

Prince William County
DPW/Solid Waste Division

Fun Recycling Facts & Information

Paper Recycling:

- In 2005, a record 51.5 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. (51.3 million tons) was recovered for recycling. That is about 346 pounds for each man, woman and child in the United States.
- In 2005, 78% of paper and paperboard mills used some recovered paper and 149 mills used only recovered paper
- Every ton of paper that is recovered saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space

Source: American Forest & Paper Association

Metal Recycling:

- Steel is the most recycled material—68.7% is recycled
- About 630 steel cans are recycled every second!
- Stack the nearly 19 billion steel cans recycled in 1996 end to end, and you would have a line stretching from here to the moon and back more than three times (based on a can height of 5 inches).
- Steel cans contain 25% recycled content and are completely recyclable.
- 90% off all appliances are recycled.
- 63.4% of all aluminum and steel food and beverage containers are recycled.
- Using recycled steel to make new steel saves energy. In fact, the steel industry saves enough energy in one year to electrically power 18 million homes for one year.

Source: Steel Recycling Institute

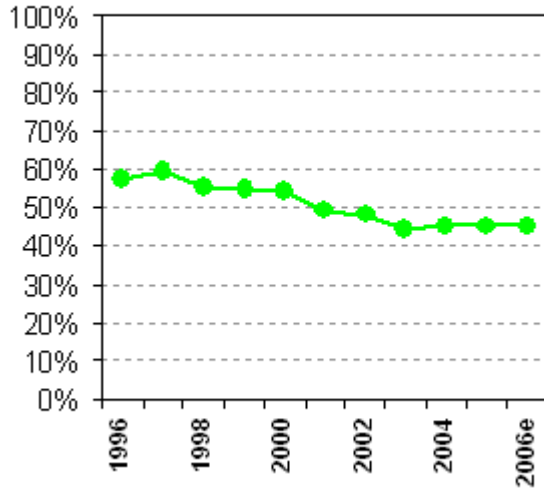
Glass Recycling:

- Glass can be recycled again and again with no loss in quality or purity.
- Glass containers go from recycling bin to store shelf in as little as 30 days—again and again.
- In 2006, glass made up about 5.3% of the municipal solid waste stream by weight.
- About 25.3% of all glass containers were recycled.
- 30.7% of all glass beer and soft drink bottles were recycled.
- According to the U.S. EPA, glass bottles have one of the highest levels of recycled content.
- Made from domestically plentiful, nontoxic raw materials—silica, sand, soda ash, limestone and up to 70% recycled glass—glass is one of the safest packaging materials.
- And, recycling glass reduces consumption of raw materials, extends the life of plant equipment, such as furnaces, and saves energy.

Source: Glass Packaging Institute

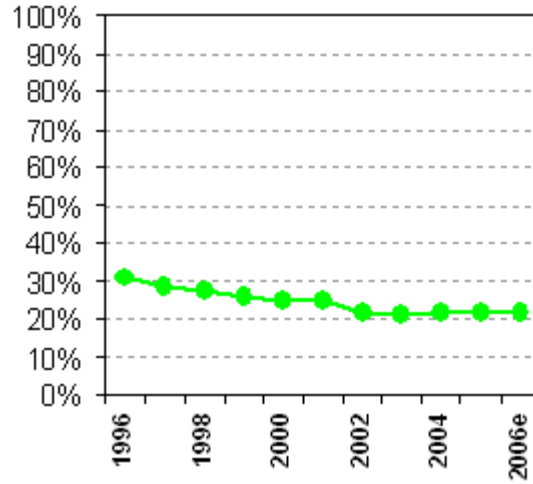
Container Recycling Rates by Commodity:

Aluminum Can Recycling Rates, 1996-2006e



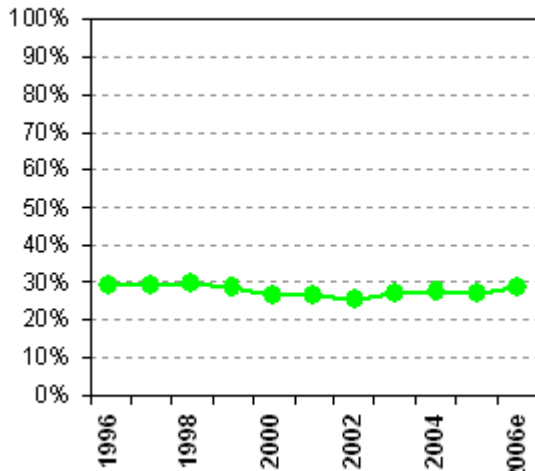
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PET Plastic Beverage Bottle Recycling Rates, 1996-2006e



