

# Recycle Pasco!

2012

Be  
responsible  
about  
your trash





## Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education (NIE) program is a cooperative effort between schools and the *Times* to promote the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources. Since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of the newspaper, plus our award-winning original curriculum, at no cost to teachers or schools.

With ever-shrinking school budgets, the newspaper has become an invaluable tool to teachers. In the Tampa Bay area, each year, more than 5 million newspapers and electronic licenses are provided to teachers and students free of charge thanks to generous sponsors such as Pasco County and District School Board of Pasco County.

The *Times* and our NIE curriculum are rich educational resources, offering teachers an up-to-the-minute, living text and source for countless projects in virtually every content area. For information about NIE, call 800-333-7505, ext. 8138 or visit [tampabay.com/nie](http://tampabay.com/nie). Follow us on Twitter, [Twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE).



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### This publication incorporates the following Sunshine State Standards:

**Science:** SC.3.N.1.1; SC.3.N.1.2; SC.3.N.1.3; SC.3.N.1.6; SC.4.E.6.3; SC.4.N.1.2 ; SC.4.N.1.3; SC.4.N.1.6; SC.4.N.2.1; SC.5.N.1.1; SC.6.N.1.1; SC.7.N.1.1; SC.8.N.1.1; SC.8.N.4.2; SC.912.N.1.1; SC.912.N.1.7

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# Pasco calendar of events for recycling 2012-2013

## APRIL 2012

**Earth Day at Crews Lake**  
April 21, 2012

**Great American Cleanup**  
April 21, 2012

## SEPTEMBER 2012

**Coastal Cleanup**  
Sept. 15, 2012

## OCTOBER 2012

**Energy Conservation Video Contest**

## NOVEMBER 2012

**America Recycles Day**  
Nov. 15, 2012

**Recycling Video Contest**

## DECEMBER 2012

**Christmas Tree Recycling**  
Dec. 26, 2012–Jan. 6, 2013

## JANUARY 2013

**Arbor Day Celebration**

## FEBRUARY-MARCH 2013

**Pasco Art of Recycling Competition for high school students**

## APRIL 2013

**Great American Cleanup**  
April 20, 2013



# Pasco County residents: Please curb your recycling blues



Pasco County's "Blue Bag" curbside residential recycling program is a voluntary program that's easy to use. If you are paying for twice-a-week garbage pickup, you're already paying for recycling service.

We accept #1 and #2 coded plastic bottles and jars, aluminum cans and metal food cans, and clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars. Put everything in the same

blue bag. Purchase blue bags at Pasco-area grocery stores or at some local super store retailers. Place the full bag curbside the night before your recycling pickup day.

If you don't get garbage pickup at the curb, you can use one of our convenient drop-off locations. See Page 14 for drop-off information.

Visit [pascocountyutilities.com](http://pascocountyutilities.com) and click on the recycling link to find complete information on what to do with all sorts of recyclable materials. Or contact the Pasco County Recycling coordinator at 727-847-8041.

**For every blue bag you fill with recyclables, that's one less black bag that goes into the trash. That makes buying blue worthwhile.**



## Recycling at Earth Day 2012

What better place to recycle than at Earth Day? Come to Crews Lake Park on April 21, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is located off of Shady Hills Road, just south of the Suncoast Highway, in Spring Hill.

### Bring us your:

- Old electronics: computers, cellphones, televisions (first two televisions are free; additional televisions are \$7 each), any household electronic product.
- Expired and unused medications, including sharps
- Mercury containing devices such as thermometers and thermostats (we will give you a \$5 Walmart gift card for each one).
- Lead-acid car and truck batteries.

This local celebration has been going on for many years. It's for the whole family, with entertainment by Croc Encounters – a live reptile wildlife show.



There's always a Florida native plant sale so that you can stock your garden with plants that are Florida friendly. There are water conservation displays and information on recycling in Pasco County. There's a lady bug release. It will be a fun, educational day in the park. For more information, please contact Lottie Kelley at [lkelly@covantaenergy.com](mailto:lkelly@covantaenergy.com) or 727-856-2917, ext. 201.

## Vocabulary word scramble

Unscramble the following words. Then look up the definitions. Finally, find each word in the *Tampa Bay Times*.

- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. PAREP       | 1. _____  |
| 2. LOETSTB     | 2. _____  |
| 3. ECRECLY     | 3. _____  |
| 4. TCSIPLA     | 4. _____  |
| 5. ATESW       | 5. _____  |
| 6. EWEANSRPP   | 6. _____  |
| 7. EUSRE       | 7. _____  |
| 8. IGPNAGKCA   | 8. _____  |
| 9. RECEDU      | 9. _____  |
| 10. RETIENNMNV | 10. _____ |

# To begin recycling – First start with your garbage

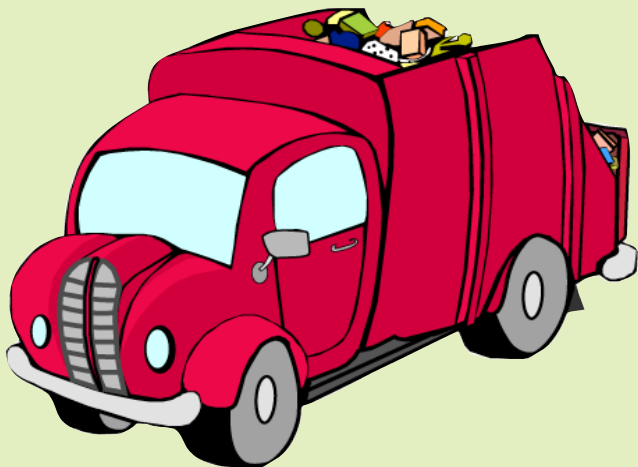
In Pasco County, we have a free-market subscription system for garbage hauling. Pasco County does not pick up your garbage. Your curbside garbage and your recyclables are picked up by one of eight independent haulers. You pay directly for service. This is called subscription service. Residents need to sign up for service in order to receive both garbage and recycling service. If you live in a newer subdivision, your homeowners association (HOA) or community development district (CDD) may contract for your pickup service. Please contact your HOA or CDD directly to learn who the hauler is that services you.

