

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SMALL CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR PLANET!

WHEN YOU THROW SOMETHING AWAY, WHERE DOES IT GO?

EVERY YEAR, AMERICANS CREATE **258 MILLION TONS** OF TRASH

169 MILLION TONS END UP IN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS

BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO

YOU CAN DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TRASH THAT IS THROWN AWAY BY **TAKING A FEW EASY STEPS:**

REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MATERIALS YOU USE, WHICH **REDUCES** THE AMOUNT OF WASTE YOU CREATE.

REUSE MATERIALS WHEN POSSIBLE **RECYCLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE**

RETHINK THE MATERIALS **YOU USE** AND **THOSE YOU THROW AWAY**

BY THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE'RE USING AND HOW TO REDUCE THE WASTE WE PRODUCE, WE CAN HELP CREATE A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT.

WHAT IS MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)?

OUR TRASH, OR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, IS COMPRISED OF VARIOUS MATERIALS AMERICANS COMMONLY THROW AWAY AFTER BEING USED.

MSW DOES NOT INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL, HAZARDOUS OR CONSTRUCTION WASTE.

DID YOU KNOW?

ABOUT **95% OF FOOD** THAT COULD BE **COMPOSTED** ENDS UP IN **LANDFILLS** AND INCINERATORS.

THE IMPACT

RECYCLING HELPS TO CREATE **CLEANER LAND, AIR AND WATER** AND **BETTER HEALTH.**

IN 2014, **NATIONALLY,** WE RECYCLED **AND COMPOSTED** **89 MILLION TONS OF MSW.**

ANNUALLY, THIS ELIMINATED MORE THAN **181 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CO₂ EQUIVALENT EMISSIONS** REDUCED WHICH IS **COMPARABLE TO REMOVING THE ANNUAL EMISSIONS**

FROM OVER **38 MILLION** PASSENGER VEHICLES.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING HELPS SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING 89 MILLION TONS OF MSW... **SAVED ALMOST 1.1 QUADRILLION BTU OF ENERGY.** THAT'S THE SAME AMOUNT OF ENERGY CONSUMED BY OVER **25 MILLION U.S. HOUSEHOLDS** IN A YEAR.

EVERY TON OF PAPER RECYCLED **CAN SAVE THE ENERGY EQUIVALENT** OF **322 GALLONS OF GASOLINE.**

RECYCLING 1 TON OF ALUMINUM CANS CONSERVES **EQUIVALENT TO 21 BARRELS OF OIL**

OVER 152 MILLION BTUs, OR **1,024 GALLONS OF GASOLINE.**

OUR PROGRESS

OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES, THE RECYCLING, COMPOSTING, COMBUSTION WITH ENERGY RECOVERY AND LANDFILLING OF MSW HAS CHANGED.

WHILE THE AMOUNT OF MSW PRODUCED WENT UP PER PERSON PER DAY, RECYCLING HAS ALSO INCREASED.

IN 2013, OVER 21 MILLION TONS OF YARD TRIMMINGS WERE COMPOSTED... **ALMOST FIVE TIMES AS MUCH AS IN 1990.**

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MSW GOING TO LANDFILLS DROPPED FROM **145.3 MILLION** TO **136 MILLION TONS**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

IN STORES:

- Shop for products **made with recycled materials.**
- Buy items with **less packaging.**
- Buy refillable, **reusable containers.**
- Bring **reusable cloth or canvas bags to the grocery store.**
- Buy only **what you need or what you know you will use** (applies to food as well).

AT HOME:

- Use **energy-efficient light bulbs** and **rechargeable batteries.**
- **Reuse plastic bags.**
- Ask to be **removed from paper mailing lists.**
- Don't throw anything away that can be **reused or repaired.**
- For unwanted used electronics, **try upgrading the device to continue using it.** Otherwise, **donate or recycle it.**
- **Print on both sides of paper** (and use recycled paper) **or do not print at all.**
- **Compost** your food scraps and yard waste.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY! If we all take **small steps every day** to reduce the amount of waste we produce, **we can help protect our planet** for generations to come.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/recycle.