A Brief History of Recycling Transcript

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# 1. A Brief History of Recycling

## 1.1 Title Slide

Hello, this is a presentation on A Brief History of Recycling. I’m Mari Lubag and I will be your narrator today.

## 1.2 Slide 1

Imagine it’s 7AM on a Monday. You’re making toast for breakfast when you suddenly hear the loud engine of the recycling services truck as it turns onto your street. ”Oh no!” You think to yourself. “I’ve gotta get the recycling bin outside!”

Recycling in the U.S. has been around for hundreds of years now. In the 1600s, linen and cotton rags were recycled into new clothing.

## 1.3 Slide 2

Paper was also recycled and used to make newspapers and Bibles. During World War II, there was a massive shift in the recycling industry with the need to collect tin, rubber, steel, and more as part of war efforts. This gave Americans a sense of pride by being able to help troops, as well as the environment.

In the 1960s, the first curbside recycling services were stood up and collected yard waste, paper, and metals from local communities.

In the 1970s, the iconic recycling symbol as we know it today was created by architectural student Gary Anderson while he was studying at University of Southern California.

## 1.4 Slide 3

In 1987, New Jersey enacted the first mandatory recycling law in the U.S. This required residents to separate recyclable materials from trash.

By 1985, 20% of the U.S. was participating in recycling programs, doubling the participation rates from 10 years prior.

The 2000s saw a great shift in how companies approach sustainability. Many companies switched from Styrofoam to paper products. Others encouraged reusable items over single-use plastic.

Fast-forward to today. While we’ve made a lot of progress over recent decades, there’s still room for improvement. In 2018, China banned the import of certain plastics and materials, leaving the US to figure out a forward path. As you navigate through this website, you’ll find steps you can take to start properly recycling in your own community.

## 1.5 Thank you!

This concludes the presentation on a brief history of recycling. Thanks for watching!