**If you are paying for twice-a-week garbage pickup, you are already paying for recycling service.**

Call your garbage hauler listed below to find out your blue bag pickup day and to receive a recycling schedule.

## Garbage haulers:

<b>Choice Environmental</b>	<b>352-583-4204</b>
<b>County Recycling Inc.</b>	<b>888-522-5794</b>
<b>J.D. Parker &amp; Sons Disposal Inc.</b>	<b>727-845-1024</b>
<b>Seaside Sanitation (Republic)</b>	<b>727-868-2566</b>
<b>Waste Aid</b>	<b>813-996-1457</b>
<b>Waste Express</b>	<b>727-841-7511</b>
<b>Waste Management of Pasco</b>	<b>800-255-7172</b>
<b>Waste Services of Florida Inc.</b>	<b>727-849-3333</b>



# Pineview Elementary School hosts Arbor Day celebration

It takes teamwork from the Pineview Elementary Earth Patrol students to help Withlacoochee Forestry Center resource administrator Michael Penn properly plant an oak tree near one of the schools playgrounds.



To help celebrate Arbor Day, the students from Pineview assisted in site preparation and the placement of the oak into its new home. The tree, donated by McMullen Nursery, will provide much-needed shade to students in years to come. A magnolia tree, donated by Pine Lake Nursery, also was prepared and planted near another playground to provide much-needed relief from the sun.

Arbor Day, founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care.

As more than 200 kids listened, Mr. Penn spoke about the origin of Arbor Day and the importance of trees and environment. “Trees are a valuable and renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and in this case ... shade,” said Mr. Penn. “Arbor day gives us the opportunity to take time and celebrate the environment and trees.”

Judy Cosh, principal of Pineview Elementary School, praised Mr. Penn, stating, “The Florida Forestry Service really impressed our students as they learned why we celebrate Arbor Day.”

Please do your part – recycle! For more information on the District School Board of Pasco County’s recycling program, please visit [pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation](http://pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation) or contact Tony Bartenope, recycling coordinator, at [abarteno@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:abarteno@pasco.k12.fl.us).

## Earth Patrol promotes environmental awareness

Earth Patrol was developed to assist with conservation at schools. Earth Patrol is the term used to describe the students that monitor the school’s campus for recycling, energy and water conservation, and to help collect litter.

Students are a vital part of the conservation programs in Pasco County schools. On a regular basis, Earth Patrol students check classrooms for lights left on, recyclables in the waste cans, trash in the recycling containers, leaky faucets, and so forth. Elementary school students wear green vests that are purchased by local businesses. Secondary school students wear lanyards as they monitor the campus to encourage participation.

The Earth Patrol students use a weekly log that shows the schedule for monitoring the school campus. When Earth Patrol students find conservation activities being done correctly, a green door hanger is left on the door that reads “Thanks, You are Making a Difference.” This acknowledges those who are doing a good job of conserving. Those areas that need improvement receive a yellow



door hanger that reads “Gotcha, Wasted Resources Are Gone Forever.” On the back of the door hanger, the Earth Patrol students can mark the areas that need improvement.

Earth Patrol students are concerned about wasted resources and work hard to help their schools become more environmentally aware. The Earth Patrol program is a great way for students to be actively involved in caring for their school and their planet. These efforts help schools save money on their electric, water and solid waste bills. Thanks to Earth Patrol, students are learning hands-on that conservation is important.





# Community paper program

## Fire stations

Station No. 15  
11538 Trinity Blvd.,  
Trinity, FL 34655

Station No. 16  
34335 Chancey Road,  
Zephyrhills, FL 33543

Station No. 17  
2951 Seven Springs Blvd.,  
New Port Richey, FL  
34655

Station No. 23  
21300 SR 54,  
Lutz, FL 33549

Station No. 26  
28229 Aronwood Blvd.,  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543

Station No. 37  
18015 SR 54,  
Lutz, FL 33558

## Libraries

Hudson Regional, 8012 Library  
Road, Hudson, FL 34667

Land O' Lakes, 2818 Collier  
Parkway, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639

New River Library, 34043 SR 54,  
Zephyrhills, FL 33543

Regency Park, 9701 Little Road,  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

South Holiday Library, 4649 Mile  
Stretch Road, Holiday, FL 34690

Sunset Building, 5418 Sunset Road,  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

## Parks and Recreation Centers

J. Ben Harrill, 2830 Gulf Trace  
Blvd., Holiday, FL 34691

Land O'Lakes Recreation Center,  
3032 Collier Parkway,  
Land O'Lakes, FL 34639



Veterans Recreation Center, 14333  
Hicks Road, Hudson, FL 34667

Odessa Community Center, 1627  
Chesapeake Dr., Odessa, FL 33556

Park Office on SR. 52, at Pasco  
County Fairgrounds, Dade City

Shady Hills Community Center,  
15840 Greenglen Lane,  
Shady Hills, FL 34610

Wesley Chapel Regional Park,  
7727 Boyette Road,  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

John S Burke Park, 13220 Gene  
Nelson Blvd., Dade City, FL 33525

Arthur Engle Park, 11601 Denton  
Ave., Hudson, FL 34667

Mitchell Park, 4825 Little Road,  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

## Other Pasco County buildings

Facilities Mgmt., 7220 Osteen  
Road, New Port Richey, FL 34653

East Pasco Government Center,  
14236 6th St., Dade City, FL 33523

## Let the sun shine

The District School Board of Pasco County (DSBPC) has partnered with the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), a research institute of the University of Central Florida, and with local electric utilities in bringing photovoltaic (PV) systems to Pasco County schools.

In addition to generating electricity, the PV array is a tool for educators to teach and guide students in the science and importance of solar power.

PV systems have been installed at Anclote and James W. Mitchell high schools. They will be utilized not only by the high school students, but also by the students at Paul R. Smith and Seven Springs middle schools. It is an exciting way to educate students on the importance of energy conservation and emerging technologies.

