



Recycling is a vital part of caring for the environment, and steel offers an environmentally friendly option, as one of the world's most recycled products.

100 per cent recyclable steel can be used an infinite number of times and in Australia only comprises 2.5 per cent of refuse that goes into landfill.

Steel cans are also energy efficient – there's no need to refrigerate them to preserve their contents during transport and storage.

The economics of steel can recycling make sense too. Producing steel from recycled cans uses 75 per cent less energy than producing steel from first-use raw materials.

Every tonne of steel recycled saves 1131kg of iron ore, 633kg of coal and 54kg of limestone.

On average the production of one tonne of steel consists of between 17 and 20 per cent recycled steel.

Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) separate cans from garbage for recycling through the use of a powerful magnet.

The cans are then baled and compressed before transport to the nearest steel works, where all cans are remelted into new steel products, with many cans added directly to the steel making furnace.

Each year Australians buy 1.7 billion steel cans from supermarkets and hardware stores and on average each Australian disposes of about six kilograms of steel can each year.

Australia ranks twelfth in the world for the percentage of steel cans that are recycled rather than sent to landfill.

Those countries which have higher recycling rates generally have legislation in place to enforce consumer recycling of steel packaging.

For more information on steel can recycling visit www.cansmart.org

