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Montanans for Recycling

Currently, Montana is not doing its part to prevent Environmental harm. This is a matter that concerns everyone and their children, as we all live in one irreplaceable planet. To point out the shortcomings of current Montana environmental actions, we have provided some examples. Right now, very few people have access to recycling. One has to go and recycle at the dump or pay additional money This does not incentivize people to be environmentally-aware and it is the people that can help stop additional harm being inflicted on our natural surroundings. Here are some recycling facts to show how relevant this problem is:

- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, 7,000 gallons of water and 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity - enough energy to power the average American home for 5 months.
- Producing recycled paper requires about 60% of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- In the manufacturing process of recycled paper
 - o 74% less air pollution is generated
 - o 35% less water pollution is generated
 - o 58% less water is required
 - o 64% less energy is required
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic can save 1-2 thousand gallons of gas.

The last fact is especially important because gas is running out; it is only a matter of time. But this is only one example, a Helena native only has to look out his or her window at Mt. Helena to see the irreversible damage caused by the pine beetle—a beetle only able to successfully do this much damage because of rising temperatures during the winter. Whether or not you believe in Global Warming or Climate Change, the horrid effects are everywhere. **WE NEED TO DO MORE FOR OUR ENVIROMENT.**

*Recycling Facts were provided by <http://www.headwatersrecycle.com/whv.html>.
We have more facts if you are interested.