



Things You Might Not know About Recycling

EPA Average = 19 pounds of trash per day for family of 4

19 pounds/day X 365 days = 6,935 pounds a year

Average District = 1,550 homes

1,550 homes X 6,935 pounds per home = 10,749,250 pounds of per year

That equals 5,375 Tons of trash per year going into a land fill!!!

And that is just one neighborhood

Imagine the resources that could be conserved if 80% of that had been recycled

Yet, it will sit in a landfill, covered by dirt for years and years with no benefit to anyone

How wise is that?

80% - 90% of all household trash can be recycled!!!



Recycling Tidbits

- Americans burned and buried over \$1 billion in gross scrap revenues in 2004 (Waste Management World, Sept-Oct 2005)
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet
- The 35 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million. Someday we'll be mining landfills for the resources we've buried

- Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap Texas
- Americans throw away enough office and writing paper each year to build a wall twelve-feet high stretching from New York City to Los Angeles
- Recycling creates 6 times as many jobs as landfilling
- If we recycled all the newspapers printed in the U.S. on a typical Sunday, we would save 550,000 trees – that's 26 million trees per year



Basic Facts About a Landfill

A landfill can take as long as 10 years just to plan, and the cost of construction can top \$30 million dollars. That's just the beginning. Add to that an annual operating expense of \$5 million and a landfill may only last 50 years.

It has been estimated that disposing of trash in a landfill cost about \$22 a ton, whereas selling recyclable materials can generate approx. \$10 a ton. The good news is Americans are now recycling nearly 30 percent of their waste, and the number is growing.

Currently there are 2,300 acres allocated for landfill space for this region – a capacity that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reports will fill up within 20 years. Estimates of capacity are constantly changing as new permits are accepted or denied, making it difficult to obtain an approximate number for years of remaining landfill capacity.

An EPA study shows that almost ALL landfills eventually end up leaking into the ground adversely affecting water sources.

