



# Imagining A Better World – Fun Facts



1. Americans discard enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet every 3 months. (Can Manufacturers Institute)
2. Recycling 1 ton of aluminum saves the equivalent in energy of 2,350 gallons of gasoline. (Indiana Dept. of Education Waste Reduction Guide)
3. Americans throw away about 10% of the food they buy at the supermarket. This results in dumping the equivalent of more than 21 million shopping bags full of food into landfills every year. (Earthworks, The Recycler's handbook)
4. Reducing your garbage by 25% will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 pounds a year. (EPA)
5. Recycling 1 ton of glass saves the equivalent energy of 10 gallons of oil. (Dept. of Education – Waste Reduction guide)
6. The EPA estimates that 75 percent of what Americans throw in the trash could actually be recycled. Currently, only 25 percent is.
7. Every Sunday 500,000 trees could be saved if everyone recycled their newspapers. (Earth911.com)
8. Throwing away a single aluminum can, versus recycling it, is like pouring out six ounces of gasoline. Last year, Americans recycled enough aluminum cans to conserve the energy equivalent of more than 15 million barrels of oil. (Earth911.com)
9. The national recycling rate of 30 percent saves the equivalent of more than five billion gallons of gasoline, reducing dependence on foreign oil by 114 million barrels. (Earth911.com)
10. Because of global warming, Arctic ice is rapidly disappearing, and the region may have its first completely ice-free summer by 2040 or earlier. Polar bears and indigenous cultures are already suffering from the sea-ice loss. (National Geographic)
11. According to the EPA, a typical US household generates 45,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year.
12. A single 60-watt bulb left on for one hour a day will emit an extra 21 pounds of carbon dioxide.

13. 60% of the energy associated with a piece of clothing is spent in washing and drying it. Over its lifetime, a T shirt can account for 9 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions. (Cambridge University's Institute of Manufacturing)
14. According to research by climate consultants ICF International and anti-virus firm McAfee, email spam uses more than 33 billion kilowatt-hours of energy every year. This is enough to power more than 2.4 million homes, and amounts to emissions of more than 17 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.
15. Using a screen saver on a computer (LCD monitor) emits 2.5 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per day. (What you can do to stop global warming, Scholastic)
16. Taking a bath sends 3.5 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> into our atmosphere. (What you can do to stop global warming, Scholastic)
17. Using your own reusable mug rather than a throw away paper cup saves the Earth more than 77 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> over the entire life of the mug. (What you can do to stop global warming, Scholastic)
18. Cars that idle for more than 30 seconds use up more gasoline and emit more global warming pollution than cars that turn their motor off and back on again. (What you can do to stop global warming, Scholastic)
19. More than 10,000 homes in the United States are powered entirely by solar energy. (Alliant Energy)
20. Wind farms currently produce enough electricity to meet the needs of more than 600,000 families in the United States. (Alliant energy)
21. The largest wind turbine in the world, located in Hawaii, stands 20 stories tall and has blades the length of a football field.(Alliant energy)
22. One wind turbine can produce enough electricity to power up to 300 homes.(Alliant Energy)
23. In Iowa and Wisconsin, biomass energy from landfills and dairy farms is being used to make electricity. In southern Iowa, a power plant is using a crop called switchgrass to make electricity.(Alliant energy)
24. Hydro power currently provides about 10 percent of the electricity in the United States.(Alliant Energy)
25. The first geothermal power plant opened in California in 1921.A professor at Ohio State University invented the first geothermal heating system in 1948.(Alliant Energy)