RCBC Recycling Fact Sheets

Recycling and Climate Change

What is Climate Change?

Climate Change is the variation in the Earth's climate over time, which can be from both natural and human-induced changes. Human activities alter the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the increase of **greenhouse gases (GHG).** GHG trap heat and reflect it back to the earth's surface. The result is changes in our climate, including a rise in global temperature and more frequent extreme weather events.

The Link Between Climate Change and Recycling

INCREASE GHG

GHG are emitted as waste decomposes in landfills

DECREASE GHG

Waste prevention and recycling divert materials from landfills, lowering GHG emissions

INCREASE GHG

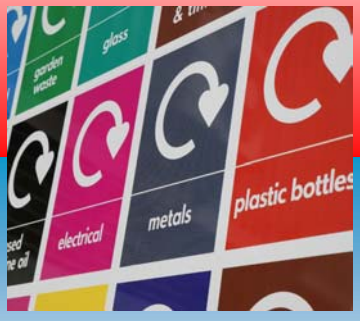
Manufacturing new products releases GHG during processing as it expends energy

DECREASE GHG

Making products from recycled materials requires less energy

INCREASE GHG

Harvesting trees, extracting ores and oil, and transporting raw materials emit GHG



DECREASE GHG

Waste prevention and recycling delay the need to extract raw materials, lowering GHG emissions

RCBC Recycling Fact Sheets

Recycling and Climate Change

Save Energy. Use Recycled.

Does it pay off to use recycled materials?
Yes it does!
See how much energy is saved by using recycled materials compared to virgin (non-recycled) materials in manufacturing.

Product	Energy (GJ/tonne) for Virgin Inputs	Energy (GJ/tonne) for Recycled Inputs	Energy Savings when using recycled materials
Aluminum	64.19	6.18	**90%**
Steel	22.67	9.30	**59%**
Copper Wire	67.87	6.00	**91%**
Glass	6.00	4.20	**30%**
HDPE Plastic	33.25	6.00	**82%**
PET Plastic	62.21	6.00	**90%**
Tires	102.53	42.11	**59%**
Newsprint	14.11	8.35	**41%**
Cardboard	30.93	12.78	**59%**

Doing More by Using Less

Reducing consumption is the most effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Every little bit counts!

Reducing 500 tonnes of...	...is approximately equal to removing this many cars from the road in 1 year
Paper	**339**
Aluminum	**1050**
Glass	**57**
HDPE Plastic	**205**
Cardboard	**216**

Sources:

Data from Solid Waste and Recycling Magazine. August/September 2006. Available online at: http://solidwastemag.com/recycling_symbol.html

For more information:
Web: www.rcbc.bc.ca
Call: 604-RECYCLE or 1-800-667-4321

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RECYCLING COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA