All sorts of materials can be recycled

**Ferrous Metal**
Items made from iron and steel, like old automobiles, machinery, or appliances.

**Glass**
Bottles, jars, and other glass containers.

**Non-Ferrous Metal**
Anything made of aluminum, copper, lead, zinc, or tin.

**Electronics**
Old TVs, computers, cell phones, and other electronics equipment.

**Plastics**
Items made from plastic, like milk jugs, soda bottles, and grocery bags.

**Tires**
From old cars, trucks, and bicycles.

**Paper**
Paper products such as newspapers, magazines, office paper, and cardboard boxes.

**Textiles**
Clothing, furnishings, and other products.

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**How Does Recycling Work?**

- **Reduce**
  - Less waste going into landfills and incinerators
  - Less mining of raw materials
  - Less water and energy used

- **Reuse**
  - Reuse of products and materials
  - Recycling of materials

- **Recycle**
  - Recycling of materials into new products

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**Recycling and the Environment**

Recycling is a very important way to help the environment.

- **The environment** is the place in which we live and all the things around us. It includes the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the plants and trees growing around us. Protecting the environment is therefore key to our survival.

Unfortunately, our environment is in danger. We use many things only once and then throw them away, like worn-out bikes and cars, empty soda cans and bottles, and old newspapers. These items then get buried in places called landfills, or incinerated and released into the air. But recycling our used and worn-out items in landfills is not ideal for many reasons. Not only are we wasting perfectly good resources, but we use up land to store these materials and we risk potentially contaminating the earth and all those who depend upon it, including animals and people, if not safely handled.

Fortunately, recycling – converting new things from our old things instead of just throwing them away – provides several key benefits that will help our environment.

- **For example**, when we make new products from recyclable materials, we don’t have to fill up the landfills, and instead we can save the land for more productive uses.
- **Recycling also saves valuable resources.** When we recycle, we don’t have to mine for new ore or cut down more trees to make our products. Additionally, recycling saves energy since machines need less energy to make new products from recyclable materials. This saves oil and coal and results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions, which are otherwise harmful to the environment.
- **Recycling protects the planet’s air, water, and land,** and saves energy and natural resources that can be used for other valuable purposes.

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**The ScrapMap**

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