

# Economy

## The Recycling Connection

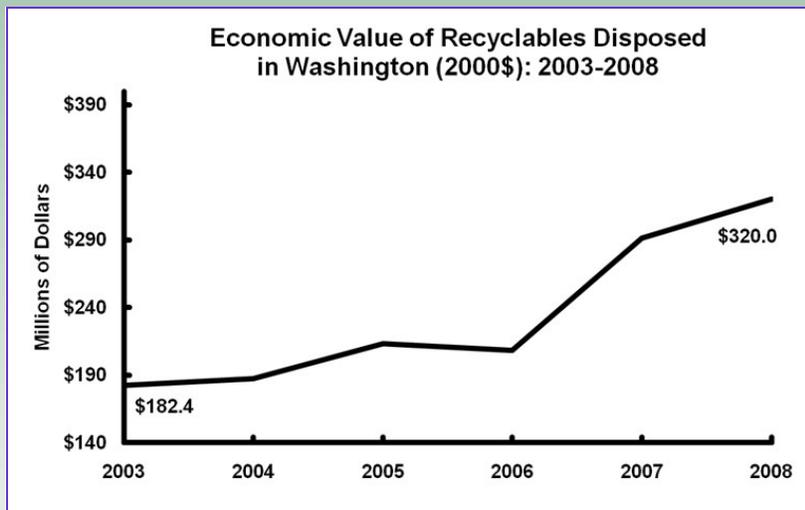


The U.S. recycling and reuse industry consists of about 56,000 businesses, that employ over 1.1 million people, generate an annual payroll of nearly \$37 billion, and gross over \$236 billion in annual revenues.

Source: U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study by RW Beck for EPA and NRC.

Washington State firms employed at least 4,456 people in recycling-related “green jobs” in 2008.

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department.



When recyclable materials are recycled into new products instead of buried in landfills or burned, disposal costs are reduced and our economic vitality increases.

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology.



Thousands of U.S. companies have saved millions of dollars through their voluntary recycling programs. They wouldn't recycle if it didn't make economic sense.



Presented by the WSRA  
Education Committee.



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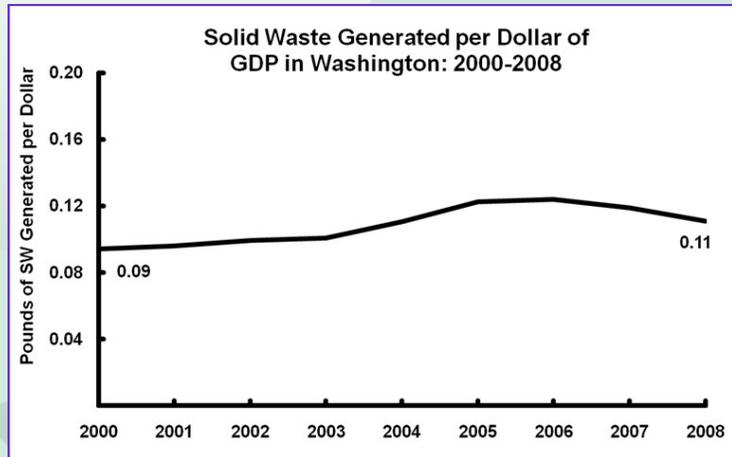
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If the 25.5 million tons of durable goods now discarded were reclaimed through reuse operations, more than 220,000 new jobs could be created in this industry alone.

Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance

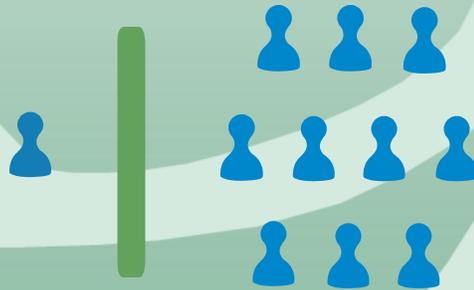
An increasing amount of solid waste generated per dollar spent in the economy means wasted energy and resources. This shows the link between waste prevention, recycling, reuse, and economic growth.



Source: Washington State Department of Ecology

For every job created at a landfill, recycling sustains 10 more jobs just through sorting and processing materials.

Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance



Visit these websites for more information on the economic benefits of recycling.

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Beyond Waste Progress Report — [www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/bwprog\\_front.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/bwprog_front.html)
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance — [www.ilsr.org/recycling](http://www.ilsr.org/recycling)
- Recycler's World Post-Consumer Recyclables Index — [www.recycle.net/price/post.html](http://www.recycle.net/price/post.html)
- EPA Jobs through Recycling — [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/jtr/econ/econres.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/jtr/econ/econres.htm)
- U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study (REI), July 2001 - R.W. Beck for EPA/NRC- [www.epa.gov/jtr/econ/rei-rw/result.htm](http://www.epa.gov/jtr/econ/rei-rw/result.htm)