



We Recycle.

Ashley, Maggie, Emma,  
Aisha

# Rio Summit

- The United Nations came together in 1992 to try and stop the destruction of our natural resources
- New regulations were put in place for businesses, cities, and states
- The road to greener environment was being paved

# The Pros of Recycling

- Reduces energy usage, air pollution and water pollution
- Allows for a safer and healthier environment
- Over the past decade, there has been a 100% increase in the total recycling in the United States



# The Six Recycling Classifications

1. Polyester fibers, soft drink bottles
2. Bottles, plastic carrier bags, recycling bins
3. Pipe, fencing, non-food bottles
4. Plastic bags, containers, dispensing bottles
5. Auto parts, industrial fibers
6. Coffee cups, toys, video cassettes
7. Various





# Three Steps of Recycling



# Step One



- The first step is the collection and processing
- When recyclables are collected, there are four main methods.
  - curbside pickup
  - drop-off centers
  - buy-back centers
  - deposit-refund programs
- Once recyclables are collected and sent to a recovery facility, they are sorted by type and sent out for manufacturing.

## Step Two

- The next step is the manufacturing of the recycled products.
- Once cleaned, products are made
  - Newspapers
  - laundry detergent bottles
  - park benches
  - pedestrian bridges.



# Step Three

- The new materials are bought
- Without this stage the process would be incomplete



This is a  
counter top  
made of  
recycled  
glass!



# Recycling in Birmingham, AL

- Some cities in Alabama such as Hoover, Homewood, Pelham, Alabaster, Vestavia Hills and Mountain Brook all have recycling programs
- Birmingham has three different recycling recovery centers
- Smaller places like Moody have to bring their recyclable items to Birmingham, because they lack programs of their own



# Allied Waste

- Allied Waste is used by Hoover, Homewood, Pelham, Alabaster, Vestavia Hills and Mountain Brook
- It is the main recycling company in Alabama along with Arrow Recycling another large company
- Allied waste drops off materials at Birmingham Recycle and American Material Management

# Hoover, Alabama

- Population- 81,619
- Pickup every Wednesday
- 2011, Hoover recycled around 3,300 tons of recycling an increase of 3,100 from 2010
- Held hazardous waste day where people recycle batteries, old electronics, tires, medicines and guns safely
  - 2011, 1,065 residents participated
- Hoover recycles old cooking oil and turns it into fuel for fire and police cars

# Pelham, Alabama

- Population- 21,352
- The city of Pelham has a very recently added recycling program
- Recycling is picked up curbside every other week
- In 2011, Pelham had 745 tons of recycling
- twice a year Pelham has heavy bulk waste day
  - getting rid of things such as vacuums, grills, paint cans, bikes, stoves and mattresses.

# Mountain Brook

- Population- 20,413
- The city of Mountain Brook has curbside recycling every other week
- The total amount of recycling Mountain Brook had in 2011 was 2,300 tons
- 7,400 homes recycle



# Vestavia Hills, Alabama

- Population- 34,033
- Vestavia Hills has very similar programs to Hoovers
- picked up curbside on Wednesdays
- Vestavia had 1,640 tons of recycling in 2011
- That is about 267 pounds per household a year
- Vestavia also uses old cooking oil for their fire and police cars.



# Alabaster, Alabama

- Population- 30,352
- Alabaster has a rewards program, through Allied Waste, for residents who recycle.
  - Such as coupons for stores and magazine subscriptions
  - It brought 910 tons of recycling to alabaster in 2011.
- [www.recyclebank.com](http://www.recyclebank.com) is the website that Alabaster uses for their rewards program

# Homewood, Alabama



- Population-25,167
- The city of Homewood has curbside pickup once a week
  - does not include apartment condos or businesses
- In 2011, 960 tons of recycling



