When communities invest in local recycling collection programs, they’re supporting KY manufacturers who use recycled plastic, glass, metal, and paper to make new consumer goods. Recycling isn’t just about smart use of natural resources – it’s about delivering valuable commodities to some of our most important businesses.

Increased recycling rates help Kentucky manufacturers source good, affordable manufacturing feedstock.

A 2010 SERDC study determined that Kentucky is home to more than 17 manufacturers who rely on recycled content feedstock.

These companies:
- Make more than $3.8 billion in yearly sales
- Employ more than 4,300 Kentucky citizens directly in the manufacture of recycled content products

Source: Hoovers/OneSource Business Databases (SERDC)
Kentucky boasts recycled content manufacturers of steel, aluminum, paper, cardboard, and plastics in state, with access to numerous end markets in neighboring Virginia and Tennessee. Kentucky ranks as the #1 state in the primary aluminum industry in terms of value of shipments, and boasts the world’s largest fully-dedicated aluminum can recycling plant in Berea. But in 2003, it was estimated that Kentucky lost $17 million per year from landilling aluminum cans.

Source: KRIG and 2003 KY Report

2009 recycling statistics indicate that Kentucky hosts 86 recycling reclamation facilities employing 7,418 workers, with Logan Aluminum in Russellville as the largest employer, providing 1,030 jobs to the surrounding region.

Source: KRIG

If Kentucky recycled just 20% more solid waste per year, the potential economic impact would equate to:

- over 1,400 new jobs
- over $66 million annual personal income
- $3 million annual state tax revenue

*Using the 1,000 ton metric from S.C.’s Economic Impact Study

Results from a 2010 SERDC study to map demand of recycled feedstock in the Southeast US