



# While you watch, consider this...

## Waste is Preventable!

Strategies like reuse, recycling, and composting strengthen our local and regional economies and create good jobs



In fact, these waste reduction tactics generate an average of **10x more jobs** than disposal (landfills and incinerators)

Recycling the few plastics that we can is good - but because plastics are toxic/harmful to make, use **AND** recycle, **REDUCING** our use of them is best

## Local Recycling is Key

Our facility is able to sort and sell **93% of materials** that come through our doors



83% of materials stay in Minnesota, 90% in the midwest, and **100% in North America**

While recycling is only a small part of the long-term solution, we are helping reduce waste and contribute to our local economy

Since Eureka's recycling facility opened in 2004, we have paid over **\$75 million in salaries** and benefits for good, green, local jobs

## Take Action!

Tell your legislators to support the [Break Free From Plastic Act](#) and [Zero Waste Act](#)



Follow [this guide](#) by the Ecology Center to help eliminate your use of plastic

Still not sure what you can recycle, just [download our app!](#)

## What happens to your plastic?

### #1 PET

Turn into bottles, clamshells, carpet



### #2 Color HDPE

bottles, yard furniture, fencing, decking, irrigation tubes for farmers in the Midwest

### #2 Natural HDPE

bottles, yard furniture, fencing, decking, irrigation tubes for farmers in the Midwest

### #5 PP - Yogurt Tubs and Lids

paint cans, also pellets that get turned to car parts, and other durable goods in North America

**Tetra Pak** - Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes  
tissue paper, insulation, walls in the Midwest - the fiber is recycled but the rest sadly ends up in the garbage

## What's the problem with plastic bags?



Plastic bag recycling faces the same challenges of any plastic material: collection is costly, sorting is necessary and cost intensive, quality and cleanliness are critical issues and hard to maintain

We spend about **6 staff hours per day** and about **\$75,000 per year** in staff time, equipment repair, downtime, and disposal costs due to plastic bags

**Please don't put these in your recycling cart!**