Why Go Green?
Benefits of Recycling

It's Good for Our Economy - American manufacturing companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products. Michigan's recycling and reuse industry is made up of an estimated 2,242 establishments.

It Creates New Demand - Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products; decreasing waste, saving natural resources and helping our economy.

It Creates Jobs - Recycling in the U.S. employs over 757,000 people, provides $36.6 billion in wages and $6.7 billion in tax revenues. Michigan's recycling industry provides jobs for 61,000 Michiganders.

It Saves Energy - Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with raw materials. For example, manufacturing with recycled aluminum cans uses 95% less energy.

It Reduces Waste - The average American discards 4.5 pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage ends up in landfills, where it's compacted and buried.

It Reduces the Use of Landfill Space - Recycling means we use less landfill space, preventing the need to expand existing landfills or create new ones.

It's Good for The Environment - Providing the raw materials (recyclables) to manufacturers requires far less energy and uses fewer natural resources (virgin materials). Natural resources take thousands of years to replenish if they can be replenished at all.

It Helps Prevent Global Warming - In 2014, over 89 million tons of municipal solid waste (food, plants, glass, boxes, cans, batteries, electronics, plastics, etc.) were recycled or composted in the United States, saving over 322,000 GWh of energy – enough to provide electricity to 30 million homes.

It Reduces Water Pollution - Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.

It Protects Wildlife - Using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.

(Michigan Recycling Coalition, Environmental Protection Agency, National Recycling Coalition)