



Protecting Our Environment

Recycling: It's as Easy as 1-2-3

(NAPSA)—Here for a change, is good news about our environment. Recycling is becoming more than just a trend, it's proving to be a hot topic of conversation as more people realize just how important it is. While there is still much to do, education and outreach efforts have resulted in signs of progress.

Approximately 80 percent of Americans have access to some kind of plastics recycling program. Additionally, data has shown that nearly half of all people in the U.S. are now served by curbside collection programs. These programs along with drop-off and buy-back centers play a key role in diverting waste from landfills.

So, how can you do your part? Waste Management, Inc. one of the nation's largest recyclers and the largest waste collector in North America, offers some tips to help you "Think Green."

Consider this, the average American uses 650 lbs. of paper per year. Using recycled paper can make a difference. One ton of recycled paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water and prevents 60 lbs of air pollutants.

Need more convincing? Every ton of recycled newspaper saves 4100 kWh or enough energy to power a television for 31 hours.

When it comes to doing your part, just remember this simple equation: reduce, reuse and recycle. You can reduce the amount of



More and more Americans are getting around to recycling.

waste you create by among other things, reusing boxes, donating old magazines to local causes and turning empty jars into containers for leftover food.

Holidays offer many opportunities to do your part. Consider using your fine china at holiday gatherings instead of paper plates and don't forget to add your holiday meal scraps to the compost heap. Use gift bags instead of wrapping paper. They can be used again and they help keep paper out of the waste stream. Last but not least, think ahead about recycling your Christmas tree. Consider turning it into landscaping mulch or compost. If that's not an option, then find out where you can drop it off.

Each of us can do our part. Let the three "R's"—reduce, reuse and recycle—be your guide during the holidays and all year round.