



Tillamook County Solid Waste

For more information about recycling or hazardous waste disposal:

Call (503) 815-3975 or email us at recycle@co.tillamook.or.us

or visit our website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/solid-waste

Each year in November we try and spend a little time focusing on recycling, in honor of America Recycles Day (November 15th). This year I thought I'd try and relay just how much we save, as a whole, just in terms of what we do here in Tillamook County. Forget about the state or the nation, or even the world for a moment, and concentrate only on Tillamook County.

Of the nearly 14,000 tons of materials we recycled in 2020, 75% of it can be grouped into four categories: aluminum, metal, paper/cardboard, and glass. (A further 15% was yard debris, but that is a topic for another month.)

Based on average energy savings data available from the EPA, our recycling efforts resulted in a savings of:

- 22,500,000 Kwh (that's 22,500 Mwh) of energy,
- 22,500 barrels of oil, and
- 34 million gallons of water.

According to the EIA, the average U.S. home consumed 10,399 kWh per year (2017). Based on that average, the energy saved by recycling in Tillamook County each year is equivalent to what is needed to power approx. 2,150 homes for a whole year.

The amount of water we save is not insignificant either – it would take 52 Olympic-sized swimming pools to contain the water we save each year through recycling our cardboard and paper.

So next time you wonder whether it's really worthwhile recycling that box, can, or bottle, remember that you are truly making a difference, and contributing to something significant.

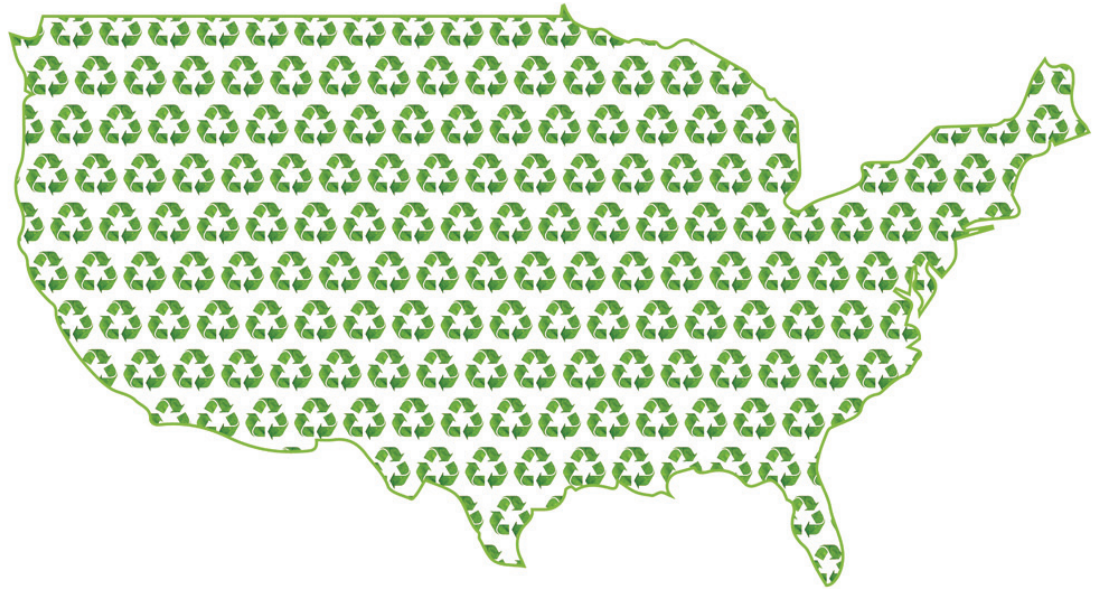
David McCall
Solid Waste Program
Manager



Material	Energy Savings <i>Recycle vs original</i>	Tons recycled in Tillamook County (2020)	Savings* based on Tillamook County's recycling (2020)
Aluminum	95%	210	2,940,000 Kwh of energy 8,400 barrels of oil
Metal/Steel	50-60%	4,748	32,322 Kwh of energy 17,093 barrels of oil
Paper/Cardboard	64-75%	4,875	19,500,000 Kwh of energy 34,125,000 gallons of water
Glass	70%	663	27,846 Kwh of energy 3,315 gallons of oil

*Estimated values based on EPA data and DEQ's 2020 Recovery Report.

AMERICA



RECYCLES DAY