When we think of recycling we usually focus on its environmental benefits, and we will address many of those in other WCRs this semester. However, this week we want to focus on some financial benefits of recycling to you and your community.

Recycling saves you on your taxes. While some things cost more to recycle than to dump (e.g. plastics) others (e.g. metals) can be sold for profit. In addition, government grants to municipalities provide financial incentives to townships for recycling that can, in turn, reduce your property taxes. Finally, landfills take up space that could otherwise be used for other functions that generate revenue for society and your township.

Recycling creates jobs: Recycling waste creates 6 times more jobs than land filling it. As well as collectors (needed in both) recycling creates high paying manufacturing jobs, as well as sales and marketing positions once recycling has been completed.

Recycling lowers costs: Recycled products are often cheaper to buy than those made from new resources.

Reusing saves you even more: If you buy and use reusable water bottles instead of buying bottled water, you can save more than $350 / year. Buying second hand clothes and other used items can offer similar savings, while offering fun opportunities to express your style through vintage and one-of-a-kind items.

Similarly if you have old clothes, electronics or other items that you no longer want consider reselling them (e-bay is your friend!) or donating them to charity rather than throwing them away.

Reducing waste saves the most: Many businesses pay by the ton for their waste disposal. The less they throw away, the less they pay... savings they can pass on to you, the consumer.

If you would like to get involved in any of the sustainability efforts on campus, please contact Dr. Louise Wootton, Director of Sustainability, 732-987-2349, WoottonL@georgian.edu