



2015

Recycle Pasco!

Be responsible about your trash

See more Art of Recycling
2015 artwork inside!

Tampa Bay
**Times
NIE**
newspaper in education
tampabay.com/nie



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. Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text.

Informational text is a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world. And since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of informational text in the form of the daily newspaper and our award-winning original curriculum, at no cost to teachers or schools.

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 our generous individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. In addition to providing free supplemental materials to educators, NIE hosts free educator workshops and webinars. Our teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are consistent with the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie or call 800-333-7505, ext. 8138. Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE). For additional copies of this NIE publication, email ordernie@tampabay.com.

NIE staff

Jodi Pushkin, manager, jpushkin@tampabay.com
Sue Bedry, development specialist, sbedry@tampabay.com
Noelle Sansom, coordinator, nsansom@tampabay.com

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Credits

Project Manager: Sue Bedry, *Times* staff
Activities by Jodi Pushkin, *Times* staff
Designed by Stacy Rector, Fluid Graphic Design, LLC

Cover artwork

Caroline Berry, J.W. Mitchell High School, *The North Pole*
Ivy Noon, Anclote High School, *Crystallized Wolf Call to the Moon*



Articles written by

Tony Bartenope, Pasco County Schools recycling coordinator
Francis Goldo, Pasco County Utilities Water Conservation and Efficiency coordinator
Lottie Kelley, Covanta Energy Inc.
Charles Ryburn, Pasco County Utilities Environmental manager
Jennifer Seney, Pasco County Utilities recycling coordinator
Jennifer Sharples, Pasco County Stormwater public communications specialist

Florida Standards

This publication and use of the newspaper focuses on the following Florida Standards for elementary and middle school:

Science SC.6.N.1.1; SC.6.E.6.1; SC.6.E.6.2; SC.6.E.7.2; SC.7.N.1.1; SC.7.L.15.3; SC.7.L.17.3; SC.7.E.6.1; SC.7.E.6.2; SC.8.N.1.1; SC.8.N.4.1; SC.8.N.4.2; **Language Arts** LA.6.1.5; LA.6.1.6; LA.6.1.7; LA.6.2.2; LA.6.3.1; LA.6.3.2; LA.6.3.3; LA.6.3.4; LA.6.4.2; LA.6.4.3; LA.6.5.1; LA.6.5.2; LA.6.6.1; LA.6.6.2; LA.6.6.3; LA.7.1.5; LA.7.1.6; LA.7.1.7; LA.7.2.2; LA.7.3.1; LA.7.3.2; LA.7.3.3; LA.7.3.4; LA.7.4.2; LA.7.4.3; LA.7.5.1; LA.7.5.2; LA.7.6.1; LA.7.6.2; LA.7.6.3; LA.8.1.5; LA.8.1.6; LA.8.1.7; LA.8.2.2; LA.8.3.1; LA.8.3.2; LA.8.3.3; LA.8.3.4; LA.8.4.2; LA.8.4.3; LA.8.5.1; LA.8.5.2; LA.8.6.1; LA.8.6.2; LA.8.6.3 **Reading Informational Text** LACC.6.RI.1.1; LACC.6.RI.1.2; LACC.6.RI.1.3; LACC.6.RI.1.4; LACC.6.RI.1.5; LACC.6.RI.1.6; LACC.6.RI.1.7; LACC.6.RI.1.8; LACC.6.RI.1.9; LACC.7.RI.1.1; LACC.7.RI.1.2; LACC.7.RI.1.3; LACC.7.RI.1.4; LACC.7.RI.1.5; LACC.7.RI.1.6; LACC.7.RI.1.7; LACC.7.RI.1.8; LACC.7.RI.1.9; LACC.8.RI.1.1; LACC.8.RI.1.2; LACC.8.RI.1.3; LACC.8.RI.1.4; LACC.8.RI.1.5; LACC.8.RI.1.6; LACC.8.RI.1.7; LACC.8.RI.1.8; LACC.8.RI.1.9 **Writing** LACC.6.W.1.1; LACC.6.W.1.2; LACC.6.W.1.3; LACC.6.W.2.4; LACC.6.W.2.5; LACC.6.W.2.6; LACC.6.W.2.7; LACC.6.W.2.8; LACC.6.W.2.9; LACC.7.W.1.1; LACC.7.W.1.2; LACC.7.W.1.3; LACC.7.W.2.4; LACC.7.W.2.5; LACC.7.W.2.6; LACC.7.W.2.7; LACC.7.W.2.8; LACC.7.W.2.9; LACC.8.W.1.1; LACC.8.W.1.2; LACC.8.W.1.3; LACC.8.W.2.4; LACC.8.W.2.5; LACC.8.W.2.6; LACC.8.W.2.7; LACC.8.W.2.8; LACC.8.W.2.9 **Speaking and Listening** LACC.6.SL.1.1; LACC.6.SL.1.2; LACC.6.SL.1.3; LACC.6.SL.1.4; LACC.6.SL.1.5; LACC.6.SL.1.6; LACC.7.SL.1.1; LACC.7.SL.1.2; LACC.7.SL.1.3; LACC.7.SL.1.4; LACC.7.SL.1.5; LACC.7.SL.1.6; LACC.8.SL.1.1; LACC.8.SL.1.2; LACC.8.SL.1.3; LACC.8.SL.1.4; LACC.8.SL.1.5; LACC.8.SL.1.6 **Language** LACC.6.L.1.1; LACC.6.L.1.2; LACC.6.L.1.3; LACC.6.L.1.4; LACC.6.L.1.5; LACC.6.L.1.6

Learning new words

When you study new things, you often come up against some tough vocabulary words: recycle, sustainable, conservation, hazardous. What do these words mean in the context of the articles? Most vocabulary words are learned from context clues or good old-fashioned dictionary work. While you read this publication, be sure to highlight or circle words you don't know. Try to figure out the words' meanings by looking

for clues in the sentences around them. Write down your best guess, and then look up the words in a dictionary. As a group activity, make a list of the words your classmates identified and see which ones stumped the class. Next, use these words for a news scavenger hunt. See if you can find these words in the *Tampa Bay Times*. The group that finds the most words wins.

