

RECYCLING IMPACT CALCULATOR



To learn how your school is making a difference let's do some quick and easy (maybe fun) math!

1

As a school or as a class, you can estimate the impact of your recycling efforts by counting the number of cartons (milk cartons and drink boxes) recycled in one week (5 days.)

$$\left(\frac{\text{Weekly Milk cartons recycled}}{\text{Weekly Milk cartons recycled}} + \frac{\text{Weekly Drink boxes recycled}}{\text{Weekly Drink boxes recycled}} \right) \div 5 = \frac{\text{Avg. daily cartons recycled}}{\text{Avg. daily cartons recycled}}$$

2

Now we need to determine how many sheets of paper can be made with recycled cartons, instead of trees:

$$\frac{\text{Avg. daily cartons recycled}}{\text{Avg. daily cartons recycled}} \times \frac{324}{\text{Avg. number of sheets of paper made, per carton recycled, in a school year}} = \frac{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}}{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}}$$

SEE WHAT IT MEANS:

$$\frac{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}}{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}} \times \frac{0.000058}{\text{Avg. number of trees used per sheet}} = \frac{\text{Trees saved annually}}{\text{Trees saved annually}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}}{\text{Sheets of paper saved by carton recycling annually}} \times \frac{0.00000360}{\text{CO}_2 \text{ emissions avoided per sheet of recycled paper}} = \frac{\text{CO}_2 \text{ emissions avoided annually}}{\text{CO}_2 \text{ emissions avoided annually}}$$

Now that's what we call recycling right!

