

You Times 20,000

Here's the good news: Increased recycling in Arlington has saved the town over \$2,000,000 over the past ten years, as the amount of solid waste (trash) that the town pays to incinerate annually has dropped by one-third - Yes one-third of the level that it was just ten years ago. And everyone involved is to be congratulated for these impressive results!

But there are still many recycling opportunities which can help us decrease our solid waste costs even more!

Next time you are about to toss a recyclable item in the trash, ask yourself the 20K question: If every one of the 20,000 plus households in Arlington recycled this item instead of throwing it away, how much lighter would our load of trash be this week? Remember, each ton of trash costs more than \$72 to incinerate.

- A single weekday newspaper (x) 20,000 households = 6.25 tons
- A single Sunday newspaper (x) 20,000 households = 28.1 tons
- A single cereal box (x) 20,000 households = 1.875 tons
- A single sheet of paper (x) 20,000 = 40 reams of paper = 800 pounds
- A single paper towel inner core (x) 20,000 = 625 pounds
- A single toilet paper core (x) 20,000 = 250 pounds

And the savings really add up when you look at cardboard. By the way, cardboard recycling is easier since you can put it out on the curb with your regular recycling and you no longer have to cut it down to fit in the recycling collection trucks!

- A single large cardboard box (x) 20,000 = 30 tons
- A single medium cardboard box (x) 20,000 = 15 tons
- A single small cardboard box (x) 20,000 = 7.5 tons

As for those items you may feel a little lazy about rinsing bottles out - Think again:

- A beer bottle (x) 20,000 = 5 tons
- A small salsa jar (x) 20,000 = 5 tons
- A single pasta sauce jar (x) 20,000 = 8 tons
- A single (empty) plastic gallon milk container (x) 20,000 = 2.5 tons

You get the idea. So each time you are about to toss one of these items into the regular trash take a moment to imagine a pile of 20,000 of them - Yikes - And then please 'toss' them in the recycling bin instead!

Every little effort really can and does make a big difference!

Arlington Recycling Committee