

*Don Sherah
12/13/16
To ZBA*

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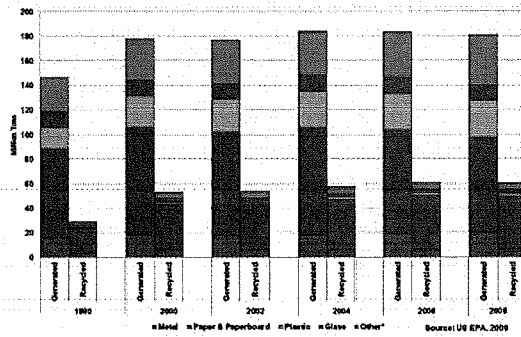
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How much do we waste daily?

The average person generates 4.3 pounds of waste per day. This is 1.6 pounds more than most produced back in 1980. Where does it all go?

Approximately 55% of 220 million tons of waste generated each year in the United States ends up in one of the over 3,500 landfills. Municipal solid waste landfills are the second-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 22 percent of these emissions in 2008 (EPA, 2011).

**Municipal Solid Waste Generation and Recycling
United States 1990-2008**



What can I do to reduce my impact?

Approximately two-thirds of our household waste can be composted. If compost is not an option, vermiposting (composting with worms) is popular in apartment settings. Additionally, many urban areas are now experiencing an increased interest in urban gardening. Look around your communities and neighborhoods to find local gardens that may accept your food scrapes for compost.

When you go to the grocery store, try to remember to bring reusable bags. Many stores give you credits for bringing your own bags. While the amount seems small, over the course of a year it can add up.

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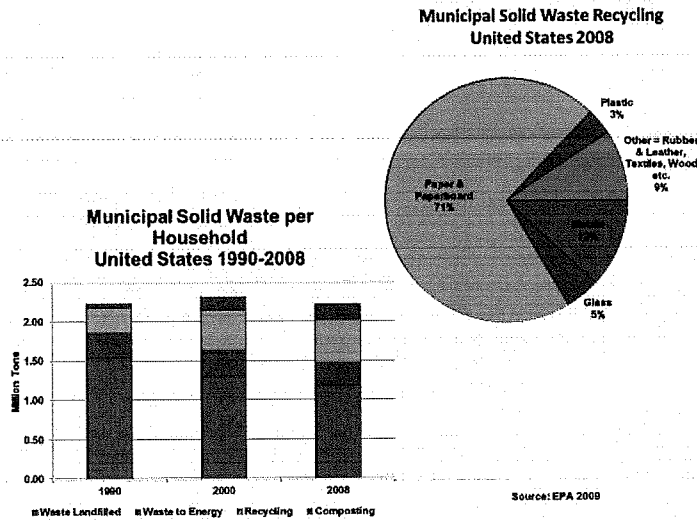
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What is the largest contributor to waste in the typical American garbage can?

Paper and packaging materials. It accounts for roughly 31% of all waste Americans send to the landfill. Close behind is another contributor to household waste that may surprise you.

Food and yard waste accounts for 27% of our annual waste. Households waste approximately 14% of their food purchases, either through spoilage or as scraps. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Stockholm International Water Institute and the International Water Management Institute report that up to half of all food produced worldwide is wasted after production.



The United States generates more than 34 million tons of food waste each year. Paper is the only material category where we generate more waste, but we also recycle more. Food waste is more than 14% of the total municipal solid waste stream. Less than 3% of the 34 million tons of food waste generated in 2009 was recovered and recycled.