In addition, PV systems are currently being installed at the following schools: River Ridge Middle School; Pine View Elementary School; Raymond B. Stewart Middle School; Centennial Middle School and Wiregrass Ranch High School. The school sites were selected because they also serve as emergency shelters, and the school will benefit by having the PV array as a source of back up power.

In Pasco County, more than 20 percent of what shows up at our waste-to-energy facility is recyclable paper. That's equivalent to 63.3 tons of paper each year. For every ton of paper recycled, we save seventeen (17) trees. It's been said that Americans throw away enough paper in a year to build a 12-foot-high wall from New York City to Los Angeles.

Bring it from home! Place all of your brown and white paper bags, cardboard, cereal boxes, construction paper, gift wrap, magazines, newspaper, phone books and other paper products that you would normally throw away into a Green Fiber container.

## We've gone community wide!

Bring it from home to earn revenue for your local school, fire station, library or park.

Look for this recycling container at a fire station, library, park or school of your choice.

Recycle cardboard, newspaper and other paper products in a Green Fiber container. There are more than 100 drop-off sites county-wide. There's one near you.

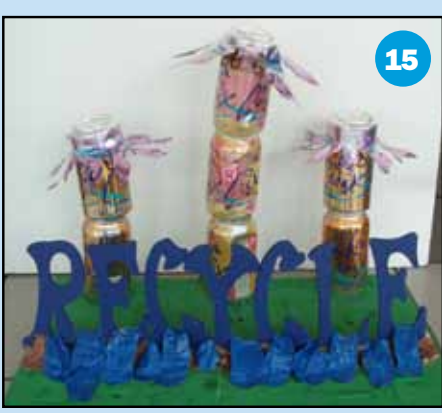
## For county sites, visit:

[pascocountyutilities.com](http://pascocountyutilities.com)

## For school sites, visit:

[pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation](http://pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation)





15

## 2012 award winners

- 1. First Place: *Pointing Out Pollution*** (front cover)  
Alexandria McGlew, J.W. Mitchell High
- 2. Second Place: *Sculpture En Verre***  
Savanna Wright, Zephyrhills High
- 3. Third Place: *Recycling Never Goes Out Of Style***  
Christine Hankin, Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High
- 4. Best Artistic Expression: *Forest Fires Kill!***  
Sarah Zerafa, Ridgewood High
- 5. Best Environmental: *Don't Trash Our Earth! Recycle.*** Amanda Aliano, Ridgewood High
- 6. Best Use of Materials: *A Day In The Woods***  
Brooklyn Bernhardt, Anclote High
- 7. Best Use of Printed Material: *Take Care Of Your Roots!*** Sara Gillispie, Ridgewood High
- 8. Commissioner's Choice: *Don't Reflect On The Past! Recycle.*** Briana Gillispie, Ridgewood High
- 9. Most Innovative: *Footstool***  
Taylor Jones, Zephyrhills High
- 10. Best Use of Aluminum: *Arizona T-Raptor***  
Taylor Gandy, Zephyrhills High
- 11. Best Use of Plastic: *Fredrick The Octopus***  
Anthony Kinsman, Zephyrhills High
- 12. Pasco Art of Recycling Committee: *For The Trees.*** Miranda Bacon, Sunlake High
- 13. Pasco Arts Council: *Giraffe In The Valley***  
(special merit)  
Caitlyn Baughman, Zephyrhills High
- 14. People's Choice: *Panda Bear*** (front cover)  
Brianna McDougal, Pasco High
- 15. RESORCE Recycling Club of Pasco: *The Sunny Side Of Recycling***  
Sean Updyke, Wiregrass Ranch High

The District School Board of Pasco County, the Pasco Arts Council and Pasco County Utilities and Facilities Management are proud of the talented young artists who participated in the Pasco Art of Recycling Exhibition. Their imagination and creativity have helped raise awareness of art and the benefits of recycling. Thank you to our outstanding sponsors that help make this event possible!



## Combines art, recycling and creativity!

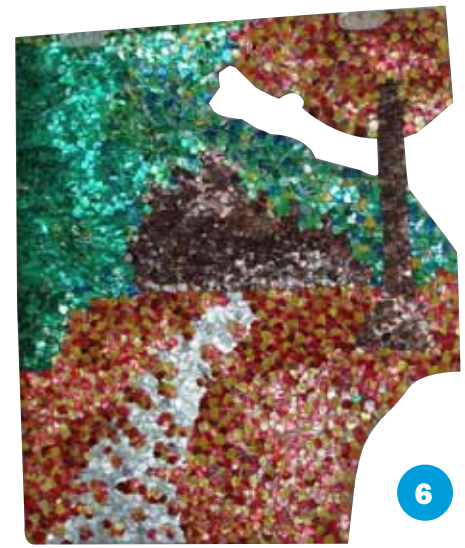
### Special thanks to our sponsors

The Art of Recycling was generously sponsored by Commissioner Pat Mulieri; County Recycling; Covanta Energy Inc.; Fine Arts of the Suncoast Inc.; Gerald Figurski, JB & Marsha Starkey; Keep Pasco Beautiful Inc.; Pasco Arts Council; Sierra Properties; Simpson Farms; Waste Aid; Waste Express and Waste Management Inc. An annual \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to a student continuing his or her education in the arts.

One man's trash is another man's treasure! Pasco County students turned trash into art in the 2012 Pasco Art of Recycling Exhibition. What began as a cooperative initiative among the District School Board of Pasco County, the Pasco Arts Council and Pasco County Utilities and Facilities Management to increase art visibility and recycling awareness has



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resulted in a 16-year success story. The initiative has grown each year and is now one of the most popular Pasco County student art events.

Students use their imagination to create an environmentally themed original masterpiece from at least 70 percent used or recycled materials. Art pieces from this year's exhibition were on display Feb. 6 – 29 in the West Pasco Government Center foyer. Winning pieces were featured at the District School Board of Pasco County in Land O'Lakes March 5 – 28.

