

Recycling is Beneficial

Many people have solutions for ways to help preserve our environment. Others have ideas of how the economy can be strengthened. Could there be one solution for both of these problems? There is an answer that is often overlooked by many because they are not fully aware of the vast number of benefits it can provide. Although some may believe that recycling is a waste of time and therefore is not necessary, nevertheless, mandatory-recycling programs should be implemented because recycling benefits the environment and the economy.

] Mention recycling here.

In order to fully comprehend the necessity for recycling programs one must first be made aware of the hazardous conditions of a landfill alternative. Landfills produce a toxic wastewater called leachate that collects in the bottom of the landfill (Martin 62). Overtime, landfills begin to crack and the toxic wastewater can leak into the drinking water systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discovered that of the 75,000 landfills in the United States, around 75% of them are cracked and leaking harmful pollutants (Tammemagi 7). The EPA is the federal run organization that is responsible for the nation's environmental science, research, education, and assessment efforts. Their goal is to try to preserve society's health and the environment and to try to work towards a cleaner and healthier environment for America ("Communicating benefits"). One way the EPA is trying to work towards that goal is by advocating for an alternative to the current landfill situation.

Recycling is beneficial to the environment because it reduces the amount of harmful pollutants emitted into the air. By recycling a larger amount of materials, fewer materials will have to be newly produced. "A national recycling rate of 30%, reduces

greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the removal of nearly 25 million cars from the road" ("Recycling Benefits"). By increasing the recycling rate more materials can be reused thus decreasing the production rate for new materials and cutting back on the amount of pollutants that factories emit into the air. In the United States processing of materials contributes to about half of the toxic emissions from industry which send approximately 1.5 million tons of pollution into the air and water every year ("Recycling Benefits"). Recycling can help to significantly reduce these high rates of toxic emissions. Recycling is especially beneficial to the air and water because it can create a net reduction in ten major categories of air pollutants as well as eight major categories of water pollutants ("Recycling Benefits"). If America truly wants to make our environment a healthier and cleaner place recycling is a must. Society needs mandatory recycling programs so we will be able to continue to keep on increasing our recycling rates so the amount of toxic emissions can be reduced.

Recycling is also beneficial to the environment because it can help to reduce the amount of waste that is tossed away into landfills. "Everyday, U.S. businesses generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times" (Martin, "Benefits Environment"). Of this huge amount of paper that is wasted by businesses alone, most of it is tossed away into landfills everyday instead of being recycled. Many trees could be saved even if only a slightly higher percentage of this wasted paper could make it to the recycles. For every ton of paper that does manage to stay out of the landfill, the paper recycling industry is able to save 17 trees (Martin, "Recycling Effective"). By recycling all of our wasted paper so many trees could be saved. Even if just small measures were taken like recycling all the morning papers read around the country, 41,000 trees could be saved daily and 6

million tons of waste could avoid going into landfills (Martin, "Benefits Environment"). We need to start taking the steps no matter how small to increase America's recycling rates. Even if we are to begin by recycling just a small number of things everyday like the morning newspapers or our junk mail we will be able to save thousands of trees. These small steps are just the start, if mandatory recycling programs are implemented then the recycling rates can continue to soar and we will be able to save more and more trees from being destroyed and eventually ending up in landfills.

Recycling is economically beneficial because it is more cost effective than the operation of the landfill alternative and helps to save money by cutting back on production costs. Many believe that recycling is more expensive than landfills however this is not usually the case. A well-run recycling program can actually cost a lot less than waste-collection, landfilling, or incineration ("Recycling Benefits"). Many cities around the U.S have discovered that their recycling programs save them tons of money every year. Ann Arbor for example has a recycling program that saves their city around \$324,000 each year compared to using a landfill system for disposal of garbage (Porter). Many other cities are also discovering that recycling programs will be more beneficial to their economies. For cities to be able to maximize the amount of money they save each year for from recycling programs mandatory-recycling programs could be created so that the cities have a zero-waste policies to cut back on the higher costs of landfills. Not only cities but also many companies have discovered that they can cut back on their production costs by recycling. "Corporations such as Ford Motor Co., save millions of dollars by recycling which cuts back on production costs (Martin 121). Many corporations such as Ford have recycling programs that reuses materials that are used

when shipping their products to warehouses. By reusing these products several times they cut back on some of the costs on producing and shipping their products to their warehouses and stores. These recycling programs that are already existing not only help preserve the environment but also strengthen the economy which is very beneficial to our country.

Recycling helps to strengthen the economy because it creates more jobs than landfills and other waste management industries. "Recycling creates four jobs for every job created in the waste management and disposal industries" ("Recycling Benefits"). The economy is strengthened by the increased amount of jobs that are created when recycling becomes the alternative for landfills. Recycling in America is becoming a major industry especially as recycling rates begin to increase. Currently it is a \$236 billion a year industry consisting of more than 56,000 enterprises which employ 1.1 million workers around the nation ("Top 10"). These statistics could be increased and continue to aid the economy if recycling became a requirement in the United States. Jobs are not just created just for the collection of recyclebles but jobs are also created for sorters, dispatchers, truck drivers, brokers, sales representatives, process engineers, and chemists ("Communicating Benefits"). Recycling helps increase the workforce around the country. It is vital that we turn to recycling to help strengthen our economy by the greater amount of jobs that its industries can create.

Recycling is an effective way to benefit not only the environment but also the economy. Based on the vast number of benefits that recycling created it only seems logical to turn to recycling as the main source for waste removal. The only way to completely be able to maximize these results is by creating mandatory recycling

programs so that we are able to preserve our environment and strengthen our economy.

Recycling is the solution to the preservation of the environment as well as the economy.

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Shaina -
This is pretty much perfect.
I'm not marking it up so
I can use as a model
in the future.

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