

Reuse & Recycling GROWS JOBS Locally !

Factsheet

National Estimates

The Reuse and Recycling Industry has had sustained growth for over 30 years nationally.

In 1967, there were 8,000 companies employing 79,000 people with sales of \$4.6 billion.

As of 2000, the industry had grown to 56,000 public and private sector facilities with 1.1 million people and \$236 billion in gross sales. A total growth of 1300% !

The growth in employment in this sector was 5 times the growth in total employment nationwide.

The "Indirect" effects of this industry on supporting businesses was estimated to provide an additional 1.4 million jobs and \$173 billion in receipts.

(U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study, prepared by RW Beck for the National Recycling Coalition, July 2001, available on the Web at: <http://www.epa.gov/waste/consERVE/rrr/rmd/rei-rw/index.htm>)

Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting offer the most direct economic development tools available to local communities. Not only are resources and energy saved in the process, but there are new jobs created in the process. Discarded materials provide the local resource to increase local revenues, create jobs, and attract new businesses to the ready supply of materials.

Simply the sorting and processing of recyclables provides 5 to 10 times more jobs than landfilling or incineration. But Reuse and remanufacturing can provide many times more jobs, between 28 and 296 jobs for each one in disposal. (Wasting and Recycling in the US, 2000, Grassroots Recycling Network citing ILSR.)

Manufacturing from locally collected discards adds value by producing finished goods. This picture is more sustainable economically and environmentally than exporting raw materials and importing finished goods.

According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Closing the loop locally" -- by recovering more materials and developing local remanufacturing, reuse, and composting businesses as markets for these materials -- is the key to maximizing recycling-based economic development. Consider Philadelphia. This story provided by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance available at www.grrn.org Since implementing curbside recycling, between 1986 and 1993, Philadelphia attracted 46 new recycling-related businesses interested in locating in and around the city (with a potential to create 2,000 new jobs). Between 1993 and first of half of 1994 (latest figures available), eight new businesses were established that created 81 jobs, and another 7 businesses, slated to create 284 jobs, were considering locating or expanding in and around the city.

In New York State 2009 Data

Businesses and Jobs associated with the REUSE, RECYCLING AND REMANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

3,948 businesses

32,240 employees

\$1.39 billion in payroll

\$10.1 billion in total receipts

(Northeast Recycling Council Economic Study for the Northeast, Sept. 2009).

Not Yet adequately Quantified

Jobs in some areas are not adequately quantified yet. Recycling educators and outreach workers, those involved in oversight, and planning tasks, and those that utilize compost materials in nursery businesses, farms and greenhouses are not regularly included in job estimates. We do know however that the supply of compost runs out in the early summer, while there is a demand for this valuable soil amendment for 3-4 more months.

Tons vs. Value

Solid Waste is most often measured in Tons. Yet when we purchase goods at a store, we are paying in dollars. Remanufacturing sells products for dollars. Where this gets tricky is in the REUSE arena. Too often former solid waste managers want to count reusable goods as tons diverted rather than for value-added goods sold and the benefits provided. The overall social benefits of reuse to schools, charitable organizations and those on fixed incomes can be extraordinary. Count Value Not Tons!

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