

# The Scrap Recycling Industry: Environmental Stewards

This thriving economic engine is also a pivotal player in **environmental protection and sustainability**.

The scrap recycling industry recycled **150 million tons of materials in 2007**, thereby transforming society's outdated and obsolete products and materials into useful raw materials needed to produce new products. In doing so, the scrap recycling industry has made great savings in both energy and natural resources and thus has had an **extremely positive impact on our environment**. Further, by purchasing products at the end of their life and processing them back into raw materials used in the manufacture of new products, scrap recycling reduces the need for virgin materials, such as iron ore, trees, and other natural resources.

Scrap recycling offers **real sustainable solutions** for balancing economic growth and environmental stewardship. Scrap recycling stimulates economies from small towns in rural America to major cities to international trade. The result is **economic and environmental sustainability** for our nation and our world.

## Recycling Saves Energy

Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by significantly **saving the amount of energy needed to manufacture the products** that we buy, build, and use. The energy saved by recycling can then be used for more important purposes, such as heating our homes and powering our automobiles. The scrap recycling industry takes the job of environmental steward extremely seriously. After all, **our children's future depends on it!**

Recycling	Saves the Energy Equivalent of:	Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions by (CO <sub>2</sub> Equivalent)
1 Car	502 Gallons of Gasoline	8,811 lbs.
1 Refrigerator	36 Gallons of Gasoline	566 lbs.
1 Computer & CRT Monitor	27 Gallons of Gasoline	404 lbs.
1 Washing Machine	24 Gallons of Gasoline	397 lbs.
4 Tires	18 Gallons of Gasoline	323 lbs.
1 Television	8 Gallons of Gasoline	81 lbs.
10 lbs. of Aluminum Cans	7 Gallons of Gasoline	16 lbs.
10 lbs. of Cardboard	2 Gallons of Gasoline	40 lbs.

Source: U.S. EPA Durable Goods Calculator, WARM Calculator  
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/wyacd/waste/tools.html>



Recycling **reduces energy consumption** and the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change, while **maintaining a steady supply of raw materials** for America's manufacturing economy.



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*Voice of the Recycling Industry*