Many Pasco County businesses and individuals supported the event and provided more than \$2,200 in prizes awarded at a ceremony that took place Feb. 16.



9





Art of Recycling: some of the artists, sponsors and teachers



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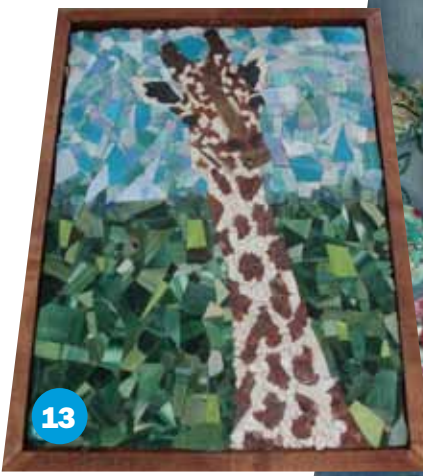
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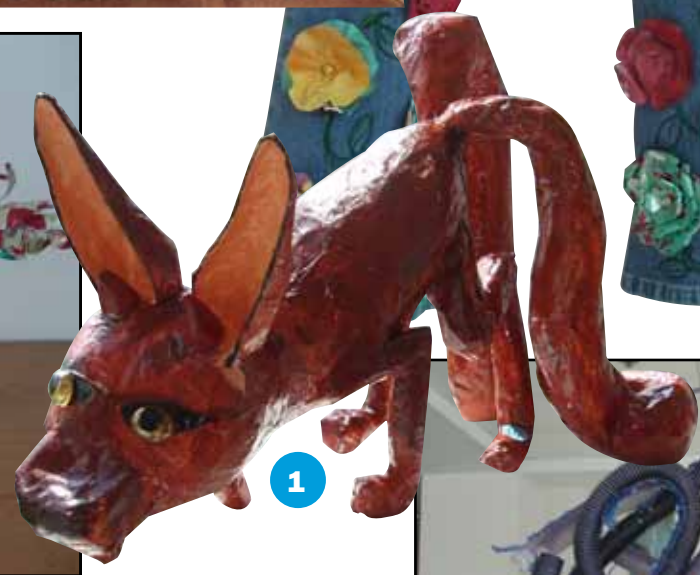
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## Learning with the Times

### Being energy efficient

Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for pictures of home appliances that use energy. For each appliance, answer the following questions. Is this a necessity or a luxury? What are the advantages and disadvantages to using it? What's the alternative to this appliance? Do a little research to determine the energy efficiency of each. Rate the appliances from most efficient to least efficient. Using the e-Edition archives, find newspaper articles about energy issues such as energy shortages, non-renewable energy sources, energy costs, energy dependence and health problems associated with pollution or other effects of energy use. List ways you can save energy and create an energy contract to make a difference. Share your energy conservation ideas with your family and classmates.



# Product L



Raw material is used to make products



Please choose have less enviro

- Look for**
- with little or no packaging
  - that can be recycled
  - that can be bought in bulk



Reusable or recyclable products gain a new life when you buy recycled products. This is called "closing the loop."



## Learning with the Times

### Conserve and create

Conserving resources is important. Recycling and reusing an item is a great way to conserve resources and avoid waste. Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for photographs, comics, advertisements and words of items that can and cannot be recycled. Make a chart listing the items in each group. Group items by type of waste (i.e., plastic, glass, wood, metal and such.) For your list of items that cannot be recycled, identify which are flammable, corrosive, reactive or toxic. Group these items by the disposal method you would use. Now that you have your lists, it is time to be creative. Write and illustrate a short story for each type of waste from the viewpoint of an item. If possible, add some impact numbers to your story. Share your story with your classmates.

## And Where Doe

Metal is sent to the scrap metal dealer for recycling.  
Aluminum is sent to market.

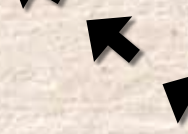


Remaining ash and non-processable materials (construction and demolition debris) go into a landfill.



### Landfill

Ferrous metal is removed from ash by magnet. Non-ferrous aluminum also is removed from the ash by a separate process.



### Incineration produces energy

This energy is sold to Progress Energy and provides enough power for 23,000 homes per year.





# Life Cycle

products that  
environmental impact

products:

- that are reusable
- that are rechargeable
- that are recyclable

Items collected at curbside or at drop-offs are processed into new products that are purchased and used again (recycled).



## Energy saved by recycling:

- Aluminum – 95 percent
- Newspaper – 34 percent
- Plastics – 88 percent
- Glass – 25 percent

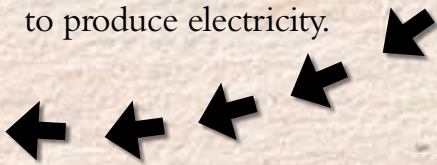
## Where My Trash Go?

Trash is picked up by trash haulers.



A total of 1,050 tons of garbage per day is processed in Pasco County to produce electricity.

Garbage is converted to energy at Pasco County's waste-to-energy facility.



Reclaimed (reused) water from the wastewater treatment plant is used in the facility's cooling tower.



## Learning with the Times

### Planning for the future

We must begin recycling today if we are to reduce the rate at which our landfills are filling up. Working together with other students, come up with a plan to get your school and family to recycle. Look at the ads in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Think about the dynamics of the ads. Think about ways to draw people's attention to an ad and message. Next, design an ad for the print and digital editions of the *Times* and [tampabay.com](http://tampabay.com) that encourages recycling by people of all ages. How is the ad on the electronic edition going to be different than the Web version of the ad? Have a speaker come to your school to talk about recycling. Share your ideas with your classmates.



# School News!

For these schools, environmental education is a way of life

## Recycle: It's what our forefathers would have wanted!

By: Amy Flack & Monica Velez



Nothing makes classroom learning come alive like class projects. Mr. Lammie's class found that out when they had the chance to have fun and "re-create" a bit of history at the same time. Take, for instance, Benjamin Franklin, created by Jonathan

Elvin – located front and center, in the picture above. Jonathan's Ben Franklin look-alike was made from the following materials: a plastic soda bottle for the body, reused Mr. Potato Head parts for the arms and feet, felt pieces from an old project for his dvds and a candy bar wrapper for the complementary buttons on his vest. He is also sporting the latest in eyewear fashion – stripped bread bag twist ties. Ben is definitely rocking the recycled look!

