Waste reduction has strong economic and environmental benefits. Many communities can expect zero waste when they shift from a “take, make and throw away” model to a circular economy where end of life materials are used to create new products.

The wood packaging industry in North America has one of the highest rates of recycling and exceeds other forms of industrial and consumer packaging such as aluminum, paper and plastic.

**UNITED STATES**

Wooden pallets are a success story in solid wood recycling in the United States. In 2011, the most recent year for which detailed data are available, an estimated 474 million pallets were recovered for recycling. That translates into an annual reduction of 13,328,800 metric tons of carbon emissions, or 45,480,300 cars taken off the road. These recovered pallets were repurposed into recycled pallets or were processed into new wood fiber products with very low levels of wood waste ending up in land fill.

**CANADA**

Industrial and consumer packaging handled by municipalities include such materials as plastics, steel and aluminum cans, glass containers and cardboard containers. Wood pallets and packaging are extensively reused many times over and recycled at end of life. Wood packaging is regarded as an insignificant waste issue due to the success of the reuse and recycling programs in place.

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**WHY WOOD?**

The North American wood packaging industry has one of the highest rates of recycling and exceeds other forms of industrial and consumer packaging such as aluminum, paper and plastic.

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474 MILLION

**PALLETS RECOVERED IN THE US IN 2011**

The wood packaging industry in North America has one of the highest rates of recycling exceeding other forms of industrial and consumer packaging such as aluminum, paper and plastic. Wood packaging and pallets at the end of life are re-processed and the resulting wood fiber is re-used in such products as landscape mulch, animal bedding, soil enhancements, wood particle board, or used in bioenergy.

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**CHOOSE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY**

Promoting the use of wood-based packaging and pallets to users seeking sustainable, responsible and economical packaging solutions. NATURESPACKAGING.ORG