

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

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Do you know plastic? You can recycle plastic bottles, jars, and small containers with codes #1-5 and 7.

This means you can recycle.....

Honey bears, yogurt cups, apple sauce or fruit cups, shampoo bottles, conditioner bottles, bodywash bottles, milk jugs, juice bottles, water bottles, 2-liter soda bottles, margarine tubs, mouthwash bottles, ketchup bottles, BBQ bottles, mustard bottles, whipped topping tubs, vitamin and medicine bottles (empty), dish soap bottles, laundry detergent bottles, sour cream tubs, peanut butter jars, creamer bottles, produce containers, laundry softener bottles, sanitary wipe containers, cleaner bottles, spice containers, chocolate syrup bottles, coffee tubs, mayo jars, shortening tubs, vegetable oil bottles, salad dressing bottles....

Whew!

Recycling Update

NOVEMBER 2015

No Bags By The Numbers

Starting October 1st, 2015, plastic bags of any kind were no longer accepted in our recycling stream. Recyclables now must be put at the curb loose in a permanent container.

This change was necessary due to a drop in the market for recyclables. For the separation process, plastic bags require a slower machine feed rate, they entangle and can cause costly repairs, but mostly they are contamination and substantially lower the value of a bale. When times were good and markets robust, the processors were willing to tolerate the bags. This is no longer the case.

Since June 2013, we have had the Choose and Use Your Own Container program; bags were discouraged, but still allowed. For two months prior to Oct. 1st, the NO bags change was advertised on cable, radio, newspaper, the website, and social media. Some people contacted us after Oct. 1st....

We got 1,675 calls!

We gave 6 presentations to 241 folks!

95.82% gave a thumb's up to the program!

30th PASCO COASTAL CLEANUP

This year was the 30th anniversary of the Coastal Cleanup, which has meant cleaner waterways and streets for our citizens. On September 19th, more than 1,150 volunteers picked up about 22 tons, or 44,000 pounds of trash. That is a 10 percent increase from 2014. The volunteers picked up all kinds of trash including televisions, a swimming pool filter, a car bumper, and a number of tires.



UPCYCLE EVENT

The Pasco Upcycle Festival is a partnership between Keep Pasco Beautiful and Pasco County. This first year event is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Little Everglades Ranch located at 17951 Hamilton Road in Dade City. This event will have numerous upcycle vendors with items such as pallet furniture and spoon bracelets. For entertainment there will be a stage with Bluegrass bands. There will be no admission to enter the festival, although there will be a \$5 parking fee.



Many things can be reused to reduce the amount of waste in our environment. There is a term for the ingenious process of reinventing something with a new purpose: upcycle.

The purpose of the Pasco Upcycle Festival is to reduce waste by changing peoples' perceptions of what can be salvaged into not only something useful, but often times a work of art. For more information on the event email kking@pascocountyfl.net or call (727) 856-7252

Recycle smart!

Crushing your plastics may make them smaller, but it also leads to contamination, as machines mistake a squished bottle for something else. Leave the 3D objects as 3D and help your recycling go to the right place.

The Second R

Most recyclers know the adage "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!" but too often the 'reuse' part of the equation is left out. With sustainability gaining recognition, the reuse and repurposing of materials is taking center stage.

The art of reuse comes in many forms. *Upcycling* is when new life is given to an unwanted item by repurposing it in some way. Instead of destruction, reuse boasts *deconstruction*, which means a building or business is dismantled and salvaged for usable materials. *Freecycling* promotes community involvement by the free exchange of gently used items. Replacing worn-out parts of an

item and prolonging its life cycle is known as *remanufacturing*, while any good handyman or handywoman knows the financial benefits of *repair*. Why not take a look around and see if something you own can be given new life?



THE EVOLVING TON

Recycling commodities rise and fall in value, plastics are coded to indicate grade, the number of participants changes, and at every step of the way, weights matter. Tons of recycling are sold, shipped, and bought, but what happens when a ton isn't really a ton?

Over the years, manufacturers have realized the benefits of creating lighter products and slimmer packaging. Thinner containers means less greenhouse gas emissions, savings on fuel costs, and less overall waste. However, the evolution of

packaging has changed the volume of recycling versus the weight of recycling.



Recycling processors churn through much more recycling by volume to break even on the

number of tons recycled. What can you do to help? Recycle more! The more you recycle, the higher the weights get, and the more you ensure the stability of the recycling industry. You'll be helping the economy and making an environmental difference in the future of our world.

The amount of recyclable material in everyday life is nothing less than astonishing. Check out the list on the front page and see if there's anything around the house you could move from the trash bag to the recycling bin.

THE ART OF RECYCLING

The Art of Recycling is a student exhibit featuring art made from recycled materials. It has been a great success, and this is its 20th year! High school students from all across the county are eligible to participate. There are cash winners in 15 categories, and a graduating senior will win a \$1,000 scholarship. The art must have an environmental theme. Entries can include paintings, prints, ceramics, sculptures, architecture, or wearable art. All

pieces go on display at the West Pasco Government Center during the month of February, and the winners are shown at the School Board offices in Land O' Lakes through March.

To enter, pick up an Entry Form from your High School Art teacher and enter your school's competition. Be chosen as one of your school's 7 finalists, and have

your piece compete for prizes. For more information about how to enter, call 813-794-7936 or 727-856-4539.