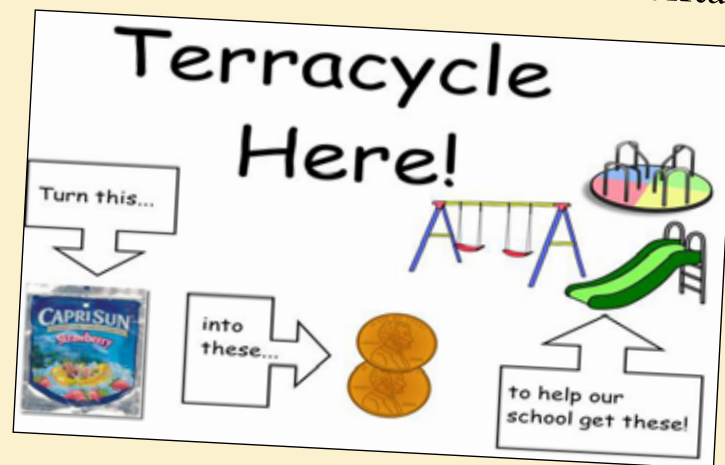
So let's break it down, shall we?

Soda	\$1.25
Candy bar	\$1.00
Reused felt	\$Who cares
Mr. P's hands/feet	\$Who knows
Total	\$2.25 or so ...

Keeping the plastic out of landfills or not incinerating ... Priceless!

Recycling and reusing materials not only helps the environment, but also it makes projects fun for students and helps keep a little green (\$\$) in the parents' pockets.

## TerraCycling at Northwest Elementary



Students at Northwest Elementary School in Hudson started a TerraCycling project in December of 2010. Since then, they have collected more than 2,000 empty juice pouches. The goal is to collect as many as possible, turn the pouches into TerraCycle for pennies and then donate the money to our school playground fund. The playground equipment is old and desperately needs to be replaced. Thanks to the efforts of the students in Mrs. Fallet's third-grade class, NWES received a check for \$51 in December. It doesn't seem like a lot, but if you consider that we reduced the waste stream, earned some money and kept the pouches out of the waste-to-energy facility, then it's worth it. The project is a win-win for the school, and the environment!

NOTE: TerraCycle is a private company located in New Jersey that helps schools and non-profits earn money by paying them for the juice pouches. The company turns the pouches into a variety of products which it then markets worldwide.

## Deer Park Elementary School hosts E-Waste

On Feb. 2, the students of Mrs. Woodall's class and Ms. Gendebien's fifth grade at Deer Park Elementary volunteered to stay after school to accept old and unused electronic devices from the community. Enthusiastic teams of students greeted vehicles and unloaded items such as televisions, computers, cameras, cellphones and batteries in an effort to help keep the e-waste out of Pasco County's waste-to-energy plant and to raise environmental awareness.

"The kids had a lot of awareness about recycling paper, plastic and glass, but not about electronic waste," said Cheryl Gendebien. "With the rapidly changing technology today, awareness of e-waste is extremely important. These students are our future problem-solvers."

After learning that e-waste contains heavy metals such as lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium and zinc, which contaminate soil and water, the students wanted to act. With the help of their teachers, the students contacted Best Buy in New Port Richey. "Two of the employees from Best Buy came and brought parts, and shared all about the computers and what is harmful inside of them," said Gendebien.

Best Buy then sent a truck on the day of the drive to remove the larger electronics items, such as monitors, computers and TVs. They will dispose of them properly. Smaller items, such as cellphones, cameras, printers and chargers will go to a recycling company that will recycle what they can. Any revenue generated by recycling will be donated directly to the school account to help purchase new electronics for the students at Deer Park Elementary.

All 20 students in Gendebien's class stayed for the event. By the end of the 4-hour shift, the students had sorted approximately 360 unused pieces of electronics by type, logged each one, and helped load the e-waste for proper disposal.

Please do your part - recycle! For more information on the District School Board of Pasco County's recycling program, visit our website at [pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation](http://pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation) or contact Tony Bartenope, recycling coordinator, at [abarteno@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:abarteno@pasco.k12.fl.us).







# Word search

**Directions:** Find these words in the word search puzzle

- |             |           |          |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Recycle     | Waste     | Aluminum |
| Reuse       | Newspaper | Trash    |
| Environment | Cans      | Reduce   |
| Paper       | Glass     | Conserve |
| Cardboard   | Water     | Earth    |
| Plastic     | Trees     | Metal    |
| Electronics | Batteries | Litter   |

W A H E V R I T B P C L J C M P X M H E  
A O N M E W V S N W A J N Z I C E J S C  
Y P U T E P P C D E M P Z U O T Q T A U  
H A T D F I X I M D M W E N R J S D R D  
J I R E U S E N Y S L N S R H B R A T E  
L Q I B S Y N O B F E E O M C A E O L R  
Z O E G F B C R H A R E X R O A A M M P  
N R H G C V L T B V T C R B I W N O M W  
O T I E K B X C E A F T D T T V V S U T  
N E W S P A P E R Z H R E T K W N W Q E  
E L C Y C E R L Q T A S B R J Y H E X K  
I S E G X G I E R C A U N R I J Y O P T  
K K R E T A W A G D L I T W M E T A L K  
P P N O W V E T K G U L A A M G S W U H  
U H I J G T J O Q J M I N S K H H R A Q  
Y X F L M D F Q K H I L I T K J G W A U  
K P A V Z H U X Q Q N U Y E Z S O C J H  
C S S Z L X R C D P U M K J W H K G S J  
S L T Z S O H V W B M W Y F A F Q H Y L  
E H C Q T F R C E W J K F E J Z B Z E A



## Learning with the Times

### Think globally. Act locally.

Use current and archived issues of the electronic edition of the *Tampa Bay Times* to find news articles or features about recycling and the environment in Pasco County. Based on your news research, write an analysis essay that describes how the issue specifically impacts your community. Identify individuals or groups in your area that are helping to improve the community by protecting the environment. Include related headlines, articles and photos in your paper. Share your thoughts about what you have learned in an essay. What are the most important needs in your community? What volunteer opportunities are available? How can people help keep Pasco beautiful?

