

PET by the numbers

Here's how PET contributes to our daily lives—in terms of jobs generated, environmental impact, and more.

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

ECONOMICS



**40%
lighter**

than PET bottles made
in the year 2000.³

1 million+

people employed by the US plastics industry in 2023, many in
the PET industry.¹



3+ billion

pounds of PET collected for recycling
annually in North America.²

1.2 billion

pounds of recycled PET used as raw
material in packaging applications in
the US and Canada in 2023.²

RECYCLING RIGHT

1. Choose

PET bottles over other packaging, and
always recycle when finished. Always
recycle the 1!

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



79%

more recycled PET is used in new
products made annually in the
US and Canada compared to 2010.²

88%

of Americans have
access to PET bottle
recycling programs.⁴

100 power plants

equivalent to how much acid rain-causing SO₂ emissions
would be avoided if US soda drinkers chose PET bottles over
aluminum cans for one year.^{5,8}

5x

more greenhouse gas
generation from packaging
soda in a 12 oz. glass
bottle than a 20 oz.
PET bottle.⁶

59%

of the recycled PET
collected in the US and
Canada in 2023 went into
making new PET bottles.²

6 trillion

BTUs conserved by using recycled PET in the
US and Canada vs. new PET in 2023.^{2,6}

1.9 billion

pounds of greenhouse gases
saved by using recycled PET in
the US and Canada vs. new
PET in 2023.^{2,6}

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



The plastic Resin identification
Code 1 is assigned only to PET
plastic, valued for its ultimate
recyclability.

29

PET reclaimers operating in North America in 2024.⁷

100%

PET is fully recyclable and a new
PET bottle can be made with up
to 100% recycled content.

*PET stands for polyethylene terephthalate, easily identified by the 1 inside the triangle.

Sources: 1. [Plastics Industry Association](#). 2. [NAPCOR's 2023 PET Recycling Report](#). 3. [PETCORE's End Waste Recycle the One](#). 4. [Sustainable Packaging Coalition's 2020-2021 Centralized Study on Availability of Recycling](#). 5. [EPA's 2024 Emissions Reductions Progress Report](#). 6. [Franklin Associates' 2018 and 2020 Resin Studies](#). 7. [NAPCOR's Q4 2024 PET/RPET Market Update](#). 8. [Franklin Associates' 2023 PET Beverage Container Life Cycle Assessment](#).