Unlike plastic, paper and cardboard, aluminum can be recycled endlessly.

Aluminum beverage cans play an essential role in recycling. Aluminum cans are the most valuable material in the recycling stream. The revenue generated by recycling aluminum cans provides the economic foundation for recycling operations.

The United States has the infrastructure for efficient, large-scale aluminum can recycling. Five million aluminum cans are recycled in the United States every hour, and 45 billion were recycled in the United States in 2019.

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The aluminum can is mostly recycled aluminum. The aluminum can manufacturing industry is committed to recycling and is working to have all aluminum cans recycled.

Read Every Can Counts: Aluminum Beverage Can Recycling Manifesto.

Recycling aluminum is good for the environment and supports the circular economy. Making a can from recycled aluminum reduces energy use and greenhouse gas emissions more than 90 percent compared to using new aluminum.
Aluminum cans have the highest rate of recycling of any material

If we recycled more aluminum cans there would be:

CIRCULAR PERFORMANCE. In the current U.S. recycling system, aluminum cans perform highest on circularity because they:
- Contain high recycled content
- Have minimal processing losses
- Provide critical revenue to material recovery facilities
- Are recycled efficiently for multiple recycling loops

CIRCULAR POTENTIAL. Aluminum cans are best situated to achieve circularity and maximize impact reduction potential within the existing U.S. recycling infrastructure. Aluminum cans are the only packaging material that show life cycle environmental improvements across all indicators and scenarios, both for closed-loop and open-loop recycling.

CLOSED-LOOP PRODUCTION-RELATED IMPACT REDUCTION POTENTIAL (% Change for 2020 baseline)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pack Type</th>
<th>100% Collection Scenario</th>
<th>100% Sorting Scenario</th>
<th>National Deposit System Scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GWP</td>
<td>WDP</td>
<td>CED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>-33%</td>
<td>-57%</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>+2%</td>
<td>+14%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GWP = Global Warming Potential; WDP = Water Depletion Potential; CED = Cumulative Energy Demand

The 45 billion aluminum cans that Americans recycled in 2019 generated $800 million

LEARN MORE AT: HTTP://WWW.CANCENTRAL.COM/SUSTAINABILITY

Aluminum Association’s 2020 KPI Report | ISRI’s Economic Impact Report | Recycling Partnership’s State of the Curbside 2020 | Aluminum Beverage Can: Driver of US Recycling System | All other information provided by the Can Manufacturers Institute, the national trade association of the metal can manufacturers and their suppliers in the United States.