

## Crunch the Numbers for Recycling

*Units of measure used here are from the Imperial system.*

*Recycling one aluminum can, rather than making a new one from bauxite, saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 3.5 hours. Used beverage cans are worth \$0.25/pound. One pound of aluminum produces 32 cans. One cubic yard of aluminum cans has a mass of 250 pounds. Last year, North America threw five million cubic yards of aluminum cans into landfill sites as waste.*

- 1) What mass of aluminum landfill was created last year?*
- 2) How many aluminum cans were thrown out?*
- 3) How many hours of electricity did we throw away last year, because we did not recycle those cans?*
- 4) How much money did we throw into the garbage dumps, in the form of aluminum?*
- 5) Estimate how many cans you and your family use in a month. Use that figure to calculate how many hours of electricity you could save or waste, depending on your recycling habits.*
- 6) Shaquille O'Neal weighs 325 lbs. Use his weight to calculate the equivalent of basketball players that were thrown into the garbage last year!*