

RECYCLE! To Make a Difference in Georgia

Benefiting our economy as well as the environment, recycling is making a difference for Georgia's communities. Recycling is everywhere, creating jobs and helping companies mine the "urban forest" for the materials needed to make the things we use every day.

Recycle! for Georgia's ECONOMY

Georgia is renowned for its plentiful markets for recovered materials. With one of the largest infrastructures in the U.S. for processing recyclables of all kinds, Georgia derives tremendous economic value from recycling.



33% of all plastic beverage containers recycled in North America are recycled in Georgia, many by the state's world-class carpet manufacturing industry



8% of all paper used in the U.S. is recycled in Georgia

15 paper mills in Georgia use recycled paper for their products

7 use 100% recycled paper



120+ Georgia businesses use recycled materials* to produce new products

23,000 Georgians are employed by these companies



6 companies in Georgia use recycled glass to make new products:

3 manufacture new bottles
3 make fiberglass insulation



Novelis, one of the world's largest aluminum recyclers, has its North American headquarters in Atlanta and recycles used beverage cans in Greensboro, Georgia

*Figure includes traditional materials (paper, plastics, metals, glass), plus organics, carpet, and tires.

Recycle! for Georgia's ENVIRONMENT

Recycling remains an important safeguard for the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting air and water pollution, saving energy, and conserving forests and other natural resources.



7,000 gallons of water are conserved for each ton of paper made from recycled materials



90% in energy savings is gained when aluminum products are made from recycled aluminum

Visit georgiarecycles.org and keepgeorgiabeautiful.org for local recycling information.



**Georgia
Recycling
Coalition**



— KEEP GEORGIA
BEAUTIFUL
Foundation
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL, AFFILIATE

COMPOST! To Make a Difference in Georgia

Composting, the process of turning organic materials such as food scraps and yard trimmings into soil, is nature's way of recycling. It's also easy to do and offers advantages for your garden, the environment, and the economy.

On a per ton basis, composting yard trimmings creates twice as many jobs as landfilling them.



Compost Use Conserves Water

The organic matter in compost holds 10 to 1,000 times more water and nutrients than the same amount of soil minerals. During periods of drought, using compost can reduce your water bill and help keep your plants healthy.



Compost Use Enriches the Soil

Compost can help regenerate poor soils. The composting process encourages the production of beneficial microorganisms, which then break down organic material to create a rich, nutrient-filled material that helps suppress plant diseases and pests, reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers, and promote higher crop yield.



Compost Use Prevents Erosion

Using compost in areas prone to erosion can help stabilize the soil and promote faster establishment of vegetation, since compost increases water infiltration into the soil surface, reduces runoff, and increases plant growth and soil cover.



Composting Can Save Money

Using homemade compost could reduce your need to purchase some lawn and garden products, such as mulch, soil conditioners, fertilizers, and pesticides. Composting in your backyard could also reduce the amount you pay for waste disposal.



Composting May Extend the Life of Landfills

Yard and garden scraps account for more than 30% of the total amount of material thrown away each year. Your decision to compost reduces the need to bury organic materials and may help extend the life of your municipal solid waste landfill.

To learn more about composting, please visit georgiarecycles.org, gacompost.org, and compostingcouncil.org.



**Georgia
Recycling
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US Composting
Council®

The **Georgia Recycling Coalition** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to complement and coordinate activities relative to recycling; to foster communication among professionals, organizations, government agencies, and individuals; and to promote and enhance reduction and recycling programs throughout the state.