

Damaged Cars Scholarship Essay

When people think of recycling, they typically think of household items like plastic, paper, and aluminum. They do not tend to think of vehicles. Although the automotive recycling industry is not a commonly mentioned household name, it actually has a much larger impact on our lives than people think. In fact, automobiles are actually the most recycled consumer product in the world. Since millions of people around the world rely on automotive vehicles, it is just as necessary to recycle everything possible from each vehicle once it has reached the end of its life. The process of automotive recycling involves breaking down a vehicle, removing anything hazardous, and recycling whatever possible. The parts are then used to make new cars or to repair working cars. The process of automotive recycling is extremely beneficial to the environment in numerous ways. Automotive recycling impacts the environment by helping minimize the drain on natural resources required to mass produce vehicles, properly retrieving and storing hazardous materials, and by saving a tremendous amount of energy and power each year that would otherwise be used to produce new car parts.

Each year, over 25 million tons of metal are recycled from cars. This not only saves resources, but saves time manufacturing vehicles and saves consumers and producers money. In the recycling process, the steel from recycled vehicles is melted down and recast, minimizing the need to mine iron ore. Additionally, recycling just one single ton of steel conserves about 1400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone. Each year, the amount of metal recycled from cars drastically conserves natural resources throughout the world. This is primarily due to the fact that manufacturing new vehicles consumes a much greater amount of natural resources and requires much larger amounts of coal than recycling. Using recycled car parts also saves almost 100 million barrels of oil that would have been spent manufacturing new car parts. This is very beneficial for the environment. Recycling the metals that make up our vehicles keeps millions of tons of metals outside of landfills and puts them back into consumer use. This conserves the scarce resources that humans depend upon in order to function properly in day-to-day life. If all of these metals were wasted, these natural resources would disappear more quickly and pollute the environment at alarming rates. Instead, recycling every possible part of a vehicle truly helps to conserve natural resources and do away with the devastating impact wasting these materials would have on the environment.

Automotive recycling helps to properly remove hazardous chemicals that could be dangerous if destroyed and helps spare the environment a large amount of toxicity that would destroy the environment if released. When vehicles are broken down for recycling, hazardous materials like mercury and sodium azide are removed. Furthermore, other fluids such as gas, oil, transmission fluid, and brake fluid are also taken out and properly stored. If these fluids were not removed and entered the recycling process they could be released into the environment or seep into the ground and get into the groundwater. If this were to happen from millions of vehicles every year, the result would be catastrophic. Automotive recycling prevents this from

happening by making sure that all dangerous chemicals are properly removed and stored. This saves the environment from potential danger and keeps humans safe from being exposed to dangerous chemicals.

The process of automotive recycling conserves energy that is used to power vital aspects of human life. Because so many tons of steel are able to be recycled each year, a tremendous amount of energy that would otherwise be used to produce new steel and other car parts, is saved. This is due to the fact that using recycled metals conserves much more energy than making metal. This aspect of automotive recycling alone saves enough energy to power millions of homes every year, not to mention other vital resources that require power like grocery stores and hospitals. Automotive recycling also allows for over 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide to be saved and allocated to more important areas, like powering more homes and essential businesses. This is also due to the drastic lowering of the number of new vehicles and materials that need to be produced. If it was not for the process of automotive recycling, this energy would be wasted and the environment would be further harmed to produce more energy. Through automotive recycling, more energy is conserved and less has to be produced, ultimately having a positive impact on the environment.

Automotive recycling truly has an impact on the environment and our everyday lives. From the energy used to power our homes, to the dangerous chemicals that are spared from being released into the environment, this industry has a greater impact on the environment than most people are aware of. Automotive recycling positively impacts the environment by minimizing the expenditure of natural resources, removing and storing hazardous chemicals, and conserving energy that is then used to power human essentials. The impacts the automotive recycling industry has on the environment truly help make the world better for all inhabitants. The techniques used in the automotive recycling industry are specifically designed to conserve the most amount of resources possible, and to truly reduce the carbon footprint the automotive industry has on the environment.