

It's Your Environment: Protect It!

Lesson Two: This Land is Our Land

Did You Know?

- In 2010, Americans generated an average of 4.3 pounds of waste per person per day.
- Recycling 2,000 pounds of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of land-fill space, 500 pounds of air pollution, 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and enough energy to power an average home for six months.



Why should you recycle?

There are many reasons including: saving energy, conserving natural resources, limiting pollution, stimulating the economy, and more.

Recycling is vital to several Oklahoma manufacturing companies that use recycled content in their products.

At least 11 Oklahoma companies rely on recycled items for use in their manufacturing process. Recycling is big business that creates jobs and puts money back into the Oklahoma economy. You can help the growing recycling industry in Oklahoma every time you use a recycling bin.



Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies (A.E.R.T.) in Watts manufactures MoistureShield® and ChoiceDek®, two composite (plastic and wood) decking products available for purchase at retailers throughout Oklahoma, including Lowe's. Their state-of-the-art 70,000 square-

foot plastic recycling facility washes, cleans and separates plastic (polyethylene) food packaging and wrapping films for the raw materials in their decking products. A.E.R.T. uses a mixture of recycled wood and plastic materials to produce their composite decking, which has a total of 95% recycled content. No new trees are cut down to manufacture their decking, and using these recycled materials diverts 270 million pounds of trash from entering the landfill every year!

The Verallia North America plant in Sapulpa provides 345 jobs to Oklahoma. Verallia manufactures approximately 3.3 million glass bottles each day. Their bottles are used by companies such as Boulevard Brewing and Anheuser-Busch. Verallia uses an average of 10-60% recycled glass in their products, but may use up to 90% recycled content. Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled forever without loss of quality. Verallia needs as much recycled glass as possible, so don't trash that old bottle or jar – recycle it!

The Georgia Pacific (GP) company in Muskogee manufactures tissue products including Brawny®, Quilted Northern®, Vanity Fair®, and Angel Soft®, to name a few. Georgia Pacific is one of the largest employers in Muskogee, with approximately 1,000 employees whose compensation and benefits total approximately \$76 million per year. The Muskogee facility is one of two GP Ecosource locations that collect, sort and process recycled books, magazines, rolls and industrial grades of wastepaper, turning it into high-value materials for BP mills or for sale on the open market.

Orchid Paper Company of Pryor produces up to 56,000 tons of paper goods every year from recycled fiber. One of Orchid Paper's products is the Made In Oklahoma (MIO) Paper Towels. These paper towels represent a win-win for Oklahoma. Waste is diverted from the landfill and approximately 300 Oklahomans have jobs thanks to Orchid Paper! Additionally, proceeds from the sale of these paper towels support the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food for Kids Backpack Program. This program provides a backpack full of food to more than 13,500 hungry Oklahoma school children every week, so they will have food to eat over the weekends and school holidays.

1. Which natural resource is not an ingredient in manufacturing glass bottles?
A. Sand. B. Dirt. C. Soda Ash. D. Limestone
2. How many years does it take a single aluminum can to decompose?
A. 0-40 years. B. 80-100 years.
C. 100-200 years. D. 200-500 years.

Do you have the latest and greatest cell phone on the market?

What did you do with your old cell phone? Did you know it could be donated to charity or recycled?



Cell Phone Facts:

- Consumers use an average of six wireless products in their day-to-day lives.
- The average cell phone is replaced (or upgraded) every 18 to 24 months.
- Cell phones contain materials such as lead, and their batteries (lithium-ion) can explode if exposed to direct sunlight or high temperatures that occur in landfills.
- Cell phones in working condition can be donated to the elderly, people with disabilities and shelters for use in emergency situations.
- Cell phones are easily recyclable. Take them to your mobile carrier or drop-off locations at chains such as Best Buy, Radio Shack, Lowe's and Staples.

For resources on Recycling in Oklahoma visit the DEQ Recycling page at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/recyclingindex.htm>

In June 2012, the number of cell phones in use in the United States was 327,577,529.

The US population in the 2012 census was 313,914,040.

Based on these figures, what percentage of the US population had cell phones as of June 2012?



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