

City of Ann Arbor Commercial Recycling Implementation Package

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN GOALS

The "Three 'R's" -- reduce, reuse, and recycle -- are practices that have broad, positive environmental impacts. In fact, few practices are as comprehensive. In terms of the City of Ann Arbor's ten Environmental Goals (see next page), recycling alone clearly addresses more than half of them:

- closing the loop is a primary form of RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE USE -- landfilling and incineration are dead ends;
- less pollution from resource extraction sites helps to maintain CLEAN WATER;
- CLEAN AIR can be better maintained when we don't incinerate so much material;
- the less CO₂ and other greenhouse gases we emit in the extraction, production, and transport phases of our product consumption, the closer we'll get to a STABLE CLIMATE;
- the increased efficiency of energy use that recycling achieves is necessary so that we can someday enjoy SUSTAINABLE ENERGY;
- leaving more resources -- trees, petroleum, natural gas, ores, etc. -- in place will help to ensure that VIABLE ECOSYSTEMS remain that way.