

Let's Talk
Trash

Welcome to recycling



Introduction.

Most people around the world recognize that trash is a problem, but I don't think it hits them as a big problem or so I thought. I went around Mountain View High School and Los Altos High School and asked what the kids and teacher thought about our trash problem. Christina D'Elia, a senior at Los Altos High School comments, *"The landfills are taking up all our water space and we are now sinking in many parts because it used to be water and now it's "land". But it's really just garbage."*

Alvin Smith, a Mountain View junior, sees the problem from a global perspective. *"In South East Asia their waters are really bad because trash ends up there and just causes a lot of pollution and hurts the environment. Unless something is done about that it will keep on getting worse."*

People are very concerned about trash and what our future will hold. There is one thing for certain, recycling is a viable solution.

Why trash is a problem.

Trash is a serious problem because this waste takes up a tremendous amount of space. The permitted area for a standard landfill is approximately twenty acres with a fill area of eleven acres. Countries without the recycling technology of the United States, simply throw their trash into a big landfill. This eventually contributes to the creation of acid rain. When products such as sulfates are sold to chemical companies in the form of gypsum the purity of calcium sulfate is high. Lesser sulphates are placed into a landfill. These toxic substances do not disappear and are absorbed into the soil and water table, eventually releasing into the atmosphere. The effects of acid rain can last for generations because effects of pH level alteration can accelerate the leaching of toxic chemicals into otherwise clean water sources. This is harmful to native plants and animals and ultimately kills off vulnerable insects and fishes. Because in any ecosystem, all species are connected, this can have devastating effects on an entire array of living creatures, even human beings.

In normal human language, acid rain means that products such as batteries, stink bombs, bags of smelly garbage, empty bleach bottles, insect killers/repellents, and cleaning products leak into our environment. All of those drip to the bottom of the trash heap and collect up, and when it rains a long time all those nasty chemicals get evaporated along with the rain water. The rain cycle continues and the chemical waste turns into condensation and is released into the atmosphere. When it rains, it literally is acid raining down a combination of lethal chemicals in each drop,

Reading the chemical contents of the ingredients labels of those materials should be enough of a warning to find alternatives, however, it has taken people years to recognize the strain this has placed on our environment. As the name “acid rain” implies, the earth is being bathed in a rainfall of toxic water.

The downside of paper recycling

Recycling paper. A bad thing.

Dave Lockjaw Walker of the United States House of Representatives in North Carolina said.

“Recycling adds more steps. Paper must be collected, cleaned, shredded and treated chemically before it can then be turned into a paper that is generally of lesser quality than the original whence it came. The treatment of paper to be turned into more paper uses more chemical processing than the original paper did, and you KNOW that can’t be good for the environment. In the end, the recycled paper simply costs more than paper directly from wood pulp. The only reason the end cost is lower to the consumer is because the government subsidizes its production, passing the additional costs on to the taxpayer. You see, trees grow and they die. When a tree grows, it turns a load of carbon dioxide into oxygen. Trees aren’t the best at this job, but they aren’t slouches when it comes to oxygen production...The decay process produces carbon dioxide. The amount of carbon dioxide used up by the tree eventually reaches parity with that being thrown off by decaying matter...If, however, the tree is turned into other products, the cycle changes.”

*The upside of
paper recycling*

Recycling paper. A good thing.

Paper recycling is important because like glass, it is also a worth while recyclable resource. There is controversy on just how much is gained through recycling. The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) states on its website that *“a paper mill uses 40 percent less energy to make paper from recycled paper than it does to make paper from fresh lumber.”*

Recycling paper helps save trees—an excellent benefit for the environment. But just how many trees are saved? In a 1990 recycling awareness pamphlet published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated, *“Every ton of paper recovered for recycling saves 17 trees from being cut down to make new paper.”* The British Environmental Agency agrees. *“The argument for saving trees has been used consistently to justify the recycling of paper.”* In 2005, 51.5 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. The process of recycling paper is also very simple and manageable.

Fun facts: 10 easy steps to recycled paper.

1. **Pulping:** Adding water and applying mechanical action separates fibers from each other.
2. **Screening:** Using slotted screens, contaminants that are larger than pulp fibers are removed.
3. **Centrifugal cleaning:** Materials that are more dense than pulp fibers move outward and are rejected by spinning the “pulp slurry”.
4. **Flotation:** Air bubbles are passed through the pulp slurry causing ink particles to collect with the foam on the surface. By removing contaminated foam, the pulp becomes brighter.
5. **Kneading or dispersion:** Mechanical action is used to fragment contaminant matter.
6. **Washing:** Small particles are removed by passing water through the pulp.
7. **Bleaching:** Peroxides are added to remove color from the pulp to create white paper.
8. **Papermaking:** The clean (and/or bleached) fiber is made into a “new” paper product in the same way that virgin paper is made.
9. **Dissolved air flotation:** Process water is cleaned for reuse.
10. **Waste disposal:** The unusable material left over, mainly ink, plastics, filler and short fibers, is called sludge. The sludge can be buried in a landfill, burned to create energy at the paper mill or used as a fertilizer by local farmers.

