All sorts of materials can be recycled

- **Ferrous Metal**: Items made from iron and steel, like old automobiles, machinery, or appliances.
- **Non-Ferrous Metal**: Anything made of aluminum, copper, lead, zinc, magnesium, or tin.
- **Plastics**: Items made from plastic, like milk jugs, soda bottles, and grocery bags.
- **Paper**: Paper products such as newspapers, magazines, office paper, and cardboard boxes.
- **Glass**: Bottles, jars, and other glass containers.
- **Electronics**: Old TVs, computers, cell phones, and other electronics equipment.
- **Tires**: From old cars, trucks, and bicycles.
- **Textiles**: Clothing, furnishings, and other products.

**Recycling and the Environment**

Recycling is a very important way to help the environment. The environment is the place we live and all the things around us. It includes the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the plants and trees growing around us. Protecting the environment is key to our survival.

Unfortunately, our environment is in danger. We use many things every day and then throw them away. This can be a problem because it is not good for the environment. Recycling helps us by reusing things that we have already used. This helps to reduce the amount of waste we produce and to conserve natural resources.

Fortunately, recycling—or creating new things from our old things—isn’t just throwing them away—it provides several key benefits that will help our environment. For example, when we make new products from recyclable materials, we don’t have to fill up the landfills, and instead we can save the land for more productive uses. Recycling also saves valuable resources. When we recycle, we don’t have to mine for new ore or cut down more trees to make our products.

Additionally, recycling saves energy since machines need less energy to make new products from recyclable materials. This saves oil and coal and reduces in fewer greenhouse gas emissions, which can otherwise harm the environment.

Recycling protects the planet’s air, water, and land; and saves energy, and natural resources that can be used for other valuable purposes.
The recycling process is depicted on the ScrapMap™ as a large circle. Each of the circles on this page shows how we can take something old and create a new and useful product. In the United States in 2013, more than 130 million metric tons of scrap metal, paper, plastic, glass, textiles, rubber, and electronics – valued at more than $80 billion – were manufactured into new products.

Your Old Computer Can Become New Again
The U.S. electronics recycling industry annually processes up to 4 million tons of used and end-of-life electronics equipment – cell phones, TVs, computers, copiers, fax machines, music players, coolers, and even iPads! More than 70 percent of the electronics collected and recycled here in the U.S. can be sorted and used as ingredients in the manufacture of new products. Shredding or otherwise processing the electronics makes available the valuable materials contained within them – including steel, copper, aluminum, plastic, and glass. The rest are refurbished and resold as functioning electronic equipment both here in the U.S. and internationally.

Your Old Tires Can Help Build the Newest Highways
Each year, Americans generate approximately 300 million scrap tires. In the past, scrap tires – generated when an old, worn tire is replaced with a new tire – were often dumped illegally in lakes, abandoned lots, along the side of the road and in sensitive habitats. Today, scrap tires are playing a much different role as an important part of the manufacturing process with more than 90 percent recycled and reused annually. Rubber from scrap tires is used in the manufacture of landscaping mulch, playground mats and athletic surfaces, molded products such as railroad ties, flowerpots, garden hoses, welcome mats, and rubberized asphalt used in the paving of roads. Cutting-edge technologies are even being developed to allow scrap tires to be used in the manufacture of new tires!

Household Plastic Can Be Recycled Over and Over Again in Manufacturing
Since 1950, the global production rate of plastics has grown steadily, and all signs point to continued growth. Because of this, there is a need to ensure that plastics are recycled when they reach the end of their useful lives so that we can protect our natural resources. While we are all familiar with the recycling of food, beverage, and other common plastic household containers, plastic recycling goes far beyond that. Engineered and industrial plastics are found in all types of products, from cars to refrigerators, and these plastics are being recycled every day as well.

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