

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.

ECONOMY



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

40% lighter

than PET bottles made in the year 2000.³



39.2%

 North American PET bottle recycling rate in 2024.²

\$41 billion

global annual revenue generated by the PET packaging industry in 2023.⁴

ENVIRONMENT



87%

of Americans have access to PET bottle recycling programs.⁵

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.^{6,7}

73%

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

5x

more greenhouse gas generation from packaging soda in a 12 oz. glass bottle than a 20 oz. PET bottle.⁷

62%

of the recycled PET used in the US and Canada in 2024 went into making new PET bottles.²

6 trillion

BTUs conserved by using recycled PET in the US and Canada vs. new PET in 2024.^{2,8}

1.76 billion

pounds of greenhouse gases saved by using recycled PET in the US and Canada vs. new PET in 2024.^{2,8}

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, since they can be recycled even if they're non-PET.

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING



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

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.

Updated February 2026

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