

# PET by the numbers

Discover how PET contributes to our daily lives.

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



## ECONOMY



**1 million+**

people employed by the US plastics industry in 2023, many in the PET industry.<sup>1</sup>

**3+ billion**

pounds of PET collected for recycling annually in North America.<sup>2</sup>

**40% lighter**

than PET bottles made in the year 2000.<sup>3</sup>



**41%**

North American PET recycling rate in 2023.<sup>2</sup>

**\$41 billion**

global annual revenue generated by the PET packaging industry in 2023.<sup>9</sup>

## RECYCLING RIGHT

### 1. Choose

PET bottles over other packaging, and recycle when finished.

Always #RecycleThe1!

### 2. Rinse

PET containers thoroughly before recycling them.



### 3. Keep

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

## ENVIRONMENT



**88%**

of Americans have access to PET bottle recycling programs.<sup>4</sup>

**100 power plants**

equivalent to how much acid rain-causing SO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be avoided if US soda drinkers chose PET bottles over aluminum cans for one year.<sup>5,8</sup>

**79%**

more recycled PET is used in new products made annually in the US and Canada compared to 2010.<sup>2</sup>

**5x**

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

**59%**

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

**6 trillion**

BTUs conserved by using recycled PET in the US and Canada vs. new PET in 2023.<sup>2,6</sup>

**1.9 billion**

pounds of greenhouse gases saved by using recycled PET in the US and Canada vs. new PET in 2023.<sup>2,6</sup>

## 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.<sup>7</sup>

**100%**

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

\*PET stands for polyethylene terephthalate, universally recognized by the #1 resin identification code.

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. [2023 PET Beverage Container Life Cycle Assessment](#).

9. [Fortune Business Insights](#).

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