

Paper Math Exercise

Recycling is important. Can one person's effort really make a difference? The answer is yes! Imagine the difference made when that effort is multiplied by a whole school, city, or state. Read the fun facts below and then use the information to solve word problems and find out how recycling adds up.

Fun Facts

342 pounds of paper are recycled for every person in the United States each year. That much paper weighs about the same amount as six second-graders.

Currently, the United States recycles more than 50% of the paper products it consumes. That adds up to more than 50 million tons of paper each year. The U.S. paper industry wants to increase the recovery rate to 55% by the year 2012, which is great news for the environment.

Every ton of paper that's recovered for recycling saves:

- 6,953 gallons of water
- 587 pounds of air pollution
- 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4077 kilowatt hours of energy

***Include fundraising fact, landfill fact, water fact, etc.

Activity:

Have each student count the number of members of their family. If each family member recycled one pound of paper per week, how much waste would be diverted from the landfill?

Have the students multiply the number of students in the class by one pound of paper per week. If there are x weeks in the school year, how much paper can the class alone recycle? Have them translate this into environmental savings.