Pasco Calendar of Events for Recycling 2015-2016

APRIL 2015

Great American Cleanup
April 18, 2015

Earth Day at Crews Lake Park
April 25, 2015

SEPTEMBER 2015

Coastal Cleanup
September 19, 2015

NOVEMBER 2015

America Recycles Day
November 15, 2015

DECEMBER 2015

Christmas Tree Recycling
December 26, 2015 –
January 11, 2016

Pasco Art of Recycling Scholarship applications begin
December 2015. Contact the Pasco Education Foundation for details.

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2016

Pasco Art of Recycling competition for high school students.

APRIL 2016

Great American Cleanup
April 16, 2016

All dates subject to change. Visit pascocountyfl.net and pasco.k12.fl.us for updated information.



No more blue bags for recycling

Pasco County residents are no longer required to use blue bags for residential curbside recycling. You now can purchase your own permanent recycling container from a local retailer, sticker it and put it at the curb.

You can use a bin, cart or can. You can put items in your container loose; you don't have to bag them. You do not need to separate items.

Permanent containers must have a reflective sticker that identifies the container as recycling. Get a sticker

from your trash hauler or from the county's recycling office.

Pasco County accepts aluminum cans; metal food cans; clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars; and plastics coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Pasco does not accept plastics coded 6.

If you get twice-a-week trash pickup at your home, you are already paying for recycling service. All you have to do is use it. Call your trash hauler for a recycling schedule. See Page 4 for contact information.

Recycling at



What better place to recycle than at an Earth Day celebration? Come to Crews Lake Wilderness Park on April 25, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is located off Shady Hills Road, just south of the Suncoast Parkway and north of State Road 52 in Spring Hill.

Bring us your:

- **Old electronics:** computers, cellphones, televisions and monitors (first two televisions or monitors are free; \$7 each additional), any household electronic products.
 - **Mercury-containing devices:** Receive a \$5 gift card for each mercury-containing device, such as thermometers and thermostats, that you bring. Excludes light bulbs.
 - **Household hazardous waste:** batteries, pool and household chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, paint, automotive fluids and oil, fluorescent bulbs. Residential only, no commercial.
 - **Medicines:** expired and unused medications, including sharps.
 - **Personal documents for shredding:** identity-sensitive documents for secure on-site shredding. You can watch as they are destroyed. Limit five boxes or bags per resident. Shredding 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. only.
- Special features include:**
- Hits 106 live broadcast 9 – 11 a.m.
 - Croc Encounters live reptile wildlife show
 - Rain harvesting and composting workshops (advance registration required)
 - Lady bug release
 - Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad train rides
 - Florida native plant sale
 - Water Ventures learning lab
 - Children's crafts and educational displays
 - Recycling information
- Join us for a fun, educational day in the park, and bring your recyclables. For more information, contact Lottie Kelley at lkelly@covanta.com or 727-856-2917, ext. 201.

DO RECYCLE

You can Recycle these items:

- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Metal Food Cans
- ✓ Glass Containers (Clear, Green and Brown)
- ✓ Plastic Containers #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7



Choose & Use Your Own Container

RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

DON'T RECYCLE

These items are NOT accepted in this program:

- ✗ Newspaper, paper or cardboard
- ✗ Styrofoam® of any kind
- ✗ Plastic film or bags of any kind
- ✗ Plastic picnicware (plates, cups, utensils, tablecloths)
- ✗ Plastic toys of any kind

PUT THIS STICKER ON THE SIDE OF YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER, FACING THE STREET.

2014 Earth Day

fun

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the first Earth Day, which took place on April 22, 1970. It was organized by Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, as a way to bring environmental protection into the national spotlight.

Since then, Earth Day has become a great community opportunity to learn more about the environment by participating in fun, hands-on activities and exhibits. Pasco County Schools Conservation and Recycling Operations offers school recycling information as well as arts and crafts during the Earth Day celebration.

Last year's event, sponsored by Covanta Energy and hosted by Pasco County's Crews Lake Park, was a big one, with more than 1,600 people attending. Thank you to the JROTC students from Hudson and River Ridge high schools for their support and dedication to this and past year's events.



Know your trash

In Pasco County, there is a free-market system for garbage hauling. Pasco County does not pick up your garbage. Your curbside garbage and your recyclables are picked up by one of six independent haulers. You pay directly for service; this is called subscription service. Residents need to sign up in order to receive garbage and recycling service. If you live in a newer subdivision, your homeowner's 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 as listed below to find out your recycling pickup day and to receive a recycling schedule.

