



## RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

You can make a difference!



In April 2014, Governor Rick Snyder called Michigan to action to double residential recycling. While Michiganders are great at recycling returnable beverage containers, returnables only make up 2% of all waste. Michigan's recycling rate averages around 15%, lower than every other Great Lakes state, and one of the lowest in the country. We can do better! Are you doing your part?

### What is my part in the recycling initiative?

The average American generates over four pounds of recyclables, organics and waste every day. That amounts to almost 1,600 pounds per year for a single individual! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that approximately 75% of our waste is not waste at all, but is in fact valuable recyclable materials that can be re-purposed into new products. It is estimated that \$435 million worth of recyclables are landfilled each year in Michigan.

*What's in your garbage can?*



Do your part! Learn more at:  
[www.michigan.gov/mirecycles](http://www.michigan.gov/mirecycles)

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### What difference can one person *really* make?

The items that you threw away five years ago still sit in a landfill today. The aluminum can you just recycled could be back on the shelf as a new aluminum can in only 60 days. Just think, one person's increased recycling efforts can help Michigan reach its 30% recycling goal and divert over 450 pounds of material from landfills each year! What if everyone in your household did the same? Everyone in your neighborhood? Your community? **Working together, we can make a difference!**

### How else can I make an impact?

We are all consumers, and we all hold the power and responsibility to make educated decisions about the products we buy. Was the packaging of your milk carton designed to be recycled? Is there an opportunity to purchase products made from recycled materials? Purchasing products that can be recycled or are made from recycled materials will help Michigan "close the loop." Small changes in your behavior can make a big impact on Michigan's environment, economy, and future!

### Recycling saves energy and resources

Recycling one ton of:

- Aluminum** saves 95% energy usage and 40 barrels of oil
- Glass** saves 50% energy usage and 5 gallons of oil
- Paper** saves 60% energy usage, 7,000 gallons of water, 17 trees, and nine barrels of oil
- Plastic** saves over 60% of energy usage and 16 barrels of oil



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