

What we Use

- 3,250,000 plastic water bottles are used in America every single **hour!**
- Americans spend more on garbage bags than 90 other countries spend on *everything!*

Facts from the M.R.F.

Paper

- Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and enough energy to heat 2,250 households for 1 year.
- It takes 90 years to grow a box of facial tissues, so it is important to buy products made from recycled content.
- If you buried a hot dog in a landfill, it would still be there 20 years later because there is no air or water to help it decompose. We know the dates stuff was buried in a landfill because you can still read the newspapers!

Visit our website
waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Metals

- Aluminum is made from bauxite. This ore is found in sub-tropical areas like Brazil and Australia.
- Making aluminum uses *lots* of electricity. Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to light up a light bulb for 20 hours!
- Recycling 6 aluminum cans saves 1/2 gallon of gas.
- It only takes 60 days for a can to be recycled into a new can & be back on store shelves.
- Cans from the Waukesha County MRF go to St. Louis, Missouri. (Anheuser Busch Co.)
- Metal can be recycled forever without it breaking down.
- The energy saved each year by steel recycling is equal to the electrical power used annually by 18 million homes, or enough energy to last LA 8 years.

Plastic

- Plastic is made from petroleum. This oil is from places in America and the Middle East.
- It takes more water to make a plastic bottle than the amount of water a plastic bottle holds.
- 1,500,000 barrels of oil were used last year to make plastic bottles.
- Recycling plastic saves 70% of the energy it takes to make a bottle from natural resources.
- Plastic #1 bottles go to Georgia and get put into an extruder to make yarn. Then the yarn is used to make carpet. (Mohawk Co.)