

# RECYCLING FACTS

## PAPER

**15 million** - Sheets of office paper used in the U.S. every 5 minutes. The average American uses roughly the equivalent of one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products each year. (EPA)

**100 million** - Number of trees cut down in the U.S. annually to make the paper for junk mail (Clean Air Council)

**9,960** - Pieces of junk mail that are printed, shipped, delivered and disposed of in the U.S. every 3 seconds. (Chris Jordan)

### How you can improve the numbers

Reduce paper waste in the office • Green your paperwork • Stop the junk mail • Recycle

## PLASTICS

**50,000** - Estimated number of pieces of plastic floating in every square mile of the world's oceans (Clean Air Council)

**2.4 million lbs.** - Amount of plastic pollution that enters the world's oceans every hour (Clean Air Council)

**1 million** - Number of plastic cups that are consumed on airline flights in the U.S. every 6 hours (Chris Jordan)

**2 million** - Number of plastic beverage bottles that are used in the U.S. every 5 minutes. The number of plastic water bottles discarded in the U.S. every week could circle the Earth five times. (Plastic Pollution Coalition)

**93 percent** - Amount of plastics that are not recovered and go to landfills in the U.S. (Plastic Pollution Coalition)

**500** - Number of disposable cups the average American office worker uses every year. (Clean Air Council)

**500** - Number of years a Styrofoam cup discarded today will remain in a landfill (Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo)

### How you can improve the numbers

Reduce your plastic waste • Get involved with anti-plastic campaigns  
Use reusable shopping bags and produce bags • Don't buy bottled drinks

## eWASTE

**20 to 50 million metric tons** - Amount of electronics the world throws away annually. That's the equivalent of trashing 45,500 to 125,000 fully loaded 747s each year. (Ewasteguide.info)

**10-18 percent** - Amount of electronics that are recycled. (Ewasteguide.info)

**304 million** - Electronics disposed of from U.S. households in 2005 — two-thirds of them still worked. (Clean Air Council)

**18,500** - Number of homes that could be powered for a year if we recycled all of the cellphones retired annually. (Clean Air Council)

### How you can improve the numbers

Green your e-waste • Recycle your e-waste at the HHW site •  
Repurpose or recycle your cellphone • Dispose of e-waste properly