

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Up Your World

So you've decided to do your part for the environment by recycling. How do you get started?

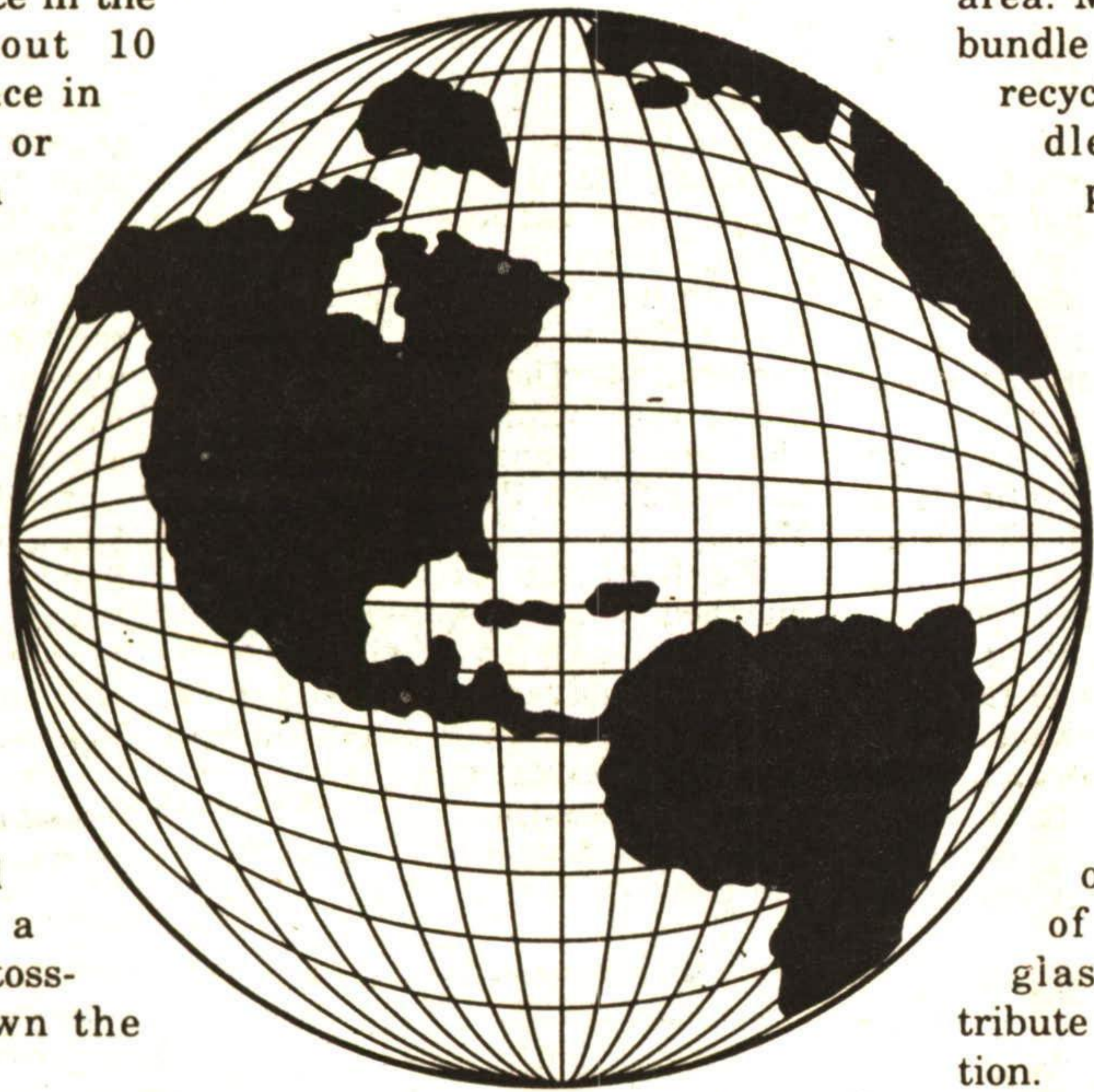
Recycling doesn't need to take up a great deal of space (in fact, it can take up even less space if you reduce the amount of garbage you produce in the first place). About 10 square feet of space in the garage, closet or kitchen will store a month's worth of recycling materials.

You can begin by storing your separated trash in different boxes, one each for glass, aluminum cans, tin cans (food packaging), etc. Used motor oil can be recycled as well—don't be a polluter by simply tossing waste oil down the storm drain.

Depending on the area, you may be required to separate glass by color. You probably won't need to remove the label but do rinse the bottles out.

Newspaper can be bundled up with twine or stored inside paper bags. High-grade paper such as computer and typing paper should be kept separate

from newsprint. Cardboard that is not plastic-coated or tar-lined can be recycled. Scrap paper products, which include anything not already mentioned, can be recycled into egg cartons and cereal boxes. Leave out magazines. The



high clay content that produces their slick appearance makes them difficult to recycle. A better plan of action would be to recycle by sharing.

There are seven different types of plastic in common use but not all may be recycled. Look for the voluntary code on the container bottom to separate by type.

While the act of separating trash to preserve recyclable material isn't difficult, not all communities have organized recycling programs.

Check with city employees to ask about what services are available in your area. Many grocery stores bundle their cardboard for recycling—ask who handles recycled paper products.

Recycling makes economic sense. For example, one ton of aluminum made from ore requires 16,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity while one ton created from recycled material needs only 187. Recycling of paper, cans and glass can greatly contribute to energy conservation.

As much sense as recycling makes, society still throws tons of undifferentiated trash into landfills each year. By beginning your personal recycling program now, you are preparing for a future in which recycling will become increasingly important for economic as well as environmental reasons.

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