

How I Would Encourage Americans to Recycle

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In America one third of all garbage is recycled. This is very good, but we can improve. A lot needs to be done because since the 1960's the average person has doubled the amount of waste he or she produces every year. Many things are recycled; for example, 99% of car batteries are recycled. Recycling can even be good for the economy. Recycling one ton of waste will produce \$275 more worth in goods, \$101 more for salaries, and \$135 more in sales than it would if that one ton of waste were buried in a land fill or a dump. If I were president I would get more Americans to recycle by putting in place several programs. I would encourage recycling through awareness, education, and tax programs. Everyone has different ways they are motivated, so it would be important to put more than one program into effect.

First of all, I would place a one-dollar tax on each bag of garbage that Americans throw away. This is what is done in Switzerland, and around eighty percent of their trash is recycled because people like to avoid paying the tax. This could be a great incentive to get Americans to recycle. The money collected could go to other ways to encourage recycling.

Another idea is to provide more funding for recycling centers instead of dumps and landfills. Everyone wants to help the environment, and with more recycling centers people will be more encouraged to take objects that cannot be recycled in the pick-up bins (like clothes) to recycling centers.

Another way to provide awareness for recycling is to advertise in newspapers, television, magazines, and radio broadcasts. The government could sponsor Public Service Announcements (PSAs). These announcements would tell people what/where/how to recycle. Because most people watch television, read the newspaper and so on, so this would be a great way to encourage Americans to recycle. The

advertisements could include comparisons about how recycling helps the environment, and how throwing trash away can harm the environment. Newspaper advertisements are very good too because many people read the newspaper. And seventy-seven percent of newspaper is recycled. And on certain products, like Ice Mountain water, part of the label says "Please recycle this bottle." So it would be a good idea to teach about recycling on a recyclable product.

Finally, an effective way to get Americans to recycle could be to educate school students about the positive effect of recycling on the environment. But the education about the environment shouldn't stop at recycling; it should talk about and teach all ways to help the environment and on what can harm the environment would also be a good idea too. If more is learned, more will be done. And I think that not enough people know about recycling. If more people are aware of recycling, and recycle, I think it could really help the environment. If Americans would recycle more of their garbage, fewer landfills will be

needed, which means less risk of waste getting into the ground and harming plants and animals.