After finishing these steps recycled paper is produced without chopping down a single tree!

Funny cartoon



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The New York Times
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Section **9**

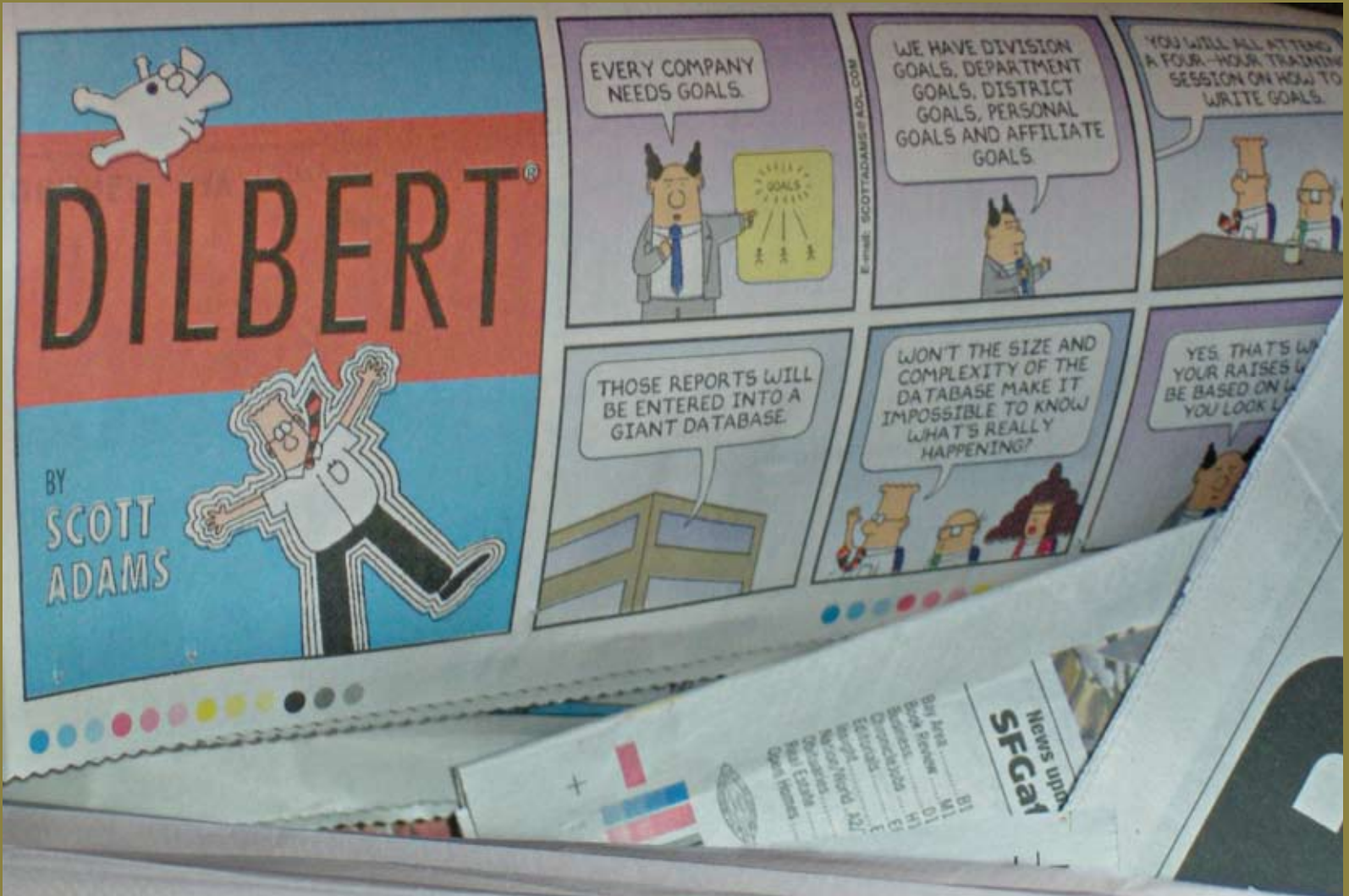
in the Neighborhood

There's a block party
on every floor in
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A FOUR-HOUR TRAINING
SESSION ON HOW TO
WRITE GOALS.

THOSE REPORTS WILL
BE ENTERED INTO A
GIANT DATABASE.

WON'T THE SIZE AND
COMPLEXITY OF THE
DATABASE MAKE IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW
WHAT'S REALLY
HAPPENING?

YES, THAT'S WHY
YOUR RAISES WILL
BE BASED ON WHAT
YOU LOOK LIKE.



Many a documents.



Do you



???

*The downside of
glass recycling*

Recycling glass. A bad thing.

Lisa Provence (writer for of *The Hook*, an award-winning online newspaper in Charlottesville, Virginia) in an article about a possible anti-environmental decision by a recycling center wrote: *“Locally, the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority stirred up a green frenzy when it contemplated plans to stop accepting glass, plastic, phone books, and textiles at the McIntire Road Recycling Center and to charge \$1 per vehicle entering to recycle whatever’s left.”*

This caused a commotion among the online community. Blogger *Tropea* claimed *“trashing glass, plastic, textiles, and phone books recycling will save about \$8,000. Plastic and glass are the losers.”*

Another blogger, *Coiner*, said *“The markets for it may be less than the freight of getting it to them,”*.

