

PET: by the numbers.

Here's how PET contributes to our daily lives—in terms of jobs generated, environmental impact, history and more. Add up all of PET's positives, and people begin to see why PET has become the most recycled plastic in the world.



ECONOMICS



265,000+

jobs created by PET plastics in North America

70%

of water, soft drinks and juice beverages are packaged in PET bottles

40% lighter

than PET bottles made in the year 2000

1.8 billion



pounds of PET are collected domestically each year for recycling and use as raw material for new packaging and other products

2+ billion pounds of PET collected for recycling annually in U.S. and Canada

40x lighter than a typical 500 mL glass bottle (10 g vs. 400 g)

8 oz. more fluid held by a typical plastic bottle (20) vs. aluminum can (12)

ENVIRONMENT



90%

of Americans have access to PET bottle recycling programs

Up to \$800 million

added to U.S. economy by recycling 200,000 more PET bottles daily

58% increase

in recycled PET usage in new products in the U.S. and Canada since 2010

2,168 tons

of greenhouse gases eliminated by recycling 200,000 PET bottles daily

54 billion

BTUs conserved by recycling 200,000 PET bottles daily



HISTORY



- 1940s** DuPont chemists first polymerize PET, calling it polyester
- 1973** year the first PET bottle was patented
- 1977** year the first PET bottle was recycled

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



500°F

temperature at which PET melts for reprocessing

The plastics Resin Identification Code 1, a number assigned only to PET, to help ensure proper recycling practices

33

number of PET reclaimers in the U.S. and Canada in 2020

Learn more about the positive economic and environmental benefits of PET plastics at [PositivelyPET.org](https://www.PositivelyPET.org).