

Recycling Reimagined

BUILDING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

FULL LIST OF SOURCES & CITATIONS

Statistic

In 2017, the U.S. recycling and reuse industry accounted for:

- 534,000 stable jobs
- \$30.6 billion in wages.
- \$117 billion in economic activity and
- \$8.2 billion in state, local and federal tax revenues.

Source

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. “2017 Economic Impact Study.”

<https://www.isri.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2017annual-reportcb62f91e8fb866e3af13ff0000e99eee.pdf?sfvrsn=0&sfvrsn=0>

Recycling and composting rates grew from 6.4 percent in 1960 to over 34 percent in 2015.

United States Environmental Protection Agency. “National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling”
<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>

53% of Americans have local, curbside recycling and another 20% can opt-in or sign-up for curbside service

Sustainable Packaging Coalition. “2015-16 Centralized Study on Availability of Recycling.”

Retrieved from <https://brandfolder.com/s/oaxcu2-bas1yg-3fee1l>

Statistic

Source

In 2015, America recycled or composted 34.7% of all waste

United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2015 Facts and Figures." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/2015_smm_msw_factsheet_07242018_fnl_508_002.pdf

In 2014 the US paid \$6.8 billion to dispose of 136 million tons of waste.

United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2015 Facts and Figures." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/2015_smm_msw_factsheet_07242018_fnl_508_002.pdf

39 million tons of food waste was generated, and only 5.3% is being composted

United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2015 Facts and Figures." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/2015_smm_msw_factsheet_07242018_fnl_508_002.pdf

16 million tons of recyclable materials that China will stop importing from the U.S.

Margolis, J. "Mountains of US recycling pile up as China restricts imports." Public Radio International. January 1, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-01-01/mountains-us-recycling-pilechina-restricts-imports>

A 75% diversion rate by 2030 could create 1.1 million jobs and reduce 276 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equal to shutting down 72 coal power plants or removing 50 million cars from the road.

Goldstein, James with Christi Electris, and Jeff Morris, Ph.D. "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S." Prepared by Tellus Institute & Sound Resource Management. Retrieved from: https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/glo_11111401a.pdf

Mixed Paper, Mixed Plastics, Corrugated Containers, and Sorted Residential Paper make up approximately 59% of US Curbside Recycling

Information provided by Waste Management. "Typical Single Stream Composition." 2018.

"Although 94% of US residents have access to some type of recycling services, 73% of residents have curbside recycling, while 21% only have access to drop-off programs."

Sustainable Packaging Coalition. "2015-16 Centralized Study on Availability of Recycling." Retrieved from <https://brandfolder.com/s/oaxcu2-bas1yg-3fee1l>