Discover how your garbage gets another life, and what each material wants to be!

By putting your recyclables in the recycling bin, you give them new life. Some materials can travel through the recycling and manufacturing process to be back on the store shelf in less than two months! Your steel can, plastic bottle, or cereal box can become many different things...
The Recycling Loop

The recycling process begins when individuals place recyclable products and packaging in a recycle bin. The second step is when businesses process those materials into new bottles, cans, paper and boxes, or even bicycles, planes, park benches, and carpeting.

Finally, consumers close the loop by buying produces made from recycled material. This final step restarts the cycle and ensures the success and value of recycling.
The process involves:

1. **Collection**: Gathering materials from their sources.
2. **Processing**: Transforming the collected materials into a usable form.
3. **Manufacturing**: Creating the final product using the processed materials.
4. **Converting**: Turning materials into new products.

- A glass bottle became a glass countertop.
- A can became a bike.
- A cardboard box became a board game.

This flowchart demonstrates the lifecycle of materials from collection to end products.
Conserves natural resources: Recycling conserves natural resources such as trees, water and minerals — protecting the environment today and for future generations.

Reduces the need for landfills: Recycling reduces the need for landfills & incinerators because when materials are recycled, less waste is sent to disposal facilities.

Abates pollution: Recycling reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions caused by the extracting and processing of raw materials.

Saves energy: Recycling saves energy by providing ready feed stock to manufacturers and reducing the energy required to extract raw materials.

Creates jobs: Recycling helps create new jobs in the United States for both the recycling and manufacturing industries.
For more information visit:
https://fm.okstate.edu/energyservices/sustainability/rlr.html