



July 2023

Environmental Message

## Aluminum Recycling

Aluminum is one of the most abundant elements on earth. However, it is mined mostly in Africa, Asia and Australia. This means that aluminum in North America must either be imported or come from recycled sources.

Aluminum ore (called bauxite) is mined, shipped, and smelted in an energy-intensive process that releases large amounts of carbon. Fortunately, aluminum is easily recycled - in fact, recycling saves 95% of the energy needed to make new aluminum. Unfortunately, tons of aluminum are casually tossed in the trash and sent to landfills every day. You can save energy and resources by recycling aluminum, including beverage cans.

How to recycle aluminum cans:

- Look around for a can recycling bin. Many companies and facilities encourage aluminum recycling. If your company is not recycling, suggest that they do.
- Save your cans and take them to a local recycling center. Many facilities will pay market value for the aluminum.
- Donate your cans to a charitable organization- some groups collect cans and sell them to scrap metal facilities.
- If you live in a state with a deposit law, take the cans back to the store for your deposit, or donate the cans.
- Unless you're told otherwise, don't crush the cans before recycling - it makes sorting machines less effective.
- A quick rinse will help reduce contamination and pests at recycling facilities.

For more information: [www.aluminum.org/recycling](http://www.aluminum.org/recycling)

Produced by the Utility Arborist Association Environmental Stewardship Committee and Asplundh:

