



Why is the most durable and recyclable material in the world the best for bridge construction?

SUSTAINABILITY

Steel is the most recycled material on earth. A new bridge requiring 500 tons of steel would typically use the steel from 300 old cars, 250 dishwashers, stoves and refrigerators, 60 tons of industrial scrap, and 50 tons of recycled curbside waste.

EFFICIENCY

Steel is the efficient, strong material ideal for bridge construction. For the same load and span requirements, a steel girder will require less depth than a corresponding concrete girder efficiently addressing any vertical clearance issues. Steel bridges can easily be designed to take advantage of continuous spans handling both live and dead loads in the most efficient manner.



FIRST COST

Steel bridges cost less to build. Erection costs are lower because construction with steel is faster and lighter requiring smaller and fewer pieces of equipment for a shorter period. Foundation and pier costs are less because steel is lighter.

AESTHETICS

Simple fact: The vast majority of the world's architecturally significant and award-winning bridges are steel bridges. If you want to be inspired by the beauty of steel bridges, explore the steel bridge gallery at www.steelbridges.org/prizebridges



NSBA leads the effort to increase the effectiveness of steel within the bridge industry by providing:

- Complimentary technical assistance
- Educational tools and resources to communicate the benefits of steel
- Economic and market information as it relates to the National Bridge Inventory
- Bridge-related articles and product information in *Modern Steel Construction* magazine
- National representation on transportation-related legislative issues
- University support programs



THE GREEN SIDE OF STEEL

How is steel the best bridge building material for the planet?

RECYCLING RATE

At 98%, steel has the highest overall recycling rate of any material on the planet.

MULTI-CYCLED

Steel can be attracted magnetically, a unique quality that makes it easy and economical to remove it from the solid waste stream, thus keeping a valuable commodity out of the nation's landfills.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Efficiencies in steel material and design can lead to lighter foundations & longer spans, putting less strain on the natural habitat, reducing impact on other environmental factors, and ultimately reducing costs.

RECYCLEABILITY

Steel is the most recycled material in the United States. Each year more than 83 million tons of steel are recycled, more than double the amount of all other materials combined including paper, glass, plastic, lead, copper and aluminum.



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