### Take the science challenge

Find examples of six items advertised in the *Tampa Bay Times* that are packaged in a way that is not harmful to the environment. For each item, explain whether you think the packaging is more or less expensive than if it were packaged in a manner that ignored the environment. Next, find one item advertised in the *Times* that is packaged in a wasteful way. Design a better product package for that item. Describe your idea and illustrate it. Include what objections there may be to your idea, if any, and how you would respond to those objections.





## Learning with the Times

### Conserving water

Look for an article or photograph related to water use of conservation in Pasco County in current issues of the *Tampa Bay Times*. How are people using the water? Are they drinking it, using it for industrial production or enjoying it for recreation? Is water being used conservatively or does the article or photograph suggest the water is being wasted? What can you and your family do to help conserve water? Write a letter to the editor about this issue.

# Preserving our waterways

Everyone has a role in preserving our waterways. We all can help prevent and reduce water pollution by being aware of our actions and changing our behaviors. Pollutants can end up in our waterways because when it rains, things get washed into storm drains and water bodies. Litter, grass clippings, leaves, motor oil, cigarette butts, pet waste and other debris flow into storm drains and into water bodies. Too much debris can clog waterways and can contribute to flooding.

Today the greatest source of water pollution comes from stormwater runoff, which is what rainwater becomes after it hits the ground. As water runs it picks up waste and debris, carrying it along and depositing it into our waterways. That's why it's important to dispose of trash and waste properly so that it doesn't become polluted stormwater runoff.



Another cause of water pollution is an illicit discharge, which is defined as the illegal dumping of pollutants into storm drains, roads and water bodies. We can take the right action. Never pour or sweep anything down a storm drain. At home and work, you can recycle hazardous waste materials. Put grass clippings back onto the lawn or dispose of them in the trash. Maintain your vehicles and make sure that no oil leaks onto the road. Dispose of pet waste in pet waste containers or in the trash. Help protect Pasco County's waterways!

## Pasco does not landfill your household trash

When you put your household garbage in cans and bags at the curb, almost 100 percent of it goes to our waste-to-energy facility. The WTE process produces energy through the combustion of municipal solid waste (garbage) in specially designed power plants.

The plants burn the garbage, which in turn heats water to produce steam that turns a turbine, which produces megawatts of power. The process reduces the volume of garbage by 90 percent. What's left over, known as "bottom ash," amounts to only 10 percent of what went into the WTE, and that is what goes into a lined landfill.

There are 12 waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities in Florida located in 10 counties. Pasco is one of the counties with a waste-to-energy facility.

There are some instances where trash is landfilled. Construction and demolition debris – considered inert – can be landfilled. There are also numerous things we don't want to be incinerated – such as electronics, chemicals, mercury or other harmful and hazardous materials. Please see Page 14 for information on these materials.

Waste-to-energy is considered an environmentally friendly alternative to land filling trash. According to a November 2010 survey by Florida TaxWatch, 67 percent of Floridians understand and have a favorable opinion of WTE.

## Busting those persistent recycling myths

**Myth One:** Pasco County burns its recyclables. **This is false.** All material delivered from our curbside program and our drop-offs is separated, baled and sold at market. As long as the recycling materials are not contaminated at the source, only a small amount of material ends up as residue (leftover) from the process. This can be sent to an incinerator or a landfill. The residue rate of our current processor is less than 5 percent.

**Myth Two:** Just put anything plastic in the recycling; it's all the same. **This is false.** Chemical composition (the polymer) can vary greatly from plastic to plastic. Plastic film is not the same as rigid plastic. A hard plastic child's toy is not the same as a water bottle. Take time to look for the triangle made out of arrows and check for a number inside. Pasco accepts #1 and #2 plastic. If there is a different number or no number, please do not recycle it in your blue bag. The wrong plastic equals contamination.

**Myth Three:** Aluminum foil can be recycled just as any aluminum can. **This is partially true.** Although aluminum foil can be recycled, it is a difficult and expensive process to separate the very thin layer of foil

from the fiber substrate and glue that hold it all together. Therefore, most recycling programs do not accept foil. An aluminum can is simple to recycle in comparison and can be remanufactured and back on the market in less than 90 days.

**Myth Four:** If a garbage truck picks up my recyclables, that means my recycling, is going in the garbage. **This is false.** Many trash haulers use the same trucks to pick up both trash and recycling, but on different days. If it's your recycling pickup day and a garbage truck picks up your recycling, it is going to the recycling processing facility. On the other hand, if you see both your trash and your recycling going into the same compartment on the same truck at the same time – then there's a problem. Please call your trash hauler for an explanation. If you are not satisfied, call Pasco County Recycling at 727-847-8041.





# Residential cooking oil recycling program



When poured down the drain, cooking oil and grease do not disappear; they gel as they cool, and build up in your home's and the county's sewer lines. This process starts by grease sticking to the top and sides of the pipe and growing inward. This reduces the diameter of the pipe and blocks the pipe, causing sanitary sewer overflows.

Cooking oil and grease are resources that can be utilized. Pasco County staff have established collection points for household cooking oil, and the Board of County Commissioners contracted with a recycling company to process the cooking oil and convert it into biodiesel, which can then be used in vehicles.

## Where should you bring your used cooking oil?

Currently we have four locations open to the public Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### West Pasco Recycling Ctr.

14030 Hays Road  
Spring Hill, FL

### East Pasco Transfer Station

9526 Handcart Road  
Dade City, FL

### Pasco County Facility

7220 Osteen Road  
New Port Richey, FL

### Zephyrhills City Maintenance Yd.

39421 South Avenue  
Zephyrhills, FL

For additional information, call the Utilities Department at 727-847-8041.

