

## **Changing Directions on Paper**

Just think. If we recycled all of our paper that we currently throw away, that alone would achieve Maine's goal to recycle 50 percent of our municipal waste. In 2005 39 percent of what we recycled was paper. That's not bad, but consider that there is a whopping 300,000 tons of paper that is still going into landfills or incinerators. We can do better!

So what is standing in the way of progress? Keeping down costs of recycling depends on economies of scale. More of us need to recycle more of our paper. And with fuel prices steadily rising, it's more important than ever for those trucks transporting our materials to travel full.

But it is also a matter of change in our culture. This is about us. Recycling paper, reducing waste and costs, keeping Maine green – these are all in our common interest today and into the future. Making the change simply to collect and recycle paper – rather than tossing it in the trash – will be good for us all.

Recycling provides profound economic and environmental benefits during paper production, long considered the world's third most resource-intensive industry. All of this translates into financial advantages for you and me, the consumers.

It's a decision. We need to add paper recycling to our list and to our home and office routine. Not all that difficult, right? When you see paper, remind yourself that it's a valuable resource. Recycle your paper. It's one of the easiest ways to reduce greenhouse gases and preserve our quality of life. Those trees out there are more than pretty – they help our planet breathe.

To get specific details about your community recycling program, contact your town office, public works department or transfer station. Our website [www.mainerecycles.com](http://www.mainerecycles.com) has phone numbers for most towns and regions.

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