With the costs involved in recycling plastic and glass, is it worth it to try to recycle them?

“Economically, no, it is not,” says *Coiner*. *“But I think you have to look at the bigger picture.*

Environmentally, is it right not to recycle?”

Recycling glass. A good thing.

Instead of only discussing how trash is a problem, this book has an additional section about how people around the world are trying to solve this problem through recycling .Glass is an ideal material for recycling. The use of recycled glass in a new container helps save energy. It aids in brick and ceramic manufacture, it conserves raw materials, reduces energy consumption, and reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill. Glass is made of melted sand, so little broken bits of glass can be put into a furnace to be melted and reshaped. *Voila!* Another perfect glass.

Is recycling glass worth it? Is it really worth the time and cost to recycle an empty Sobe bottle, or is it really a waste of time?” FOOL!!! Of course it is worth it—the reality is that recycling two bottles saves the equivalent energy of boiling water for five cups of coffee. Sounds like peanuts? Not when 331 glass bottles and jars are thrown away every year by the average person. Approximately 20 billion bottles and jars annually. Over an average lifetime that is 24,825 bottles and jars per person.

Reuse of glass containers is preferable to recycling according to the waste hierarchy. Refillable bottles are used extensively in many European countries and, until relatively recently, in the United States. In Denmark 98% of bottles are refillable and 98% of those are returned by consumers. These systems are usually supported by container deposit laws, taxes, and other regulations.

Restaurants and bars could contribute some of the 600,000 tones of glass they generate each year, 80 percent of which is chucked into landfill. The exceptions include the Strada restaurant chain and Young's pubs. Their glass is now recycled by an innovative firm, Smash & Grab www.smashgrab.co.uk, which rescues the equivalent of 625,000 wine bottles from landfills each year. Considering how much glass goes to waste and the benefit of recycling glass, innovative thinkers are seeing opportunities. Many corporations hire companies to sift through their employee trash, not for corporate secrets, but to reclaim valuable resources through recycling.

Recycling glass in 3 simple steps

- 1. Separate:** Isolate container glass from such items as windows, mirrors or ceramics. The manufacturing process is very different for items other than containers and other pieces cannot be mixed in with container glass.
- 2. Material recovery:** After a hauler picks up the glass, it is taken to a material recovery facility where the glass is separated by color, then cleaned, and finally crushed. Prior to processing, this crushed glass is referred to as “cullet”.
- 3. Melting:** The cullet is shipped to a manufacturer where it is melted at temperatures up to 2,700° F. It is mixed with “virgin” material to make new containers.

After finishing these steps the glass is as pristine as it was in its prior form.

Many alcohol containers are made of easily recycled glass.



Conclusion.

I have learned that trash is indeed becoming a menace to society, but as long as we keep on sorting, recycling continuing to find new ways to reuse our everyday waste then this problem will cease to exist and continuing to that which is recyclable for that which is not I believe that recycling is a good thing, because instead of leaving something at the bottom of a land fill and letting it rot there for the next thousand years, we are putting it to good use and taking up less space. I feel that it is our duty to protect our planet from the grimy hands that is garbage.

Bonus features

That's not where Dave belongs.

It was a Saturday morning, I woke up, showered, went outside, then took my trusty BB gun and shot the scrub jay that every morning makes such a damn rucus. Missed, of course.

Ate some cereal, gave the sugary leftover milk to the cats, then brushed my teeth. After about three hours of game time on my computer, I went outside with my camera and took pictures of other peoples' garbage. Odd looks from the neighbors, but when I explain "*It's for a school project!*" they look at me with new appreciation. A few pictures short of the required sixty, I stop and went to my own familiar garbage. I open the lid and...*lo and behold!* I found my Season II DVD of Dave Chappelle mixed in with some old Jenga blocks, dead camera parts and some gooey random stuff. I gingerly grab my precious Season II. I take it inside, wash the case and mutter under my breath about my clueless dad throwing away my things.

If not for recycling, my cherished Dave Chappelle DVD would have ended up in some landfill, like yesterdays trash.

Thats not right.



Life of a can.

A can. It's funny, how something that has such a short use has such a long life. If you think about it—once we are done chugging that 12 ounce cola it's tossed in the trash. But once we throw it away—its life is just beginning. The local garbage man comes by, picks up the trashcan and dumps all its content into the truck, including our 12 ounce friend.

The truck goes to the local garbage dump. After the trash is dumped there, it is picked up by another truck. Then another truck will come and pick up that trash and bring it to the separation lines. This is where our favorite can is put on a belt that takes it through an array of machines that separate the materials and bring them to their own piles; these piles consist of plastic, organics, metal, and glass. Our can is picked up by a magnet and is sent to a pile full of other metal objects. Now you might think that this is the end for our little 12 ounce buddy— but it's not. You know your friend that bought that new Mustang? Well... its awesome looking frame—that can is a part of it.