

Green Environment

- Straight from the EPA
- Smart Thinking

- Did You Know?

Straight from the EPA

As I was preparing the material for this New Year's Newsletter talking with a business associate and the comment was "we want to get involved, we just don't know where to go (for information)". So maybe the figures in this newsletter will motivate some readers to learn and motivate action. It's important for our world to understand the magnitude we as Americans waste.

Again, the percentiles are from the EPA website <http://www.epa.gov>

Electronics in storage

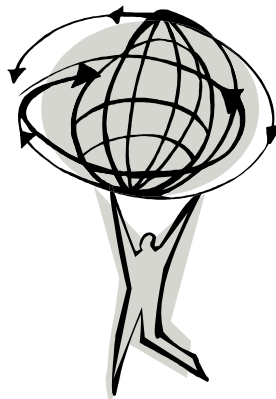
Computers	65.7M tons
Comp. Monitors	42.4 M tons
Portable Comp.	2.1 M tons
Peripheral Equip.	25.2 M tons
Televisions	99.1 M tons
Cell Phone	unknown
Total	234.6 M tons

The EPA website has most information dated from 2006 so it will be interesting to see 2007 figures. Hopefully we will see a big increase in recycling and not in storing what seems to be obsolete equipment.

Percentages for recycled televisions, again 2006 figures are 6.3%, computers 48.2%, cell phones 14%. While municipal solid waste stands at 251M tons and 82M tons of material, everything from plastic to wood with only 32.5% recycled.

Now a scary thought; per person, per day, we generate 4.6 lbs of garbage, material, trash. Each and every day and again, this is everything from food scraps to refrigerators.

Landfills have decreased in number from 7,924 in 1988 to 1,754 in 2006. However landfills are much larger in size than the per 1998 size.



Recycle programs have decrease also and that is worrisome unless private companies were not counted. Programs

2002 there were 8,875, 2006 indicated 8,660 programs.

Smart Living Tips

Not sure I should call this column smart



living tips this month because the percentage below do not hold up to smart living, well except for the batteries.

These are the figures according to the EPA website.

Recycled categories are:

Auto Batteries	99%
Steel Cans	62.9%
Yard Trimmings	62%
Paper & Paperboard	51.6%
Aluminum	45.1%
Tires	34.9%
Plastic	31%
Soft Drink Plastic	30.9%
Glass	25%
Wood	9.4%

Bottom line, there much we can do to improve those percentages!!

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We can make a difference, together.

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A great speaker is a Stone's Throw Away

Did You Know?

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Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans rather than throwing them away conserves more than 207 million BTUs, the equivalent of 36 barrels of oil or 1,655 gallons of gasoline.

Energy Recovered from Waste Combustion

In 2006, approximately 31.4 million tons of materials, or 12.5 percent, were combusted for energy recovery.

MSW combustion for energy recovery has remained fairly constant since 1990.

Collection Programs

Approximately 8,660 curbside recycling programs exist nationwide, down from 8,875 in 2002.

About 3,470 community composting programs are operational, an increase from 3,227 in 2002.

Source: Biocycle Magazine 2006

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gas.

*Note: One duplication of number of programs exist in this newsletter regarding number of recycle programs.



We have the whole world in our hands. We can make a difference, one earth friendly act at a time.

Recycling and Composting