

PET by the numbers



NAPCOR
National Association for PET Container Resources

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

ECONOMICS



265,000+

jobs created by PET plastic in North America.

40% lighter

than PET bottles made in the year 2000.



3+ billion

pounds of PET collected for recycling annually in North America.

1.2 billion

pounds of recycled PET used as raw material in packaging applications in the U.S. and Canada in 2022.

RECYCLING RIGHT

1. Choose

PET bottles—the 1 plastic everyone can feel good about—over other packaging, and always recycle when finished.



2. Rinse

PET containers thoroughly before recycling them.

3. Keep

Lids or caps on, and they can be recycled even though they're non-PET.

ENVIRONMENT



90%

of Americans have access to PET bottle recycling programs.

2.6 billion lbs.

of solid waste could be avoided if consumers picked PET bottles over cans for just one year.

75%

more recycled PET (rPET) is used in new products made annually in the U.S. and Canada compared to 2010.

5x

more greenhouse gas generation from producing a 12 oz. glass bottle than a 20 oz. PET bottle.

>1/2

of the recycled PET collected in the U.S. and Canada in 2022 went into making new PET bottles.

54 billion

BTUs conserved by recycling 200,000 PET bottles daily.



2,168 tons

of greenhouse gases avoided by recycling 200,000 PET bottles daily.

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



The plastic Resin identification Code, a number assigned only to PET, helps ensure proper recycling practices.

30+

PET reclaimers in North America in 2023.

100% recyclable

PET can be made with up to 100% recycled content.

Updated April 2024

Learn more about the positive economic and environmental benefits of PET plastic at PositivelyPET.org.