Recycling and Climate Change

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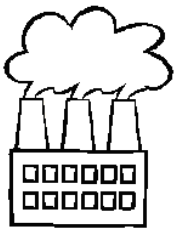
MilwaukeeRecycles.com

The connection

Greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the generation and management of solid waste, and these gases are produced during the various stages of a product's life-cycle from raw material to disposal. Recycling lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and conserves energy and natural resources. It is an easy, everyday activity that you can do to help slow climate change.

How it works



- Recycling reduces the need to extract virgin raw materials. This conserves natural resources, avoids the energy consumption required by the extraction process as well as the resulting emission of greenhouse gases.
- Recycling typically reduces the amount of energy required to process and manufacture products when compared with virgin materials; energy savings can be up to 94%.
- Recycling reduces the amount of material disposed of. This reduces the emission of greenhouse gases during the incineration process and the production of greenhouse gases from the decomposition of organic material in a landfill.
- Buying recycled products is the last step in creating a truly sustainable cycle.

Facts

- Recycling reduces the emission of pollutants, including greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that contribute to global climate change.
- Recycling organic materials reduces the amount of methane produced in landfills. Methane is a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Recycling paper helps to save trees. Trees remove and store carbon dioxide, preventing it from entering the atmosphere and contributing to global climate change.
- Recycling 1 ton of office paper rather than disposing of it in a landfill reduces total energy consumption by 43%, and reduces net greenhouse gas emissions by 70% carbon dioxide equivalents.
- A family of four that recycles can prevent the emission of 370 metric tons of carbon equivalents by recycling all of their plastics for one year.