Garbage haulers:

County Recycling Inc. • 888-522-5794

J.D. Parker & Sons Inc. • 727-845-1024

Progressive (east) • 352-583-4204

Progressive (west/central) • 727-849-3333 or 727-847-9100

Seaside Sanitation (Republic) • 727-868-2566

Waste Aid • 813-996-1457 or 727-842-9309

Waste Management of Pasco • 813-621-3053 or 800-255-7172



Newsmakers – Northwest Elementary Earth Patrol

Earth Patrol was developed by Pasco County Schools' Conservation and Recycling Operations to assist with conservation at schools by monitoring campuses for recycling and energy and water conservation.

Students are a vital part of this program. Earth Patrol students check classrooms for lights left on, recyclables in the waste can, trash in the recycling container or leaky faucets. 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.

When Earth Patrol students find conservation activities being done correctly, they leave a green door hanger that reads “Thanks, you are making a difference.” Those that are not helping with the school’s conservation goals receive a yellow door hanger that reads “Gotcha, wasted resources are gone forever” and a note about what needs 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. If you are interested in participating in the Earth Patrol program, you can contact your school’s conservation liaison or email recycling coordinator Tony Bartenope at abarteno@pasco.k12.fl.us.



Community Paper Program

It matters where you recycle your paper and cardboard



In Pasco County, more than 20 percent of what gets thrown away is recyclable paper. That means 63.3 tons of paper are trashed rather than recycled. For every ton of paper recycled, 17 trees are saved from destruction. 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. When you recycle in a Green Fiber container, you earn revenue for your school, your parks, your libraries and your fire stations.

County Community Paper Recycling Program drop-off sites

Fire stations

- Station No. 15, 11538 Trinity Blvd., Trinity, FL 34655
- 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. 27, 12221 Curley St., San Antonio, FL 33576

- 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, 34043 SR 54, Zephyrhills, FL 33543
- Regency Park, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654
- South Holiday, 4649 Mile Stretch Road, Holiday, FL 34690

Parks and recreation centers

- J. Ben Harrill Recreation Complex, 2830 Gulf Trace Blvd., Holiday, FL 34691
- Land O'Lakes Recreation Center, 3032 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639
- Mitchell Park, 4825 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655
- Pasco County Fairgrounds, Park Office, 36722 SR 52, Dade City, FL 33525
- Veterans Recreation Center, 14333 Hicks Road., Hudson, FL 34667

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

Other Pasco County buildings

- Community Services, Nutrition, 13853 15th St., Dade City, FL 33525
- Facilities Management, 7220 Osteen Road, New Port Richey, FL 34653
- East Pasco Government Center, 14236 Sixth St., Dade City, FL 33523
- East Pasco Judicial Center, 38053 Live Oak St., Dade City, FL 33523
- Sunset Building, 5418 Sunset Road, New Port Richey, FL 34652

GreenFiber containers accept:

- Brown and white paper bags
- Cardboard
- Cereal boxes
- Construction paper
- Gift wrap
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Phone books
- Other paper products

For county sites, visit pascocountyfl.net.

For school sites, visit pasco.k12.fl.us/conservation.



Recycling saves energy

Recycling yields energy savings

For example, recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy that is required to make the same amount of aluminum from raw materials or new sources. For each aluminum can that is recycled, you save enough energy to power a television or computer for about three hours.

Recycling saves the environment

Recycling results in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. It takes less energy to create a product from recycled sources. Less energy needed means less energy that has to be generated, resulting in fewer greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

Energy saving tips:

- Use both sides of a piece of paper before recycling it.
- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- Take shorter showers.
- Ask your parents to buy rechargeable batteries.
- Turn off lights that you're not using.
- Unplug electronics you're not using (like cellphone chargers).
- Remind your parents to take reusable shopping bags to the store.



Where does my trash go?



Trash is picked up by trash haulers.



Garbage is converted to electricity at Covanta Energy's Pasco County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility. A total of 1,050 tons of garbage per day is processed in Pasco County to produce energy.



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

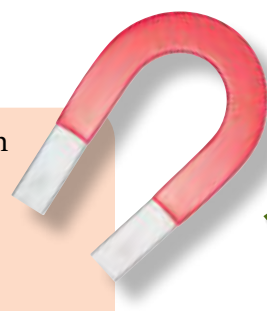


Remaining ash and nonprocessable materials (construction and demolition debris) go into a landfill.



Metal is removed from ash by a magnet. Aluminum also is removed from ash.

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



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



Learning with the Times

Single stream recycling

Single stream recycling is a system in which all recyclables are collected in one container, making it possible to recycle more. Look through the pages of the *Tampa Bay Times* to find items that can be recycled. You can look at photographs, comics and advertisements. You can use the information in this publication to help you classify the items. Make a chart, listing each

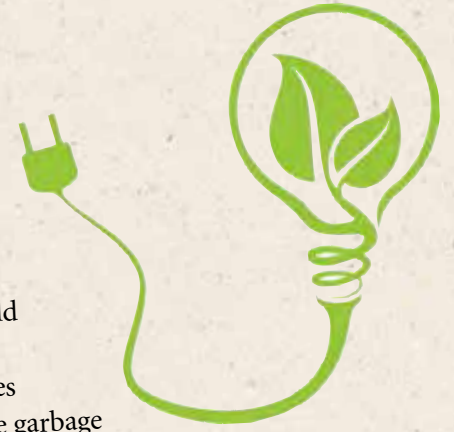
classification. Group items by type of waste (i.e., plastic, glass containers, metal, etc.).

Extension activity: 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 stories with classmates, friends and family.

