

# The Scrap Recycling Industry: Environmental Stewards

The U.S. scrap recycling industry, which employs 149,000 men and women, is also a pivotal player in **environmental protection, resource conservation, and sustainability.**

The scrap recycling industry recycled more than **130 million metric tons of materials in 2014**, thereby transforming society's outdated and obsolete products and materials into useful raw materials needed to produce new products.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.

Recycling	Saves the Energy Equivalent of:	Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions by (CO <sub>2</sub> Equivalent)
One Car	450 Gallons of Gasoline	8,811 lbs.
One Refrigerator	29 Gallons of Gasoline	566 lbs.
One Computer & CRT Monitor	21 Gallons of Gasoline	404 lbs.
One Washing Machine	20 Gallons of Gasoline	397 lbs.
Four Tires	17 Gallons of Gasoline	323 lbs.
One Television	4 Gallons of Gasoline	81 lbs.
10 lbs. of Aluminum Cans 10	2 Gallons of Gasoline	40 lbs.
One ton of Water Bottles	173 Gallons of Gasoline	3380 lbs.

The total estimated **reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** from scrap recycling globally is approximately 410 million tons per year.

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



Recycling reduces energy consumption and the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change, while helping to maintain a steady supply of raw materials for the U.S. and global economies.



**ISRI**

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*Voice of the Recycling Industry*

