

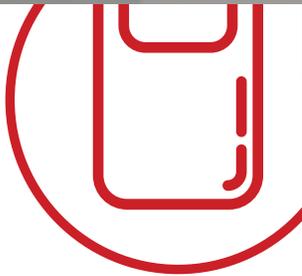
# MYTH VS. FACT

## RECYCLING

Industry, government and consumers have worked together for decades to improve and increase plastic recycling, with the goal of better reusing this valuable resource and keeping plastics out of the environment. However, while misconceptions remain about recycling, a careful review of the facts shows recycling is an effective solution that also spurs economic growth and creates new jobs.

### MYTH

“Plastic bags aren’t recyclable.”



### FACT

- Plastic bags are recyclable, and in most cases are already reused and recycled by consumers.
- Many grocery chains in the United States have drop-off bin programs that reuse single-use plastic bags.
- A study by Moore Recycling Associates found that over 90 percent of the U.S. population living in cities with a population of over 125,000 has access to these types of recycling systems already.<sup>1</sup>

### MYTH

“Traditional recycling is the industry’s only solution—and it’s not enough.”



### FACT

- Advanced recycling solutions available today ensure that some plastics can be endlessly recycled.<sup>2</sup>
- Chemical recycling, pyrolysis and gasification break down polymers into their original molecules, or monomers.
- Advanced recycling solutions can even generate more recycled content to better serve communities and businesses by repurposing hard-to-recycle products.

### MYTH

“The plastics industry isn’t making recycling better or easier.”

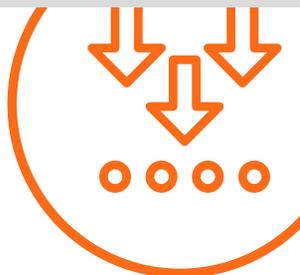


### FACT

- The U.S. plastics industry is a global leader in innovative recycling solutions and circular economy partnerships.
- The U.S. industry’s leadership in infrastructure investment will continue to improve global waste management and further work to create a circular economy.

### MYTH

“Recycling rates are falling.”



### FACT

- Recycling rates continue to grow despite increased consumer demand for harder-to-recycle products.
- According to the U.S. EPA, the U.S. recycling rate for PET plastics, which package many of our food and beverages, including plastics bottles, increased from 2 percent in the 1980s to more than 24 percent in 2018.<sup>3</sup>
- Initiatives like the Every Bottle Back campaign help raise awareness and increase education about how consumers can better recycle plastic.

### MYTH

“Recycling does not contribute to local economies.”



### FACT

- Recycling benefits local economies by reducing greenhouse gases, creating new jobs and returning materials to manufacturers – which further reduces waste – that can more than cover the cost of collecting and processing recyclables.
- For example, recycling in Minnesota supports 60,000 jobs, accounts for nearly \$3.4 billion in wages, and adds about \$15.7 billion to the state’s economy.
- Reducing consumption of non-recyclable products and ensuring that products are properly recycled will increase the buy-in for recycling systems that will add to the economy.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Recycling-Reach-Study-2012.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.closedlooppartners.com/advanced-recycling-investor-roadmap/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data#:~:text=In%202017%2C%20plastics%20generation%20was,13.2%20percent%20of%20MSW%20generation.&text=While%20overall%20the%20amount%20of,plastic%20containers%20is%20more%20significant>