Think globally, act locally

Use current and archived issues of the *Tampa Bay Times* to find articles, photos or cartoons about recycling and the environment in your local or regional community. 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. You can include related headlines, articles and photos in your paper. You may wish to complete further research using additional resources. Write a blog post about what you have learned. What are the most important needs in your community? What volunteer opportunities are available? How can people help keep Pasco schools and Pasco County beautiful? Share your research with your class.

Your trash is not landfilled



In Pasco County, your household trash is incinerated in a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant that produces electricity. The incineration of the garbage heats water to produce steam. This steam then turns a turbine to produce megawatts of power. This process reduces the volume of garbage by 85–90 percent. What's left over, known as "bottom ash," amounts to only 10–15 percent of what went into the WTE. This bottom ash is the only thing that goes into a lined landfill.

Pasco's WTE plant is managed by a company called Covanta Energy Inc. Covanta has been a partner to Pasco County for many years, participating in community events such as Earth Day, America Recycles Day, the Great American Cleanup and the Coastal Cleanup.

Waste-to-Energy is considered an environmentally friendly alternative to landfilling trash. According to a November 2010 survey by Florida Tax Watch, 67 percent of Floridians understand and have a favorable opinion of WTE.

Help me recycle –

Can you find your way to the recycling container?



2015 award winners

- 1. First Place (\$500):** *The North Pole*, Caroline Berry, J.W. Mitchell High School
- 2. Second Place (\$300):** *Xenagose, God of Recycling*, Brandon Lopez, Ridgewood High School
- 3. Third Place (\$200):** *World on Fire*, Pilar Gomez-Ferraz, Genesis Preparatory School
- 4. Commissioner's Choice Award (\$100):** *Fish Swim in Clean Water*, Shelby Patterson, Anclote High School
- 5. Art of Recycling Committee Award (\$100):** *Take Flight, "Recycle"!*, Chang Zhang, Ridgewood High School
- 6. Pasco Arts Council Award (\$100):** *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure*, Olexandra Surkova, J.W. Mitchell High School
- 7. Covanta Award (\$100):** *My Recycled Trash Can*, Polyxeni Pavlides, Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School
- 8. Best Artistic Expression (\$100):** *Crystallized Wolf Call to the Moon*, Ivy Noon, Anclote High School
- 9. Best Environmental Concept (\$100):** *What You Don't See*, Marlee Natale, Ridgewood High School
- 10. Best Use of Aluminum (\$100):** *Don't Throw It Away*, Mikayla Sanders, J.W. Mitchell High School
- 11. Best Use of Materials (\$100):** *Trash Wars 3: Revenge of the Landfill*, Lukas Leibrecht, Genesis Preparatory School
- 12. Best Use of Plastic (\$100):** *Modern Vision*, Valentina Martinez-Cardona, Anclote High School
- 13. Best Use of Printed Material (\$100):** *The Importance of Trees*, Amena Mughni, Genesis Preparatory School
- 14. Most Innovative (\$100):** *Bass of Clean Energy*, Michael Lopez, Ridgewood High School
- 15. People's Choice Award (\$100):** *The White Dragon*, Ashantee Miller, Anclote High School

Seniors graduating in 2016 – Don't miss this scholarship opportunity!

Graduating Pasco County public high school seniors who participate in the 2016 Art of Recycling competition or who participated in any of the previous three years (2013–2015)

are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from the Pasco Education Foundation.

Students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA (unweighted) and be enrolled in a program in art or environmental science at an accredited institution. The scholarship application deadline is mid-January 2016. Visit pascoeducationfoundation.org or see your guidance counselor for more information.

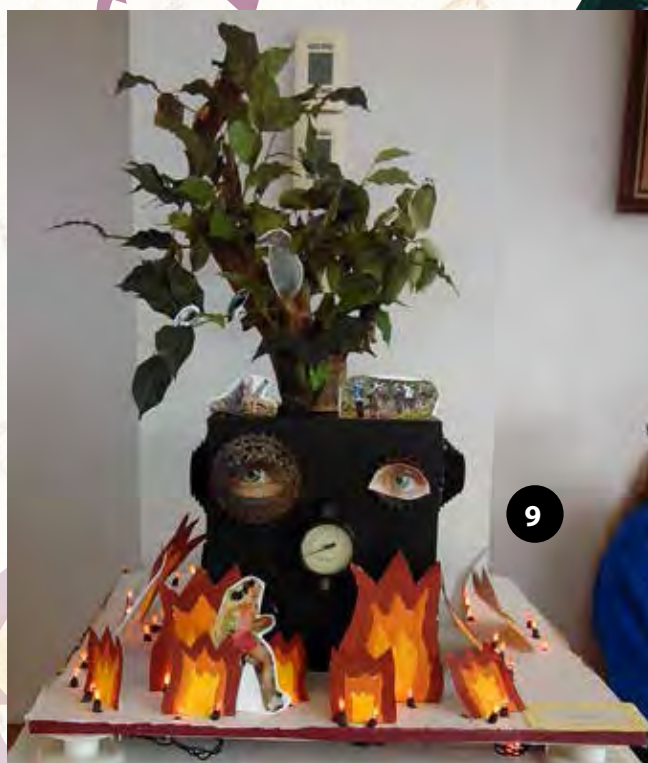
Pasco



Combining art, recy

The 2015 Art of Recycling competition was generously sponsored by County Commissioner Mike Moore, County Recycling Inc., Covanta Energy Inc., Keep Pasco Beautiful Inc., the Pasco Arts Council, Republic Services Inc., John R. "Hi" Sierra, Sen. Wilton Simpson, Simpson Farms, Waste Aid and Waste Management Inc.

