

PAPER

Americans discard 4 million tons of office paper every year. That's enough to build a 12 foot-high wall of paper from New York to California. (*EarthWorks Group. 1990. The Recycler's Handbook. Berkeley, CA: The EarthWorks Press.*)

Recycling half the world's paper would free 20 million acres of forest land. (*EarthWorks Group. 1990. The Recycler's Handbook. Berkeley, CA: The EarthWorks Press.*)

If you stacked up all the paper an average American uses in a year, the piles would be as tall as a two-story house. (*EarthWorks Group. 1990. 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save The Earth. Kansas City: Andrews and McMeel.*)

If you and your family recycled a ton of writing paper, you would save as much as 7,000 gallons of water. How much water is that? You would have to drink 130 glasses every day for more than a year to get that much water. (*Newman, S. & Schwarz, M. 1993. 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Recycle. Berkeley, CA: EarthWorks Press.*)

The EPA has found that making paper from recycled materials results in 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution. This means that every ton of recycled paper keeps almost 60 pounds of pollutants out of the atmosphere that would have been produced if the paper had been manufactured from virgin resources. (*Paper Stock Institute. 1990. "Why Recycle Paper?" Recycling Paper.*)

Every ton of recycled paper saves approximately four barrels of oil, 4200 kilowatt hours of energy and enough energy to heat and air-condition the average North American home for almost six months. (*South Carolina Electric & Gas Company. 1991. Recycle — Save Energy.*)