



Tracking Trash

Tracking Tossed Dog Food Cans to Printer Cartridges

West Chicago, IL – A team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology wanted to find out how much trash Americans toss out each day and where it all goes.

The researchers placed transmitter chips on thousands of pieces of garbage, from dog food cans to printer cartridges. What they discovered is that Americans throw out more than seven pounds of trash each day, 102 tons in a lifetime.

Among the other findings:

- Trash is America's number one export; our number one export to China is scrap (potentially recyclable materials including metals).
- Most American communities spend more on waste than on fire protection, parks and recreation, libraries, or schoolbooks.
- New York City transports 12,000 tons of trash each day to out-of-state landfills...comparable to tossing 62 Boeing 747 jumbo jets per day.
- At 500 feet, one of the tallest structures in Los Angeles is the Puente Hills Landfill, which now holds 60 years' worth of decomposing garbage.*

"Puente Hills is just one of about 2,000 landfills in the [United States]," says Doug Berjer, Brand Manager for CFR, makers of recycling carpet extractors. "It is estimated that more than five billion pounds of carpeting is also sent to landfills each year, some of which could be avoided with more frequent and effective [carpet] cleaning."

Many countries around the world are far more advanced when it comes to how they handle their trash. In Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Denmark, less than 4 percent of garbage goes to landfills, and Germany does no landfilling at all.

"Much of the waste in these countries is incinerated and then turned into electricity," says Berjer. "But a great deal of it is recycled. Recycling is not an afterthought in these countries but a way of life."

*Sources: Edward Humes, *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash* (New York: Penguin Group, 2012). *Grappling With a Garbage Glut*, *The Wall Street Journal*, April 13, 2012.

About CFR, a Tacony Company

CFR designs and manufactures a complete range of eco-friendly carpet cleaning systems and high performance specialty tools with an innovative, patented technology that is radically different from other carpet cleaning systems. Continuous Flow Recycling (CFR) technology provides superior moisture-controlled cleaning, faster drying times, and increased cleaning productivity that is unmatched compared to standard carpet extractors on the market today. Through a state-of-the-art recycling filtration system, coupled with moisture-controlled atomization wand technology to minimize carpet moisture, CFR is the Greenest carpet cleaning system available.