

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?

IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2018,

292.4 MILLION TONS OF TRASH

WERE GENERATED

146.2 MILLION TONS

ENDED UP IN LANDFILLS

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 CONSUMERS CONTINUOUSLY THROW AWAY AFTER BEING USED.



MSW DOES NOT INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL, HAZARDOUS, OR CONSTRUCTION WASTE.



THE IMPACT

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

IN 2018, **NATIONALLY**, WE RECYCLED

AND COMPOSTED

94 MILLION TONS OF MSW.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING HELPS SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES.

OUR PROGRESS



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

3.66 LBS IN 1980
4.90 LBS IN 2018

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

<10% IN 1980
32.1% IN 2018

IN 2018, OVER 22 MILLION TONS OF YARD TRIMMINGS WERE COMPOSTED...



ALMOST FIVE TIMES AS MUCH AS IN 1990.



THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF **MSW GOING TO LANDFILLS** ROSE SLIGHTLY

FROM 145.3 MILLION

TO 146.2 MILLION TONS IN

WHILE THE U.S. POPULATION INCREASED

HOW YOU CAN HELP

IN STORES:

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

AT HOME:

- **Use bags that you already have** in your home and **recycle bags** that you no longer need if they can be recycled.
- 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 the planet** for generations to come.

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



This information is based on data from EPA's Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures 2018. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling>