

## Close the Loop



The purchase of products made with recycled material is the last step in the recycling process and is crucial to its success. By purchasing recycled products, you are helping to develop markets for materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

While almost everyone knows about recycled content paper, recycled products come in many shapes, sizes, and forms including: Carpeting; construction materials; toner cartridges; vehicle fluids; pens and pencils; landscaping materials; furniture; retread tires; clothing; and many other items.

**For more information about recycling see:**

[www.kansasrecycles.org](http://www.kansasrecycles.org)  
[www.ksewaste.org](http://www.ksewaste.org)  
[www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org)

**Get Caught !**

## Reduce, Reuse, *then* Recycle

The easiest, most direct way for you to make a difference is to watch what you buy and throw away. By following these basic principles:

- **Reduce** the amount and toxicity of trash you discard.
- **Reuse** containers and products; repair what is broken; and give unneeded items to those who can use them.
- **Recycle** as much as possible and buy products with recycled content.

There are lots of ways that you can put the 3 R's into practice in your workday. Many of them are not difficult to do, won't take up a lot of time and won't cost more – in fact, they may even save you money!

Remember that less waste can translate into more jobs, a stronger economy, energy conservation, less pollution, extended lives for existing landfills, a reduced need for new landfills, and the preservation of our natural resources.



## Kansas Green Teams

[kansasgreenteams.org](http://kansasgreenteams.org)



**Use Less, Recycle  
More.**

## Don't wait. Start Today.

The Green Team program was created as a way for people to make a difference by implementing environmentally responsible practices at work and at school.

Don't wait to start a Green Team. Learn how you can help the environment by incorporating simple changes into your daily routine.

The Green Team program provides guidelines, ideas, information, and tools to help you waste less, recycle more, and make responsible purchasing choices. Visit our website at [www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org) for tools and information to help you get started today.



## Change your light bulbs.

Compact fluorescent bulbs save you money in the long run by using two-thirds less energy and last 10 times longer. If all Americans replaced just one bulb in their home, the energy saved would be equal to the annual fuel consumption of nearly a half million cars.

## Cut back on disposables.

Bring your own mug to Starbucks or your local coffee house. You could get a discount (10% at Starbucks), and it's one less disposable cup that will end up in a landfill. Switch to reusable cups and dishes at home and work too.

## Turn off your computer.

When in standby mode, your PC is still using energy. In fact, a significant portion of the electricity used in your home comes from electronics that are turned off. Try plugging your computer into a power strip and shutting it down completely at the end of the day. Remove chargers from outlets when not in use.

## Stop junk mail.

Most of us receive a steady flow of unsolicited junk mail, catalogs, and magazines. Call 888-5-OPTOUT or get off mailing lists at [www.NewDream.org](http://www.NewDream.org). Make sure to recycle what you do receive. Less energy will be spent on creating paper and less trash will be created.

## How long does it take for these materials to decompose in a landfill?

1. Banana Peel – 3 weeks
2. Newspaper – 1 month
3. Cotton Rag – 5 months
4. Wool Sock – 1 year
5. Tin Can – 100 years
6. Aluminum Can - 200-500 years
7. Plastic Jug – 1 million years
8. Styrofoam Cup – indefinitely, scientists are unsure if it will ever completely breakdown.



## Your Information Here: