

# RECYCLING IMPACT CALCULATOR

Once you've conducted your audit, you can calculate the environmental benefits of your effort! If you estimated your program's potential impact before you began, you can now compare your actual benefit figures. You can use these benefit numbers to report back to your school and local community. Begin with your total numbers for "Milk Cartons Collected" and "Juice Cartons Collected" (columns "f" and "g" of your "Carton Recycling Audit Sheet"). Then, we make it easy with single metric, sheets of paper saved, to calculate the other benefits. All calculations are for annual impact.

## DETERMINE YOUR ANNUAL CARTON USAGE FROM AUDIT DATA

a. Multiply the total "Milk Cartons Collected" by 180 for **Annual Milk Carton Usage**: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Multiply the total "Juice Cartons Collected" by 180 for **Annual Juice Carton Usage**: \_\_\_\_\_

## CALCULATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM

**1. PAPER SAVED ANNUALLY\*** (For pounds of paper saved per year, multiply your total sheets saved annually (c) by 100)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Annual Milk-Carton Usage* *Sheets of Paper Saved by Milk-Carton Recycling*

b. \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Annual Juice-Carton Usage* *Sheets of Paper Saved by Juice-Carton Recycling*

c. \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Sheets Saved: Milk-Carton (a)* *Sheets Saved: Juice Cartons (b)* *Total Sheets of Paper Saved*

### 2. TREES SAVED ANNUALLY

\_\_\_\_\_ x .00012 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Total Sheets of Paper Saved Annually* *Trees Saved Annually*

### 3. WATER SAVED ANNUALLY

\_\_\_\_\_ x .035 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Total Sheets of Paper Saved Annually* *Gallons of Water Saved Annually*

### 4. TRASH DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL ANNUALLY, BY VOLUME

\_\_\_\_\_ x 190 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Annual Carton Usage (Milk & Juice Cartons)* *55-gallon trash bags diverted from landfill*

### 5. TRASH DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL ANNUALLY, BY WEIGHT

\_\_\_\_\_ x .21 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Annual Carton Usage (Milk & Juice Cartons)* *Pounds of waste diverted (excess liquid + cartons)*

### 6. ENERGY SAVED ANNUALLY

\_\_\_\_\_ x .02 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Total Sheets of Paper Saved Annually (1.c)* *Kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy saved\**

\*2,000 kWh can power about 20 flat-screen TVs sets for one year.

### 7. CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS AVOIDED

\_\_\_\_\_ x .00000345 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Total Sheets of Paper Saved Annually (1.c)* *Metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (mT CO<sub>2</sub>) avoided\**

\*1 mT CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saved equates to keeping about 3 average US vehicles off the road for one month.