

Sustainability Fun Facts & Tips Sheet

Did you know:

1. Recycling one soda can can save enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours? Americans use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year! Remember that you can recycle all metal cans, bottles and clean foil.
2. Recycling one glass bottle can power a computer for 30 minutes? Imagine how much energy we could produce if every glass bottle were recycled!
3. On average, there is about one piece of litter for every foot of US roadways? Keep your school clean and avoid ocean pollution by sorting your waste and picking up litter.
4. The average American uses 650 pounds of paper each year? We could save 100 million tons of wood each year if all that paper were recycled.
5. About 80% of the items that Americans throw away is recyclable? Currently our recycling rate is at only 28% so encourage friends and family to start recycling!
6. Plastic bags and other plastic trash ends up in our oceans and kill as many as 1,000,000 sea animals each year? Picking up litter will help keep our oceans clean and sea animals safe!
7. More than 20 million Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day? Those 20 million Kisses use up 133 square miles of aluminum foil each day. Believe it or not, all of that foil is recyclable!
8. To produce Sunday newspapers each week, 500,000 trees are cut down. Recycling a single Sunday edition of the *New York Times* would save 75,000 trees. We could save about 250,000,000 trees each year if all of our newspapers were recycled!
9. Packaging, like chip bags, make up about one-third of most landfills. This is why it is so important to pack a trash-free lunch and avoid using unnecessary packaging!
10. In 2010, 33 million tons of food waste ended up in our landfills, making it the largest component of waste reaching the landfill. Luckily, composting will keep our food waste out of landfills while making our gardens healthier!

Facts found at the following links:

- 1,8,9 <http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>
- 2 <http://earth911.com/recycling/glass/facts-about-glass-recycling/>
- 3 <http://earth911.com/news/2012/08/07/solving-the-litter-problem/>
- 4,5,6,7 <http://www.dosomething.org/actnow/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-recycling>
- 10 <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/materials/organics/food/fd-basic.htm>