

Paper Recycling Benefits

Name

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RUNNING HEAD: Paper Recycling Benefits

For a long time now the environmental problems were neglected by people as if they were of secondary importance, or even not important at all. Starting from the industrial era, it was important to produce goods, the more – the better. At the same time it was believed that the consequences of producing goods without proper attention to what it does to environment have so little impact on the world we live in, that this issue was not considered at all. Luckily, after more than a hundred years we have noticed that human beings can affect the environment in a bad way, and if we don't do anything with it, the changes will be irreversible.

One of the things we can do to protect environment is to recycle paper. Recycling one ton of paper can save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space and 4,000 kilowatts of energy-enough to power the average U.S. home for six months-and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one metric ton of carbon equivalent (MTCE) (Larry West, 2015).

There are facts that will help people understand the problem better:

- A typical office generates about one pound of paper per employee and that from that paper, 77 percent of what is wasted in offices across the country is recyclable.
- Most of the paper wasted is high grade paper.
- Using old paper to make new paper uses 30 to 50 percent less energy than making paper from trees.
- Pollution is also reduced by 95 percent when used paper is made into new sheets.
- 40 percent of all waste going to landfills is paper. Cutting down on paper waste will extend the lives of our landfills.
- Newspaper can be recycled into egg cartons, game boards, new newspaper, gift boxes, animal bedding, insulation and packaging material.
- Office paper is recycled into paper towels, tissue paper and toilet paper.

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- Corrugated cardboard is created into new cardboard and cereal boxes (Alice Wisler, 2015).

Despite the fact there is yet much to do to make paper recycling even more popular among people, there is still a positive tendency nowadays. In 2010, 63.5 percent of the paper used in the United States was recovered for recycling, an average of 334 pounds for every man, woman and child nationwide and an 89 percent increase in the recovery rate since 1990, according to the American Forest & Paper Association. Approximately 80 percent of U.S. paper mills use some recovered paper fiber to produce new paper and paperboard products (Larry West, 2015).

We have now realized that recycling material that we use in our everyday life is better than using resources that are often not renewable to produce the new goods. Paper is one of such materials and people should know why it is so important to recycle paper. Moreover, they should also realize what practical use there is from doing that.

Bibliography

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