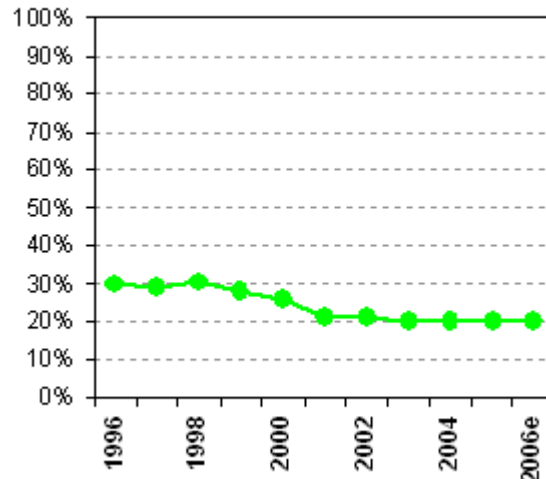
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HDPE Plastic Beverage Bottle Recycling Rates, (%) 1996-2006e



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Glass Beverage Bottle Recycling Rates, (%) 1996-2006e



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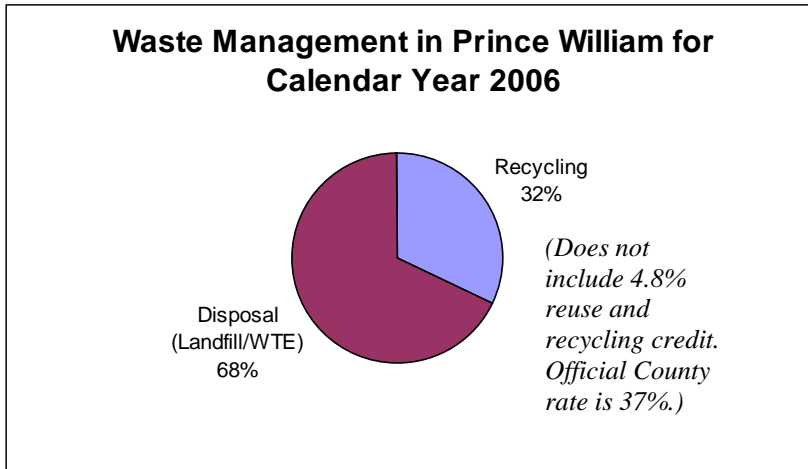
Why Recycle - Top 10 Reasons to Recycle:

- **Good For Our Economy** - American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.
- **Creates Jobs** - Recycling in the U.S. is a \$236 billion a year industry. More than 56,000 recycling and reuse enterprises employ 1.1 million workers nationwide.
- **Reduces Waste** - The average American discards seven and a half pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage goes into to landfills, where it's compacted and buried.
- **Good For The Environment** - Recycling requires far less energy, uses fewer natural resources, and keeps waste from piling up in landfills.
- **Saves Energy** - Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials. (Manufacturing with recycled aluminum cans uses 95% less energy.)
- **Preserves Landfill Space** - No one wants to live next door to a landfill. Recycling preserves existing landfill space.
- **Prevents Global Warming** - In 2000, recycling of solid waste prevented the release of 32.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MMTCE, the unit of measure for greenhouse gases) into the air.
- **Reduces Water Pollution** - Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.
- **Protects Wildlife** - Using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.
- **Creates New Demand** - Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products, decreasing waste and helping our economy.

Source: National Recycling Coalition

Prince William County Recycling Rate:

- The statutory recycling rate of 25 percent continues today for many Virginia localities, but legislation introduced in 2006 provides for a two-tiered recycling mandate - 15% and 25%.
- Each county, city, town or regional authority is required to establish recycling programs that would meet these goals.
- For 2006 Prince William County had a base recycling rate of 32.2% plus 4.8% credits for recycling residue, solid waste reuse, and source reduction for a total recycling rate of 37%.



Note: Does not include 4.8% allowable credits—Official Prince William recycling rate is 37%

Comparative Recycling Rates:

Locality/SWPU	CY 2006 Recycling Rate
Arlington County	42.7%
Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Authority (Stafford County/Fredericksburg)	40.4%
Fairfax City	39.4%
Virginia Statewide Average	38.4%
<i>Prince William County</i>	<i>37.0%</i>
Fairfax County	35.3%
Northern Virginia Average	33.4%
Loudoun County	30.2%
Manassas City	27.0%
Fauquier County	25.3%
Alexandria City	24.3%
Manassas Park City	9.9%
Northern Virginia Average	33.4%
Virginia Statewide Average	38.4%