**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS ANALYSIS (DOMESTIC EQUIVALENCIES)**

| YEAR | TONS RECYCLED (in millions) | EQUIVALENTS (in millions) | | | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | AMOUNT OF $CO_2$ SAVED PER YEAR (metric tons) | PASSENGER VEHICLES TAKEN OFF THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR | HOMES WORTH OF ELECTRICITY USE PER YEAR SAVED | |
| 2023 | 5.31 | 7.45 | 1.66 | 1.45 | 2023 statewide recycling continued to increase and recovered to above pre-pandemic levels. |
| 2022[1] | 4.92 | 7.57 | 1.69 | 1.47 | 2022 statewide recycling appears to be recovering to pre-pandemic reporting levels. |
| 2021 | 4.63 | 6.81 | 1.48 | 1.24 | 2021 statewide recycling continued to be impacted by the pandemic with an overall reduction of 0.36 million tons (7.16%) from 2020. 45 counties reported more materials recycled and 22 counties reported less materials recycled. |
| 2020[1] | 4.56 | 7.11 | 1.58 | 1.38 | 2020 statewide recycling was impacted by the pandemic with an overal reduction of 0.26 million tons (5.02%) from 2019. 32 counties reported more materials recycled and 35 counties reported less materials recycled. |
| 2019[1] | 4.84 | 7.38 | 1.64 | 1.44 | |
| 2018[1] | 5.39 | 9.11 | 2.03 | 1.77 | |
| 2017[1] | 5.98 | 9.59 | 2.14 | 1.87 | This year's recycling efforts showed a loss of 1.48 million tons from the prior year. These figures are consistent with an overall decline experienced by North American recycling. |
| 2016[1] | 7.69 | 10.13 | 2.25 | 1.97 | A major factor causing stagnation of the amount of materials recycled in 2016 was the continuation of a sluggish economy in 2015, with further loss of Commonwealth businesses. |
| 2015 | 7.78 | 10.59 | 2.29 | 1.79 | |
| 2014[1] | 16.51 | 16.26 | 3.62 | 3.16 | The total tonnages for this year was greatly increased by the recycling of 7.72 million tons of construction materials, which resulted from the demolition, by the University of Scranton in Lackawanna County, of several buildings that included the original Scranton YWCA and the subsequent construction of new structures in their place. |
| 2013 | 6.12 | 7.67 | 1.66 | 1.30 | |
| 2012 | 8.50 | 17.6* | 3.81 | 2.99 | Several factors temporarily inflated recycling numbers for this year. Several hurricanes, including Superstorm Sandy, caused severe destruction across the state. These storms lead to major increases of yard and wood debris, metal siding, shingles, etc., from homes and businesses. Also, the opening of a new scrap company in one of Pennsylvania's counties was another factor. The county recycled over 2.3 million tons of mixed metals during the dealer's first year due to huge participation throughout the very rural communities. After the initial 2012 surge, the recycling numbers reported for 2013 are more in line with the county's historic trend for mixed metals recycling. |

NOTE: Equivalents have been re-evaluated to include tonnages from Comingled Materials; therefore, are higher than in previous reports.

[1] Figures updated August 2024

* Number is high due to unual increase in amount recycled for Mixed Metals that year.