

RESOURCE DIRECTIONS

Use these Fun Facts and Tips and distribute to your school's adult or student Grades of Green Team. They can be shared over a loud speaker, read at Grades of Green Team meetings, or even posted to a display case on campus! Let us know how you used this resource so we can share your tips with other schools - email us your ideas at info@gradesofgreen.org.

SUSTAINABILITY FUN FACTS & TIPS SHEET

1. Recycling one can of soda 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 750 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 34.6% 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 100,000 sea animals each year. Picking up litter will help keep our oceans clean and sea animals safe!
7. More than 60 million Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day. Those 60 million Kisses use up 400 square miles of aluminum foil each day. Believe it or not, all that foil is recyclable!
8. To produce Sunday newspapers each week, 500,000 trees are cut down. If everyone who received a weekly copy of the New York Times recycled their copy instead of throwing it away, it would save 75,000 trees. We could save about 250,000,000 trees each year if all our newspapers were recycled!
9. Packaging, like chip bags, make up about one-third of most landfills. Therefore it is so important to pack a trash-free lunch and avoid using unnecessary packaging!
10. In 2014 alone, more than 38 million tons of food waste was generated. Luckily, composting will keep our food waste out of landfills while making our gardens healthier!



References:

Facts 1, 8, 9: <http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>

Fact 2: <http://earth911.com/recycling/glass/facts-about-glass-recycling/>

Fact 3: <http://earth911.com/news/2012/08/07/solving-the-litter-problem/>

Facts 4, 5, 6, 7: <http://www.dosomething.org/actnow/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-recycling>

Fact 10: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/sustainable-management-food-basics#what>