

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RECYCLING

RECYCLING HAS A LONG HISTORY IN THE STORY OF OUR PLANET

1,600 BC – THE JEWISH CODE OF SANITARY LAWS REQUIRES INDIVIDUALS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR WASTES

500 BC – ATHENS ORGANIZES THE FIRST MUNICIPAL DUMP- WHICH MUST BE AT LEAST ONE MILE FROM CITY WALLS...

1031 – JAPAN BEGINS THE FIRST RECORDED USE OF WASTE PAPER FOR MAKING NEW PAPER

1690 – A PLANT NEAR PHILADELPHIA BEGINS MAKING PAPER FROM RECYCLED COTTON AND LINEN RAGS

1776 – PAUL REVERE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND GEORGE WASHINGTON URGE REUSE OF METAL, PAPER AND CLOTH, MUCH FOR THE WAR EFFORT

1840'S – THE PEDDLER TRADE BEGINS WITH MEN IN HORSEDRAWN CARTS COLLECTING ANYTHING HAVING RESALE VALUE

1874 – CURBSIDE RECYCLING BEGINS IN BALTIMORE, MD

1895 - NYC PUTS IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF REFUSE MANAGEMENT IN THE US, REQUIRING THE SORTING OF ORGANIC WASTES, PAPER, ASHES AND STREET SWEEPINGS INTO SEPARATE CONTAINERS FOLLOWED BY THE CREATION OF A “PICKING YARD” FOR SORTING

1904 – THE NATION'S FIRST ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING PLANTS OPEN IN CHICAGO AND CLEVELAND

1916-18 – THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CREATES A WASTE RECLAMATION SERVICE TO AID IN THE WAR EFFORT

1939-45 – THOUSANDS OF TONS OF MATERIAL ARE RECYCLED TO SUPPORT THIS WAR EFFORT – WHERE CITIZENS CONTRIBUTE EVERYTHING FROM “DOORKNOBS TO GIRDLs”

1965 -THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT IS PASSED BY CONGRESS DESIGED TO ASSIST STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THEIR DISPOSAL

PROGRAMS

1972 – OREGON INTRODUCES THE FIRST “BOTTLE BILL”

1976 – THE FEDERAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT IS PASSED EMPHASIZING RECYCLING AND ENERGY CONSERVATION AND LAUNCHING THE NATION'S HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1989 – AN ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGIST BEGINS “THE GARBAGE PROJECT”, LEADING STUDENTS TO 'MINE' LOCAL LANDFILLS WHERE THEY FIND DECADES-OLD NEWSPAPERS THAT ARE INTACT AND BANANAS THAT ARE STILL YELLOW

1996 – THE US HITS GOAL OF 25% RECYCLING RATE