

## AIRPORTS

### Introduction



One study put out by the Natural Resources Defense Council shows that, on average, 75% of the waste stream generated at airports is consistently recyclable. Airports are a unique environment where a captive audience generates increasing amounts of waste and where security issues call for innovative ways to capture the recyclables in the waste stream.

### Resources

#### Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

The [NRDC](#) is an international nonprofit environmental organization working to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. They have a report entitled "[Trash Landings](#)" which is available in print or online. This report presents the findings from NRDC's yearlong study of the airline industry and outlines clear steps that airlines and airports -- and other large municipal operations -- can take to put effective recycling initiatives into place.

#### Resource Recycling Magazine

There is an excellent overview of airport recycling in the May 2009 of [Resource Recycling Magazine](#) entitled "Recycling Takes Flight".

#### Scientific American Magazine

An enlightening, if somewhat critical, article on the status of recycling on the nation's airlines and airports can be found in the September '09 issue of [Scientific American](#).

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA has issued a report "[How to Start a Recycling Program at Your Airport](#)". This report covers how to start a program, types of collection bins, types of recyclables and how to manage them, waste audits, and has several case studies listed below.

#### Case Studies

The EPA offers the following [four case studies](#):

1. [Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport](#). Recycling here has increased from less than 5% in 2004 to 28% in 2006.
2. [Salt Lake City Department of Airports](#). Many tons of a wide variety of materials are recycled annually. Materials are generated by the flying public as well as all in-house and behind the scenes departments.
3. The [San Diego International Airport](#) has received recycling awards from the city and recyclables captured has gone from 107 tons in 2002 to 362 tons in 2006. A link is provided to a [handbook on recycling](#) at the airport:

4. Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) International Airport [Learn how Sea-Tac Airport improved recycling for Seattle air travelers \(PDF\)](#)