

The U.S. Scrap Recycling Industry Protects the Environment and Creates Good Jobs in the United States



The U.S. scrap recycling industry is not only a thriving economic engine, but also a pivotal player in environmental protection, resource conservation and sustainability. The industry recycled more than 135 million metric tons of materials in 2011, thereby transforming outdated or obsolete products and materials into useful raw materials needed to produce new products.¹

Scrap recycling offers **real sustainable solutions** for balancing economic growth and environmental stewardship. Scrap recycling boosts economies from small towns in rural America to major cities and beyond through international trade. The result is economic and environmental sustainability for our nation and our world.

Scrap Recyclers are The Original Recyclers®:

- The scrap recycling industry is a very sophisticated and capital intensive industry that has been creating “green jobs” in the United States for decades. As the first link in the manufacturing supply chain, scrap recycling has been integral to America’s economy, job creation and resource sustainability for more than 200 years.
- Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions by significantly **saving the amount of energy needed to manufacture the products** that we buy, build and use every day. The energy saved by recycling can then be used for other purposes, such as heating our homes and powering our automobiles.



Not Only Does the Scrap Recycling Industry Protect the Environment, It Provides Countless Employment Opportunities in the United States.

(\$ Million)	Direct	Supplier	Induced	Total
Jobs	137,970	131,917	193,053	462,940
Wages	\$9,586.20	\$7,948.42	\$9,265.54	\$26,800.16
Economic Impact	\$34,691.38	\$24,366.92	\$28,337.88	\$87,396.19

- In 2013, 137,970 jobs are supported by the operations of the scrap recycling industry in the United States.² An additional 324,970 jobs are indirectly supported by the scrap recycling industry through suppliers and the induced impact of the industry’s expenditures. These jobs include equipment manufacturers, engineers and truck drivers among other occupations. Together these 462,940 employees will earn a total of \$26.8 billion in 2013.
- In fact, the total economic impact of the scrap recycling industries in the United States is \$87.4 billion. Scrap recycling accounts for 0.547 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product.³
- All of this activity generates nearly \$4.0 billion in state and local revenues and another \$6.3 billion for the federal government.

¹ Data from The ISRI Scrap Yearbook 2012, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

² Based on the Economic Impact of the Scrap Recycling Industry in the United States (2013), produced for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. by John Dunham and Associates, 2013.

³ GDP based on first quarter of 2013, third revision value of \$15.9841 trillion, see: *Gross Domestic Product, First Quarter 2013 (third estimate); Corporate Profits, First Quarter 2013 (revised estimate)*, Bureau of Economic Analysis, June 26, 2013, and *WIDESPREAD ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 2012 Advance 2012 and Revised 2009–2009 GDP-by-State Statistics*, Bureau of Economic Analysis, June 6, 2013.