



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

Support Your Local Recycling Program

Recycling can make a big difference in the economics of our community's waste equation. Disagree? Read on!

First, let's dispel the myth that the sale of recyclable materials pays for the recycling program. It does not. When the costs associated with collection – including trucks, manpower and fuel – are added to the cost of sorting and processing the materials, that total expense more than cancels out the revenue generated from the sale of recyclables. The result is a net loss. However, it should be noted that the "tipping fee" (cost per ton for processing waste) for recyclable materials is considerably less than the "tipping fee" that is applied to trash. So the more we put into our recycling containers, the less the cost of disposal!

Second, let's examine the materials that we do recycle. Fiber (all types of paper and cardboard) and metals (aluminum and steel cans) carry perhaps the highest value by volume of the materials that we put into our recycling containers. However, plastics – the right kinds of plastics – are also very marketable. By putting more effort into recycling these types of materials, we increase the value of our recycling and increase the revenue side of our revenue/expense equation. That reduces cost!

The moral of the story? The more we support our local recycling programs, the less the cost of disposing of our waste. Recycling makes economic sense!



Sorting Center - High Point