

# The Dollars & “Cents” of Recycling

## Why does recycling cost money?

Contrary to popular opinion, there is a cost to recycle. Waste & recycling is a utility service, just like your cell phone or cable bill.

Haulers that collect and transport material to a recycling center have expenses including:

- ◆ Containers/Equipment
- ◆ Specialized Vehicles,
- ◆ Labor,
- ◆ Fuel, and
- ◆ Tipping Fees.

Recycling centers invest in sophisticated equipment to convey, sort and prepare materials for market. These facilities generate revenue only after the recyclables are processed.



**THE COST OF  
RECYCLING  
SUPPORTS THE  
MANUFACTURING  
OF NEW  
PRODUCTS.**



Recycling/Solid Waste Department

## How does recycling save money?

Recycling indeed saves money, but as avoided costs in the products we buy.

Think of recycling as “urban mining.” Recycling bypasses the expensive and energy intensive methods of harvesting or extracting, transporting, and refining raw materials. Products manufactured from recycled materials use up to 30% less energy, than making those same products from raw materials.

Recycling also saves money by:

- ◆ Prolonging landfill space,
- ◆ Protecting natural resources,
- ◆ Conserving energy, and
- ◆ Retaining jobs.

Visit our recycling webpages at [mcc.co.mercer.pa.us](http://mcc.co.mercer.pa.us) and [lawrencecountypa.gov](http://lawrencecountypa.gov).