



PLASTICS RECYCLING

Plastics manufacturing continues to grow rapidly, reaching about **360 million metric tons worldwide in 2018**. In the U.S., the plastics recycling industry plays an important role in improving the environment and supporting the economy. Recycled plastic products provide enormous environmental benefits, including **reducing the reliance on virgin materials, diverting material from landfills, and cutting energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions**. – For example, composite lumber made from recycled plastic bags conserves trees and reduces the need for hazardous wood-treatment chemicals.



BIG ECONOMIC IMPACT

The plastic recycling industry's total **annual economic impact in the U.S. is \$6 billion**.



RECYCLING PLASTIC CREATES JOBS

The plastics recycling industry directly and indirectly supports **nearly 30,000 jobs** in the United States.



BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling **1 ton of plastic bottles** reduces **greenhouse gas emissions by 3,380 lbs.**, which is the equivalent of **173 gallons of gasoline**.



BAGGING PLASTIC BAGS

At least **1 billion pounds of U.S. plastic bags and film** were collected for recycling in 2017, up 54 percent since 2005.



MASSIVE ENERGY SAVINGS

Using recycled plastics in manufacturing saves up to **88 percent of the energy** needed to produce plastics from virgin materials.



RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SOURCES

Containers from food, beverages and household products are a large part of the residential recycling plastics stream. But engineered and industrial plastics are other important sources of recycled plastics, including **auto parts, appliances and construction materials**.

The Plastic Recycling Process

How recycled plastic bottles become new plastic products.



Sources: EPA, John Dunham & Associates

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