Residential sewer line clogs cause major problems for homeowners and the county's wastewater treatment infrastructure. Unclogging and maintaining the sewer lines increases the cost of treating wastewater and can create serious health concerns when raw sewage backs up into homes. Major culprits causing this malfunction are fat, oil and grease originating from food preparation.



## Cellular phone recycling program

Cellular phones and other mobile devices contain hazardous materials that can pollute the environment. The chemicals contained in the cellphones and electronics are harmful to the health of both humans and animals. Cellphones and their accessories contain a number of hazardous substances known to cause damage to nervous systems, reproductive systems and developmental systems, as well as causing cancer.

When recycled properly, the materials can be put back into circulation, reducing the health risks to the community. The materials that are contained in old cellphones often can be recycled and reused to make a variety of other products. Additionally, in order to comply with environmental protection regulations, many countries have very specific requirements and methods for disposing of cellphones, batteries and other toxic items.

Pasco County, in coordination with the school district's recycling programs, conducts a cellular phone collection program. Cellular phones can be deposited in marked collection containers at public schools, county libraries, county administration buildings and at the West Pasco Recycling Center on Hays Road in Spring Hill or the East Pasco Transfer Station on Handcart Road in Dade City.

Pasco County schools receive \$2 for each phone that is collected regardless of its condition. Recycled cellular phones are sent to other countries, where they are reprogrammed and reused without creating any waste. Before the phones are shipped away, all memory chips are erased, and non-working phones are repaired or recycled with other electronic waste.

For more information about the program, or to become a sponsor, please call the Pasco County Utilities Hazardous Waste office at 727-847-8041.

## Used sharps exchange program

Each year, 8 million people across the country use more than 3 billion needles, syringes and lancets — also called sharps — to manage medical conditions at home.

Sharps disposal by self-injectors is not typically regulated, and self-injectors do not always know the safest disposal methods. This situation could lead to haphazard disposal habits and increased community exposure to sharps. People at the greatest risk of being stuck by used sharps include sanitation and sewage treatment workers, janitors and housekeepers and children.

What are the dangers of used sharps? Some sharps users throw their used needles in the trash or flush them down the toilet. Used sharps left loose among other waste can hurt sanitation workers during collection rounds, at sorting and recycling facilities, and at landfills, or become lodged in equipment, forcing workers to remove them by hand. Children, adults and even pets are also at risk for

needle-stick injuries when sharps are disposed improperly at home or in public settings.

People exposed to sharps face not only the risk of a painful stick, but also the risk of contracting a life-altering disease such as HIV/AIDS or hepatitis B or C.

All needle-stick injuries are treated as if the needle were infected with a disease. Needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk, and Pasco County has taken specific actions to protect its residents from this risk.

The Pasco County Household Used Sharps Exchange Program is a cooperative effort among the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, the American Diabetes Association and the sponsors listed below. The program is voluntary and is free of charge for all residents and visitors of Pasco County.

### Florida Hospital Zephyrhills

7050 Gall Blvd.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

### Community Hospital of New Port Richey

5637 Marine Parkway  
New Port Richey, FL 34656

### Pasco Regional Medical Center

13100 Ft. King Road  
Dade City, FL 33525

### Morton Plant North Bay

6600 Madison Street  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

### Suncoast Eye Center

14003 Lakeshore Blvd.  
Hudson, FL 34667

### Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point

14100 Fivay Road  
Hudson, FL 34667

### Pasco Eye Institute

13910 Fivay Road, S-4  
Hudson, FL 34667

### Pasco Eye Institute

5347 Main Street, S-100  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

### Pasco County Health Department

4135 Land O' Lakes Blvd.  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639





# Pasco County recycling drop-off centers

## WEST PASCO RECYCLING CENTER

14230 Hays Road (Off S.R. 52), Spring Hill 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday (except holidays)  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass • Scrap metal • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Cooking oil • Newspaper

## EAST PASCO RECYCLING CENTER

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Saturday (except holidays)  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass • Scrap metal • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Cooking oil • Newspaper

## PORT RICHEY AREA RECYCLING

11321 U.S. 19, Bayonet Point (at rear of Tampa Bay Times Bldg.) Anytime, Monday – Sunday  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper

## ANCLOTE GULF PARK

2305 Baillie's Bluff Road, Holiday Area Recycling Dawn to dusk, Monday – Sunday  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper

## LAND O'LAKES AREA RECYCLING

6801 Wisteria Loop, Senior Services Center 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass  
 (This drop-off does not accept newspaper, mixed paper or cardboard)

## THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY AREA RECYCLING

6420 Pine Hill Road, across from Public Works Complex 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday – Friday  
 • Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1 and #2 plastic • Clear glass • Green glass • Brown glass • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper



## How to recycle that pesky hazardous stuff

No one wants hazardous materials in our incinerators or landfills. Disposal of such materials is regulated and must be done with attention and care in order to avoid polluting our air, land and water. What can you do with old motor oil, leftover lawn fertilizers and pesticides? What about household chemicals and cleansers? Old batteries? Old fluorescent tubes and bulbs? Paint in old paint cans?

Pasco County provides two hazardous waste collection center locations. You can drop off most of your items at no charge.

**We accept** fertilizer, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, household chemicals and cleansers, paint, paint thinners and removers, solvents, automotive fluids, wood preservatives, used motor oil and pool chemicals. **We also accept** household batteries, lead-acid batteries, fluorescent bulbs and mercury-containing devices.

Most garbage drop-off services are free and available to Pasco County households. Commercial entities will be charged for disposal. For some items or for excessive amounts, there also may be charges. Yard waste is charged by the ton and pro-rated for smaller amounts.

**For a small charge, we accept:** Televisions, computer monitors, computer components, 20-gallon or smaller propane tanks, car and truck tires, refrigerators and air conditioners.

