



Economic Benefits of Recycling

Focus on Sustainable Materials Management

Thousands of tons of recyclables circulate through Washington's recycling facilities every day. The more materials we reuse and recycle, the more we encourage job growth in recycling and reuse industries, creating a cycle that strengthens economic and environmental sustainability.

Recycling and reuse create more jobs than landfilling¹

Every 1,000 tons of recyclables can create:

12 recycling jobs

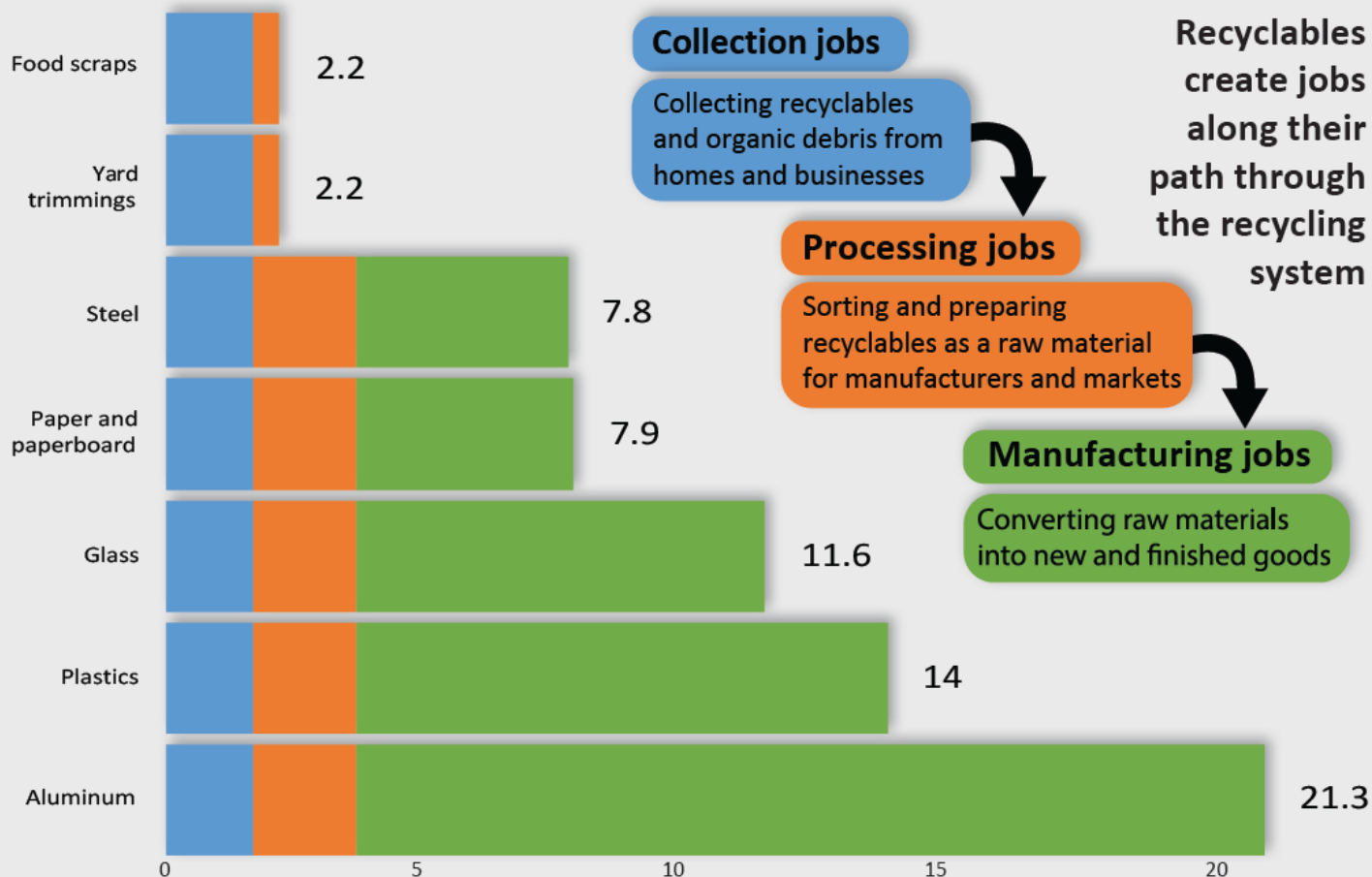
17 reuse or remanufacture jobs

– or –

0.7 landfill jobs



Jobs created by 1,000 tons of seven common recyclables¹



Collection jobs

Collecting recyclables and organic debris from homes and businesses

Processing jobs

Sorting and preparing recyclables as a raw material for manufacturers and markets

Manufacturing jobs

Converting raw materials into new and finished goods

Recyclables create jobs along their path through the recycling system

Washingtonians sent 48 percent of their municipal solid waste to recycling and other waste recovery methods in 2018

Washington jobs created by recycling²



Recycling generates tax revenue



A piece of the puzzle

Recycling is an essential piece of the puzzle among our many goals at Ecology, but it's not the whole picture. Our goal is to reduce environmental impacts, including climate impacts, through all stages of a product's life cycle – not only its end stage.

Information sources

1. [More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S. Prepared by: Tellus Institute with Sound Resource Management. \(2011\)](#)
2. [Washington State Employment Security Department: 2013 Green Economy Jobs Report – Industry and Survey Approaches](#)
3. [EPA: Recycling Economic Information \(REI\) Report for 2016](#)



Ecology Contact - Gretchen Newman
Email: gretchen.newman@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 360-764-0588



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