

2005 RECYCLING DATA AND ECONOMIC VALUE

Because the Commonwealth statewide met the 35% recycling goal in 2002, no recycling rate is calculated for individual counties. With the growing emphasis on marketing, the most important focus is on the achievement of counties by their population and the economic benefit that can be derived through their efforts. In 2005, Pennsylvania recycled a total of 4,865,923 tons, of which 1,430,332 tons are potentially worth \$130,289,549. If the remaining 3,435,591 tons of other materials are valued at even half as much per ton, the total would be \$577,384,829. This does not include the estimated value of avoided disposal, which has been calculated as \$77,237,944 for the materials for which prices are available and \$185,521,897 for the total 4.8 million tons at the statewide average of \$54.00 per ton.

Included in the above totals are 124,565 tons that were recycled and reported by organizations other than counties. The total excess tons reported in Act 101, Section 904 grant applications are not yet available for 2005.

The economic benefit of recycling accomplished in 2005 can be assessed in part from the data received on specific materials compared to the commodity pricing for 2005, as published on the website of *Waste News Magazine*. The list below shows an economic benefit to Pennsylvania of \$130,289,549. In addition, the avoided cost of disposal of these materials at the most recent average tipping fee of \$54.00 per ton would be \$75,111,295.

The total recycling tonnage for 2004, of course, represents a much greater benefit. This chart does not represent the total benefit of recycling in that these materials account for approximately 1.4 of the 4.8 million tons recycled. A breakdown of this analysis on a county basis will be placed on the DEP website in the near future.

MATERIALS	TONS	PRICE	TOTAL
STEEL CANS	13,935.9	\$148.00	\$2,062,513.20
WHITE GOODS	56,383.3	\$45.00	\$2,537,248.50
ALUMINUM CANS	17,590.0	\$1,274.00	\$22,409,660.00
CLEAR GLAS	15,577.8	\$23.00	\$358,289.40
AMBER GLASS	6,681.5	\$11.00	\$73,496.50
PET	6,754.6	\$414.00	\$2,796,404.40
HDPE	6,955.4	\$642.00	\$4,465,366.80
NEWS NO 6	244,252.4	\$65.00	\$15,876,406.00
CORRUGATED	713,552.0	\$79.00	\$56,370,608.00
MIXED RESIDENTIAL	272,345.6	\$56.00	\$15,251,353.60
SORTED OFFICE PAPER	76,303.8	\$106.00	\$8,088,202.80
TOTAL	1,430,332	\$260.27	\$130,289,549.20

Prices are average New York reflecting 2005 prices.
Archived prices are available but not necessarily reliable.
Data does not include mixed or commingled or single stream tonnage.

AVOIDED DISPOSAL AT \$54 PER TON

\$77,237,944.20

ECONOMIC IMPACT – PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's recycling and reuse industry leads the nation in employment, payroll and sales. The more than 3,200 recycling businesses in Pennsylvania employ more than 81,000 people, generate over \$18 billion in sales, pay \$2.9 billion in payroll and \$30.5 million in taxes annually.

ECONOMIC IMPACT - NATIONAL

The U.S. Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study of 2001 is unprecedented in that it quantifies the importance of recycling and reuse to the U.S. economy. The study, commissioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and numerous states through a cooperative agreement with the National Recycling Coalition, clearly shows what many have known for a long time - recycling works.

Nationally, more than 56,000 recycling and reuse establishments employ more than 1.1 million people, with a total annual payroll of approximately \$37 billion. The average wage for those workers was \$32,700-- \$3,000 more than the national average wage. Total annual sales receipts for these industries are \$236 billion. Pennsylvania's employment, payroll and sales numbers are higher than any other state's. Specifically, Pennsylvania leads in the glass, metals, paper, plastic and rubber recycling industries.

Pennsylvania's recycling industries further had an indirect effect on the economy, estimated at \$1.8 billion, and a direct impact on the tax base, contributing \$305 million. The study also reports that 3.5 percent of Pennsylvania's jobs can be attributed to the recycling and reuse industry. A downloadable copy of the full report is available at EPA's website: www.epa.gov/jtr/econ/rei-rw/result.htm