Pasco County students turned trash into art in the annual Pasco Art of Recycling contest, a high school art competition promoting art and recycling through the creative use of recyclable materials.

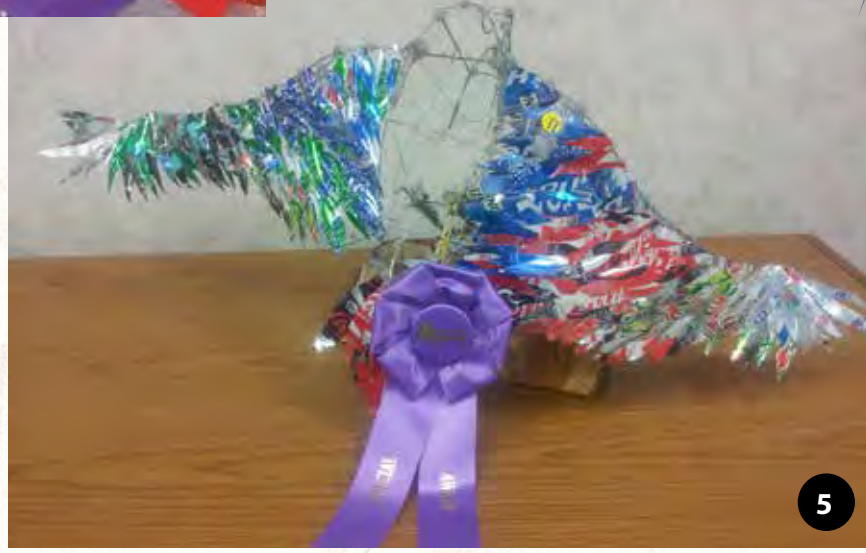
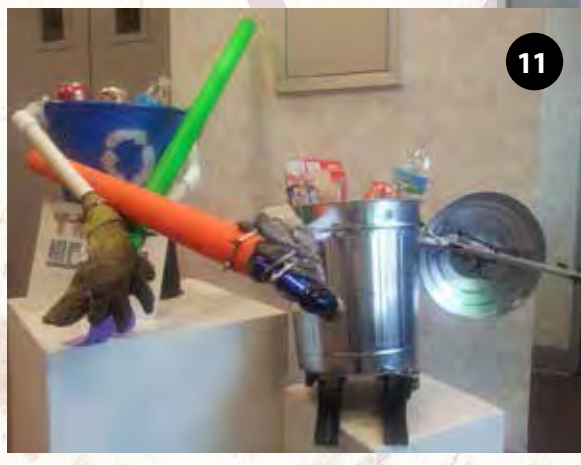
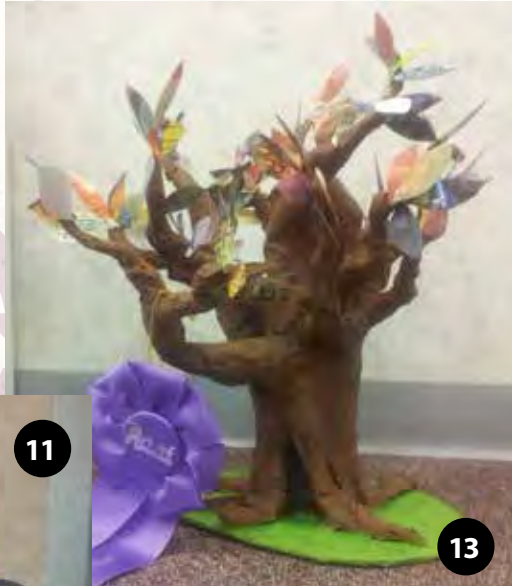




ycling and creativity

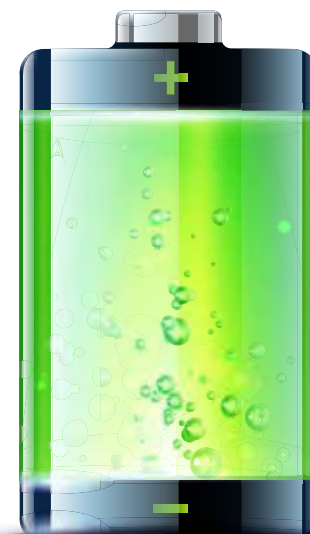
All Pasco County public, private and home school students in grades 9-12 were eligible to participate. Students used their imagination to create an environmentally themed original artwork from at least 70 percent used or recyclable materials. Art pieces from the exhibition are displayed at the West Pasco Government Center and Pasco County Schools district office.

Student works were judged in 15 categories and prizes ranged from \$100 to \$500. A \$1,000 scholarship also is awarded annually to a student continuing his or her education in the arts.





Household Battery Recycling Contest



Cellphone Recycling Program

Cellphone use in the United States has increased exponentially over the last decade. Currently, there are 327 million cellphones in the U.S. (with a population of approximately 325 million). The average American user owns two or more cellphones, and upgrades his or her cellphone every 18 months. It is estimated that more than 500 million obsolete cellphones are stockpiled in U.S. homes.

The materials contained in cellphones are harmful to the health of both humans and animals. By recycling and reusing these materials, we can reduce the health risk to the community. Before cellphones are shipped away for recycling, all memory chips are erased. Nonworking phones are repaired or recycled with other electronic waste.

