



Recycling

Plastic bottles: In 2009, there were 5.1 billion pounds of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and jars available in the U.S. for recycling. Of those, approximately 28% were actually recycled.



Plastic bags: It is estimated that a million plastic bags are used every minute. New they appear as a jellyfish and clog the digestive track of fish and sea turtles that try to eat them. When left in the ocean, they photo-degrade producing small fragments that look like plankton to seabirds, and soak up toxins.



To the left are the remains of an albatross that died due to starvation and revealed the contents of its digestive tract.



Monofilament: Fishing line is made transparent to help fishermen do their thing without being detected. For the same reason unsuspecting dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, and birds become entangled. It is estimated that it lasts 600 years in the environment.

Aluminum: A recycled aluminum can is processed and back on the grocery shelf in as little as 60 days. Aluminum is the most recycled item in the U.S.

Glass: Glass recycling is environmentally friendly and helps save energy. Recycling 2 bottles saves enough energy to heat 5 cups of water. And glass never loses its purity, so it can be recycled infinitely, or returned to nature in the form of sand for eroded beaches, a project being studied in Broward County.

References:

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