### The West Pasco Recycling Center

14230 Hays Road, Spring Hill  
 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### The East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City  
 Open Wednesday and the second Saturday of each month  
 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



# Stop litter. Help clean it up.



Litter makes our roads dirty and unattractive and costs county taxpayers thousands of dollars each year in trash pickup.

Why do people litter? Studies show that people litter because they don't feel a sense of ownership of the problem. Keep America Beautiful Inc. – a national coalition of local groups that has focused on litter since 1952 – has conducted surveys across the United States and found the No. 1 reason people litter is “someone else will pick it up.”

Within Pasco County, there are many civic associations, school and/or community clubs and companies that feel differently. They have volunteered to be an Adopt-A-Road group. Through their efforts, they show pride in our community, demonstrate local stewardship and increase public awareness about litter control.

The program asks for a commitment to cleanup four times a year along a

## Adopt-A-Road statistics 2011

- **77 groups**
- **956 volunteers**
- **1,577 volunteer hours**
- **19,890 pounds of trash (9.95 tons) removed from 146 miles of roadways**

designated 1- or 2-mile stretch of county roadway. There is required safety training each year, and the group commits two years to the program. These groups also get an opportunity to be part of two major yearly national cleanups: the Great American Cleanup, which is the third Saturday of April, and the Coastal Cleanup on the third Saturday of September.

The Utilities Services Branch, via the recycling coordinator, administers the Adopt-A-Road program and the Coastal Cleanup. The Public Works Road & Bridge Department supports the program by providing safety equipment, trash bags and trash removal when the cleanup is completed. In exchange for their invaluable assistance and services, the groups are publicly recognized with signs placed along the adopted section of roadway.

If you are interested in adopting a road, please call 727-847-8041, 813-235-6012 or 352-521-4274, ext. 8041.



**Pasco April 2011 Great American Cleanup: 509 volunteers picked up 16.23 tons of trash.**

**Pasco September 2011 Coastal Cleanup: 1283 volunteers picked up 11.92 tons of trash.**



### Pasco County

[pascocountyutilities.com](http://pascocountyutilities.com)

For information on garbage, recycling and other topics

### District School Board of Pasco County

[pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation](http://pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation)

### RECYCLE GUYS

[dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/educate.htm](http://dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/educate.htm)

Learn how to start a school recycling program

### EPA Kids

[epa.gov/students/](http://epa.gov/students/)

Activities for all ages

### All About Aluminum

[aluminum.org](http://aluminum.org)

### American Forest & Paper Association

[afandpa.org](http://afandpa.org)

Learn the history of paper and discover neat activities

### National Association for PET Container Resources

[napcor.com](http://napcor.com)

Learn everything you want to know about PET, #1 plastic

### Earth 911

[earth911.com/plastic/plastic-bottle-recycling-facts/](http://earth911.com/plastic/plastic-bottle-recycling-facts/)

Learn about other types of recyclable plastic

### American Iron and Steel Institute

[www.steel.org](http://www.steel.org)

Everything you want to know about steel recycling and beyond

### Glass Packaging Institute

[gpi.org](http://gpi.org)

Learn all about glass, with activities galore

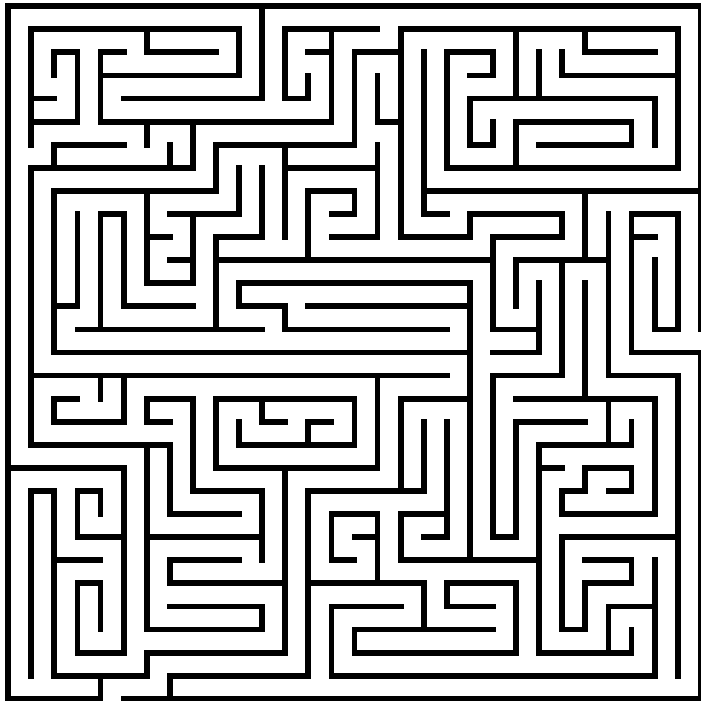
### Keep Pasco Beautiful Inc.

[keepascobeautiful.org](http://keepascobeautiful.org)

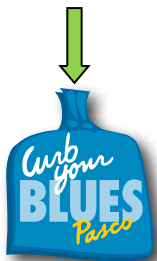
Learn about local cleanups



Can you help get  to the recycling bag?



Start Here



# CLOSE THE LOOP

## Ask for and buy recycled products

Recyclables become new products. Recycling something is only half the formula: You must buy products made from recycled materials to create the demand for more recycling.



Products need markets in order to sell. A market is defined as activities that direct the flow of goods and services from producers to consumers. Your demand for products made from recycled material creates the market for a product. The more you ask for it, the more will be produced and the more we can recycle. It's up to **YOU**.

# Please, do your part!

## Recycle Today!

Use blue bags for your recyclables

Blue bags available at Pasco grocery stores and some super retailers

Recycle: Aluminum cans - Metal food cans  
#1 & #2 plastic bottles and jars

Clear, green & brown glass bottles & jars

For information, call Pasco County Recycling at:

West Pasco 727-847-8041

Central Pasco 813-996-7341 ext. 8041

East Pasco 352-521-4274 ext. 8041

[pascocountyutilities.com](http://pascocountyutilities.com)