Cellphones contain a variety of precious metals and plastics. Recycling cellphones conserves valuable materials, prevents pollution and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that occur during manufacturing. Recycling a million cellphones recovers 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium. The equivalent energy could power more than 194,000 homes for a year.

Proceeds from the Pasco County Cellphone Recycling Program are contributed to the Pasco County Education Foundation. Cellphones can be deposited in marked collection containers at public schools, public libraries and governmental buildings.

For more information, call 727-847-8041 or visit pascocountyfl.net.

Household battery recycling continues to be one of Pasco County's most successful programs. Household batteries make up approximately one quarter of the hazardous waste found in our garbage. They contain a variety of toxic substances, including cadmium, lead and mercury. All of these substances can be recovered, recycled and re-used.

Many homeowners don't realize that they should and can recycle the batteries they use. The toxic components should not be incinerated in our Waste-to-Energy plant.

In an effort to encourage students to recycle batteries from home, the Pasco County Hazardous Waste department and Pasco County Schools partnered to co-sponsor an annual Household Battery Recycling Contest. It runs each fiscal year from July 1 to June 30. All participating schools receive a Certificate of Appreciation and the top 10 schools receive monetary awards.

In 2014, Pasco County recycled 33.60 tons of batteries, 40 percent of which was attributed to the efforts of Pasco County students. Most public buildings, including libraries and many county office buildings, have battery recycling drop-off buckets.

For more information about the battery recycling contest, contact Pasco County Schools' recycling coordinator, Tony Bartenope, at 727-794-7936. For more information on Pasco County's battery recycling program, contact Household Hazardous Waste at 727-847-8041.

2013-2014 Household Battery Recycling Contest winners

Richey Elementary School: 2,210 pounds

West Zephyrhills Elementary School:
1,958 pounds

Pine View Middle School: 1,117 pounds

Lake Myrtle Elementary School:
1,024 pounds

Double Branch Elementary School:
930 pounds

Wesley Chapel Elementary School:
777 pounds

Deer Park Elementary School: 704 pounds

Odessa Elementary School: 639 pounds

Woodland Elementary School: 611 pounds

Charles S. Rushe Middle School:
600 pounds



Recycling

Try to unscramble the words below

1. CLRECEY _____
2. ERPPA _____
3. SPTIACL _____
4. SLSGA _____
5. BEESRIATT _____
6. ORBARDCAD _____
7. SPRPWAEEN _____
8. EECRNVSO _____
9. RUECED _____
10. UESER _____
11. EHTRA _____
12. UFN _____
13. OPMOTCS _____

Word scramble answers:

1. Recycle 2. Paper 3. Plastic 4. Glass 5. Batteries 6. Cardboard 7. Newspaper 8. Conserve 9. Reduce 10. Reuse 11. Earth 12. Fun 13. Compost



Learning with
the Times

Repurposing trash

Recycling is a great way to help protect the environment, but sometimes recycling is not possible. Repurposing trash means taking something that would have been thrown away and finding a new use or purpose for it. The artworks depicted on Pages 8 and 9 are examples of creative repurposing. There are many different ways to repurpose and reuse items. How

creative can you be? Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for household items that cannot be recycled. How can you repurpose or reuse them? Make a chart showing your ideas. Share your information with your class and family.

Pasco County recycling drop-off centers

WEST PASCO RECYCLING CENTER

14606 Hays Road (Off SR 52), Spring Hill
7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday (except holidays)
• Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic containers • Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper • Cooking oil • Scrap metal

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, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic containers • Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper • Cooking oil • Scrap metal

ANCLOTE GULF PARK (REOPENED)

2305 Baillie's Bluff Road, Holiday Area Recycling
7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday – Saturday
• Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic containers • Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars • 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, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic containers • Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper

NEW PORT RICHEY AREA RECYCLING (NEW)

9560 Crabtree Lane, New Port Richey, Embassy Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant
7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday – Saturday
• Aluminum • Metal food cans • #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic containers • Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars • Phone books • Mixed paper • Flattened corrugated cardboard • Newspaper



BUSTING

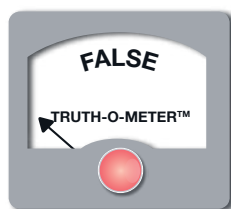


those persistent recycling myths

Myth One:

Pasco County burns its recyclables. This is

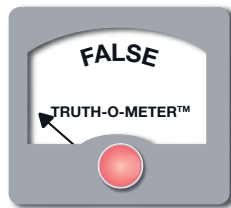
TRASH ON FIRE false. All recyclable material delivered from the curbside program and drop-offs is separated, baled and sold to market. As long as the recyclable materials are not contaminated at the source, only a small amount of material ends up as residue (leftover) from the process. This can be sent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



Myth Two:

It takes more energy to recycle than not to recycle. This is TRASH ON FIRE false. A 2010

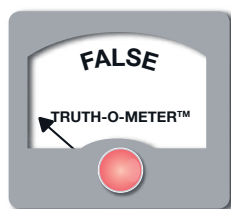
study showed that for every pound of recycled polyethylene terephthalate plastic used instead of new, energy use is reduced by 84 percent, and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 71 percent.



Myth Three:

Whatever, it all ends up in the landfill anyway. This is TRASH ON FIRE false.

