

# **BENEFITS OF RECYCLING in MASSACHUSETTS**

**Massachusetts's recycling provided industry with an environmentally preferable source of materials.**

Massachusetts's municipal and commercial recycling programs collected and supplied 6,715,671 tons of scrap commodities such as paper, glass, metals, plastics, computers, and construction & demolition (C&D) materials for use in the production of new products.

**Greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by Massachusetts recycling.**

Massachusetts recycling reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2,073,814 metric tons of carbon equivalents (MTCE)<sup>3</sup> in a one year period.

**Massachusetts's recycling saved energy.**

Massachusetts's recycling saved a total of 85,146,285 Million BTUs of energy, equal to 32% of all energy used by industry in Massachusetts.

**Massachusetts's recycling conserved natural resources.**

By recycling 1,205,311 tons of scrap metal and glass in 2004, Massachusetts's recycling efforts reduced the need for virgin materials, including 130,171 tons of limestone, 946,709 tons of iron ore, 530,157 tons of coal, 289,861 tons of sand, 91,418 tons of soda ash, and 35,675 tons of feldspar. Recycling 1,098,776 tons of all types of paper saved 3,625,961 cubic yards of landfill space.

*All data reported in this Fact Sheet was calculated from the NERC Environmental Benefits Calculator, 2004.*