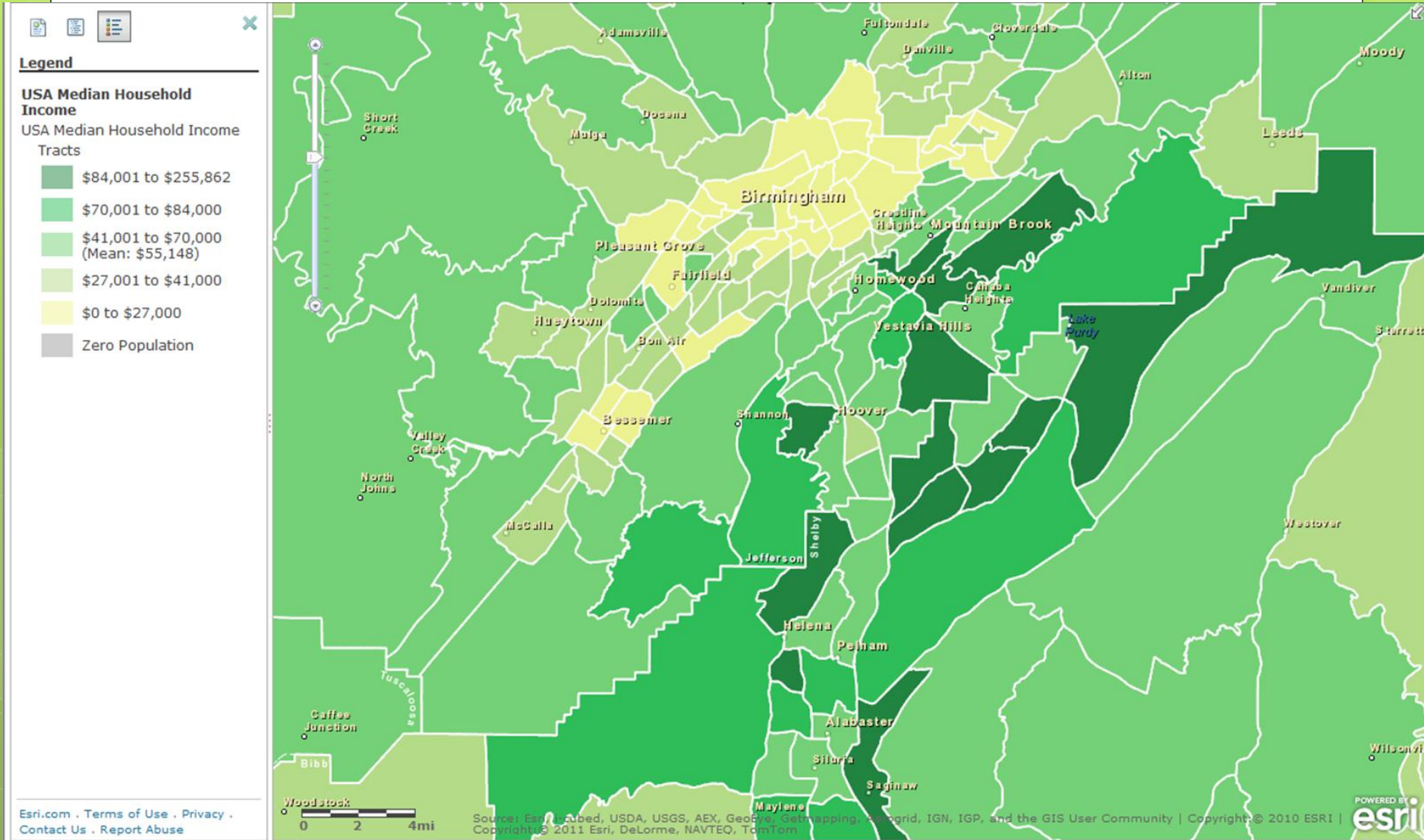


# Statistics of 2011

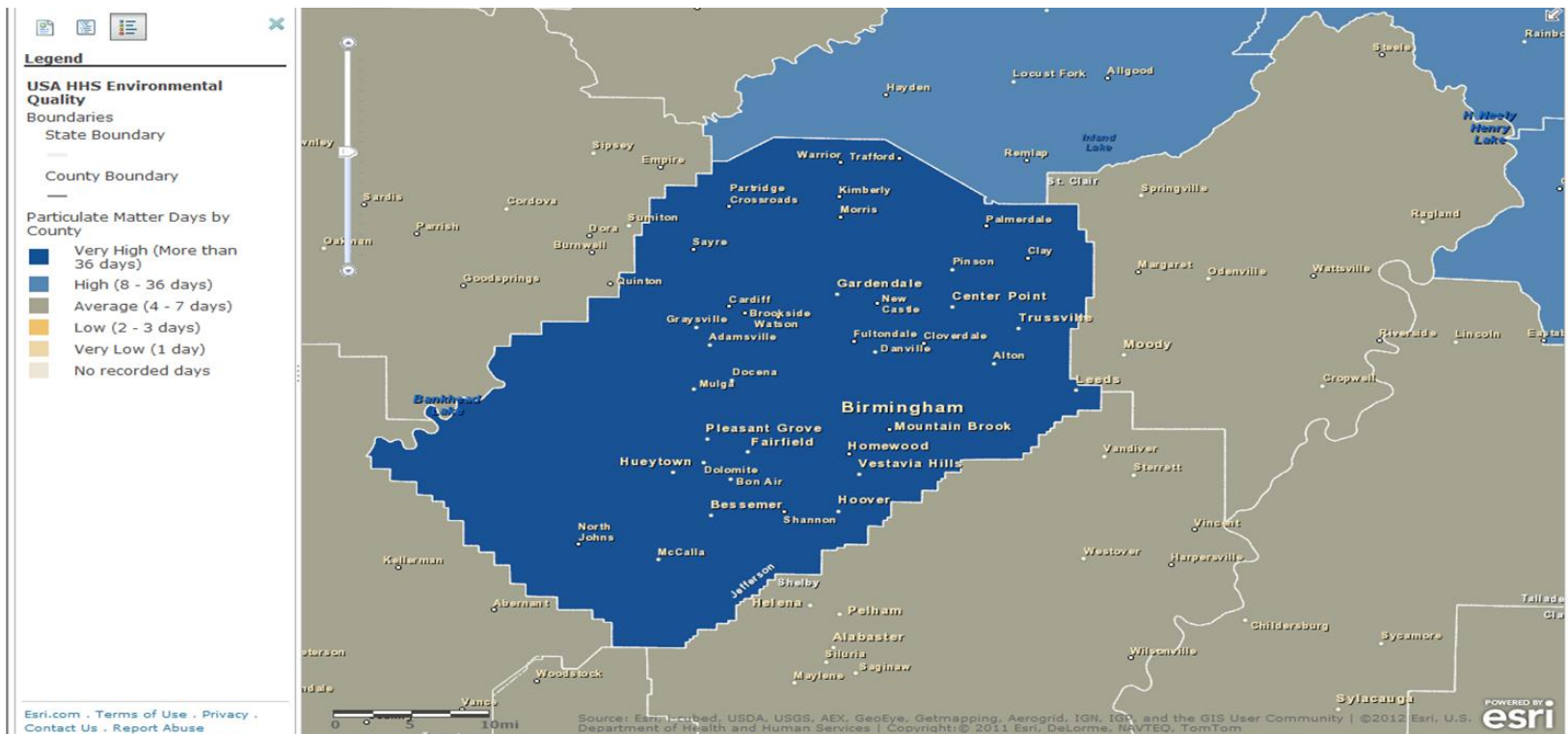
- Pelham- 1500 tons
- Homewood- 2,800 tons
- Alabaster- 910 tons
- Hoover- 3268 tons
- Mountain Brook- 2300 tons
- Vestavia- 1640 tons
- If you compare them Hoover recycles the most and has the most programs available



# Average Income



# Environmental Quality





# Interesting Facts

- Approximately 8,660 curbside recycling programs exist in the United States
- Each person wastes approximately 4.7 pounds each day
- The United States recycles about 32% of its waste
- There is about a 100% increase in the total recycling in the United States during the Past Decade
- 53.4% of all paper products are being recycled in the United States
- 82 million tons of materials are being recycled in the United States
- Recycling is reportedly creating \$37 million in salaries annually

# Conclusion

- Our group has concluded from this project that the goal of our community leaders is to become a more green community with programs such as rewards, and Household Hazardous Waste Day. The data we have gathered has proven to the last point that we are trying to improve are environment, and that to propose to are community leaders to continue with this plan and keep gaining more followers.