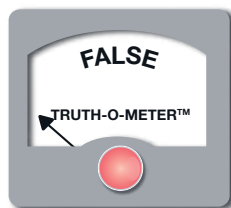
This is one of the most insidious misconceptions out there. The biggest problem for recycling right now is supply: the recycling manufacturers need more material. Recyclable materials have value. Landfilling them is like throwing away money and makes no sense.



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.



History of recycling in the United States

Recycling has been here a long time. During the 1800s and early 1900s, recycling was a matter of necessity. Manufactured goods were difficult to come by and early American families saved and reused things many times. Many families made a living by working on the streets looking for materials such as rags and clothing in order to refurbish and resell them. You may have heard the term "rag-picker." In those days, it was a job.

As the world and, in particular, the United States, became more industrialized, a new consumer culture began to emerge. People began to value clean and new over rescued and reused. However, municipalities whose refuse began to climb started to see the value of recycling. New York City started separating its waste in 1895.

World War II brought the "war effort," and recycling and reuse became *de rigueur* again to support the troops. However, when a huge burst of consumerism followed the war, accompanied by mass-production technology, this disconnected the individual from the value of the goods he or she was acquiring. Trash grew; recycling waned.

It wasn't until the 1970s that individuals began to connect the disposal of trash with degradation of the environment. Recycling saw a resurgence, and the first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970.

Recycling fluorescents

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other energy-efficient lighting such as linear fluorescent bulbs and high-intensity discharge (HID)-lamps contain a small amount of mercury. Mercury is an element essential to achieving energy savings, but it also can contaminate air, surface water and groundwater.

Fluorescent bulbs can last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. These bulbs help consumers and businesses reduce energy costs, but it is important that any product containing mercury be properly disposed of. It is important that devices such as thermostats, thermometers and spent bulbs stay intact so that the mercury is not released into the environment.

It is estimated that businesses already recycle more than 30 percent of their fluorescent bulbs annually. Consumers also are embracing fluorescent recycling as they switch to more efficient lighting technologies. In 2014, Pasco County recycled more than 15,000 fluorescent bulbs.

Pasco County incinerates trash in a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant. Florida state regulations prohibit WTE plants from processing fluorescent bulbs containing mercury. Bulbs with an Hg label should never be placed in the trash. Instead, recycle spent mercury-containing bulbs at one of the two permanent Pasco County recycling facilities or at a local retailer that offers the recycling service.

For more information, call 727-847-8041 or visit pascocountyfl.net.



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 its message. Next, design an ad for the *Tampa Bay Times* and tampabay.com that encourages recycling by people of all ages. How is the ad in the print edition going to be different than the Web version of the ad? Share your ideas with your classmates.

Residential Cooking Oil Recycling Program



Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) are byproducts of food preparation, meat cutting and cooking. FOG can be found in meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, sauces and dairy products.

When FOG items are poured down drains or garbage disposals, they build up in our pipes and sewers. Eventually, they can back up into sinks, tubs and toilets. These backups pose serious public health and environmental problems and can be very costly to fix.

Pasco County participates in a statewide program called C.O.R.E. (Cooking Oil Recycling Effort). In 2014, the Pasco County Residential Cooking Oil Recycling Program collected 2,300 gallons of used cooking oils for recycling.

The C.O.R.E program accepts cooking oils such as vegetable, corn, peanut, olive and soybean oil and fats and grease such as lard, butter, shortening and bacon grease.

Simply pour your used cooking fats, oil and grease while still warm into a container that you can freeze. The fats, oils and grease can be mixed in a single container. Store the container in the freezer to keep the grease solid, and pull it out whenever you have FOG to dispose of. When it gets full, drop it off for recycling at one of the county's four cooking oil recycling locations.

Noncooking oils such as motor oil, fuels, antifreeze and chemicals are not accepted by the C.O.R.E. program and should never be mixed with cooking oils.

Helpful hints to minimize FOG in our environment

1. Minimize the use of excess cooking oils and grease when cooking or frying.
2. Wipe grease from utensils, pots, pans and plates with a paper towel before washing or placing in the dishwasher. For pans with heavy grease buildup, use a rubber spatula to scrape as much of the grease into the trash as possible and wipe the remainder with a paper towel.
3. Never pour cooking oils, fats or grease down the drain or into garbage disposals.

Recycle your used cooking oil for free:

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL

Pasco County Facilities

7220 Osteen Road, New Port Richey, FL

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL

Zephyrhills City Maintenance Yard

39421 South Ave., Zephyrhills, FL

Pasco County household used sharps exchange program

Sharps are medical instruments such as hypodermic needles, scalpel blades, razor blades, lancets, glass tubes, syringes, IV tubing with needles and diabetic testing supplies.

Safe disposal of sharps is important. Sharps can harm people, pets and wildlife and damage public sewers and pump stations. Placing hypodermic needles and other sharps down the toilet or in household trash puts disposal workers at risk.

You can help by participating in the Pasco County household sharps exchange program, a partnership among the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, the American Diabetes Association

and sponsor exchange locations throughout the county. There is no cost to participate in the program.

Visit one of the sponsor exchange sites listed at pascocountyfl.net/index.aspx?nid=1218 and ask for an approved red sharps container. Follow the directions on the container. When the container is full, permanently close the top and return the container to one of the sponsor exchange sites for proper disposal. Always give the full container to authorized personnel only, and never leave a sharps container unattended.

For more information, visit pascocountyfl.net or call 727-847-8041.

