

Environmental Trivia Questions

From the Environmental Resource Center

Which of the following items will take the longest to degrade in a landfill?

- a. Diaper
- b. Styrofoam cup
- c. Aluminum can
- d. Banana peel

Answer: c. Styrofoam cup

If everyone in the U.S. recycled their Sunday newspaper each week, how many trees per week would be saved?

- a) 50,000
- b) 500,000
- c) 5,000,000
- d) 50,000,000

Answer: b Recycle your paper every day; share it with a friend; read it online.

According to the DOE, here's how long it takes some common materials to degrade in a landfill:

- Diaper: 500-600 years
- Styrofoam cup, glass bottle, plastic bottle: 1 million years or more
- Aluminum can: 200 - 500 years
- Banana peel: 3 - 4 weeks

Which grocery bag takes more energy to produce?

- A. Paper
- B. Plastic

Answer: plastic. According to the Department of Energy, it takes 20-40 percent less energy to manufacture plastic grocery bags than paper ones. And, since plastics are lightweight and take up so little space, it is much more efficient to transport them. It takes seven trucks to deliver the same number of paper bags as can be carried in one truckload of plastic bags.

What energy source is the fastest growing renewable energy source with worldwide power installed capacity reaching 14,000 MW?

- a. Solar
- b. Wind
- c. Geothermal
- d. Ocean waves

Answer: b

Approximately what percent of lead wheel weights eventually fall off cars, possibly contributing to lead pollution?

- a. 13%
- b. 26%
- c. 52%
- d. 78%

Answer: a (ask for lead-free weights the next time you get your tires balanced)

The amount of energy used to make one aluminum soda can from virgin metal could have produced how many cans from recycled aluminum?

- a. 5
- b. 15
- c. 20
- d. 50

Answer: c

According to the National Academy of Sciences, the earth is the hottest it has been in the past:

- a. 50 years
- b. 100 years
- c. 400 years
- d. 1000 years

Answer: c