®, a Keep America Beautiful® national program held on and around Nov. 15, you can make a meaningful difference by taking these small steps in your everyday life to reduce waste and increase your impact. Share these tips from Keep America Beautiful with your friends and followers and encourage everyone to celebrate recycling!*

## 5 Ways to #BeRecycled

1. **Take the #BeRecycled Pledge.** Commit to reducing, reusing, and recycling on Nov. 15, and throughout the year.
2. **Follow the three R's of recycling:** reduce, reuse, and recycle. Reduce your waste, reuse materials and items before buying something new, and recycle properly.
3. **Buy products made with recycled content** to help “close the loop” and support the recycling industry.
4. **Know your waste stream.** Check your local recycling program to see what you can and can't recycle. This helps reduce contamination, which happens when certain materials are put in the recycling bin (like plastic bags and film, which need to be brought to a collection bin at a grocery or retail outlet for recycling), or when materials are not properly cleaned, such as when food residue remains on recyclable packaging.
5. **Recycle wherever you are – at home, on the go, and at work.** One tip to ensure easy proper recycling at work is to keep a recycling bin in any location where there is a trash can.

## Top 5 Impacts of Recycling

1. **Saves resources.** Recycling promotes resource conservation, reducing reliance on nonrenewable mineral and petroleum resources.
2. **Reduces GHG emissions.** Using recycled materials to manufacture new products takes less energy resulting in lower carbon emissions.
3. **Saves energy.** Extracting and processing raw materials is energy intensive. Mining raw materials for aluminum production uses 20 times more energy than recycling aluminum.
4. **Supports a circular economy.** When you recycle, you provide raw materials to create something new.
5. **Creates jobs.** Over 530,000 jobs are created by recycling in the United States. Landfilling 1,000 tons of waste creates 1 job, while recycling 1,000 tons of materials creates 9 jobs.

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## 7 Recycling Tips

1. **Recycle cartons.** Recycling food and beverage cardboard cartons keeps them out of landfills and gives them new life as they can become products like napkins, tissue paper, paper towels, and environmentally friendly building and construction materials. No need to flatten and you can leave the caps on.
2. **All bottled water containers are 100% recyclable** - even the caps. The recycling process for PET plastic bottles is easy, simple, and efficient. In fact, making new bottles from recycled bottles uses 88 percent less energy than when using virgin materials. Recycled PET can be used to make new bottles, along with a range of other consumer products such as food containers, clothing, and carpet.
3. **Electronics are recyclable.** Electronics, including computers, tablets, and cell phones, contain valuable precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, palladium, copper, tin, and zinc that can be recovered and used to make jewelry, plating, new electronics, or automotive parts. Check your local recycling program for specific instructions.
4. **Plastic bags and film** are recyclable and — like other plastics — can be used to make many other products. Return plastic bags and films to labeled receptacles, widely available at grocery and retail outlets.
5. **Aluminum is infinitely recyclable.** Recycling a can takes just 5% of the energy and emits a mere 5% of the greenhouse gases that making one from scratch does. Look for curbside, school, workplace, or public space recycling bins, or bring aluminum to local recycling drop-off or buy-back centers.
6. **Glass** can be recycled over and over without any loss in purity or quality. Look for curbside, school, or work recycling bins or find a local recycling drop-off center — and be sure to check your local recycling program.
7. **Recycling steel** saves nearly 74% of the energy used to produce it from raw materials — that's enough energy to power about 18 million homes for a full year. Check your local recycling program for more information.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY®

A KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL® PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 15