Pasco County Electronic Equipment Recycling Program

Computers and electronic equipment such as televisions, telephones, video games, radios, computer monitors and CD and DVD players contain both useful recyclable materials and elements that are hazardous and must not be landfilled or incinerated. Recyclable materials include plastics, nonprecious metals (steel, aluminum and copper), wood, glass and precious metals (gold). However, electronic equipment also contains lead, cadmium, chromium and mercury, all of which can adversely affect human health and the environment if not managed properly.

Demanufacturing is the process of dismantling a piece of equipment, recovering the resources (raw materials) and utilizing the raw materials in remanufacturing new products (revenue). When done properly, demanufacturing generates no waste, making landfilling or incineration unnecessary. Pasco County was the first county in Florida, and is one of a handful of counties in the nation, to implement an electronic equipment demanufacturing program.

Millions of computers are arriving at landfills throughout the United States annually, and millions more remain in storage. In 2014, Pasco County recycled 852,000 pounds of computers and other electronic waste.

Computer monitors and TVs make up the bulk of the electronic waste stream and are very problematic because they contain lead. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) estimates that a total of 6,738 pounds of lead enters Florida's solid waste stream annually, and 42 percent of this is attributed to monitors and TVs.

Please help to keep hazardous materials out of our environment by bringing your electronics for recycling to a Pasco County recycling center. For additional information, call Pasco County Utilities at 727-847-8041.

Recycle your obsolete electronics:

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL 33525

Water resources

American Water Works Association Drip Calculator

awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/public-information/dripcalculator.aspx

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

dep.state.fl.us

GRACE Water Program

gracelinks.org/824/water-program

Natural Resources Defense Council

nrdc.org/water

Southwest Florida Water Management District

watermatters.org

United States Environmental Protection Agency

water.epa.gov

United States Geological Survey

usgs.gov/water

USGS Water Science School

water.usgs.gov/edu

Water Footprint Network

waterfootprint.org

World Health Organization

who.int/topics/water

World Water Council

worldwatercouncil.org

Tips for being water smart

- Use rain barrels to capture and store rainwater for garden use.
- Scrape dishes over the trash can rather than pre-rinsing and running the garbage disposal.
- Dishwashers can be more efficient than hand-washing, but the water savings go down the drain if it runs half empty. Always fill your dishwasher up before running it.
- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
- Shower smarter. Running the shower for five extra minutes uses an additional 10-20 gallons of water!
- Keep a nozzle on the hose. Hoses without nozzles average 8-10 gallons per minute. Without a nozzle, a 30-minute car wash could waste 300 gallons of water.
- Stop leaks. Even a minor leak such as one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

Help prevent water pollution: Clean up after your pets

Pet owners always should pick up after their pets and dispose of pet waste in the trash or in a designated pet waste container. Pet waste should never be left on the ground or put into storm drains.

When it rains, pet waste can flow from yards, sidewalks and roads and into storm drains. These drains lead to streams and lakes. Pet waste adds excess nutrients to the water, which creates algae bloom, decreases oxygen and can lead to aquatic life die-offs.

Water facts

- Water covers more than 70 percent of the earth's surface, but only a tiny fraction of Earth's water is fresh. Most freshwater is inaccessible because it is locked up in snow and ice or trapped underground.
- It takes twice the amount of water to produce a plastic bottle as the water contained in the bottle. Remember your refillable bottle or cup!
- It takes more than 75,000 gallons of water to produce 1 ton of new steel, and more than 100,000 gallons to produce one car!
- Recycle those cans! It takes three to 10 times more water to produce new metal than to recycle it.
- For every pound of paper recycled, about 3.5 gallons of water is saved.

So, pick up after your pets and help to ensure that only rainwater goes down our storm drains.

For more information, contact the Pasco County Stormwater Management Division at 727-834-3611 or pascocountyfl.net/stormwater.



Water Awareness Poster Contest

For the past six years, Pasco County Utilities, Pasco County Schools and the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) have presented an annual water awareness poster contest for Pasco County elementary school students.

The program is open to Pasco County public and private school students in grades K-5. Teachers must register on their students' behalf.

For more information, learning activities, photos and student artwork, visit watercontest.org.



Take a hike

Pasco County Schools' Conservation and Recycling Operations Department (CRO) doesn't just talk the talk; they walk the walk...literally.

The Adopt-a-Road program implemented by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners more than 20 years ago strives to keep Pasco County roads clean and litter free. CRO is walking the walk by officially adopting a mile of Moon Lake Road between SR 52 and Coronado Way.

"It's a great way to show our students and community that we are all on the same team and that each and every one of us can make a difference," said Tony Bartenope, Pasco County Schools recycling coordinator.

The program promotes responsibility and accountability toward the community by encouraging groups to "adopt" sections of roadway. Each volunteer group cleans a stretch of roadway at least four times a year.

On their first outing, personnel from CRO along with volunteers from the district's Planning Department collected more than 15 bags of trash from their assigned road section.

"We found quite a few interesting items on our first cleanup," said Geographic Information System analyst Zack Goodfield. "The most interesting being a squirrel statue, which now resides in my office."

The Adopt-a-Road program is administered by Pasco County Recycling and Education. Groups must attend safety training and schedule at least four cleanups per year. If you are interested in adopting your own stretch of Pasco County roadway, please visit the Pasco County Adopt-a-Road website at pascocountyfl.net or call 727-856-4539.



Other ways to help

If you can't commit to adopting a road but still want to help, join others picking up trash at the Great American Cleanup (third Saturday of April) or the Coastal Cleanup (third Saturday of September). Cleanup hours count toward student community service hours.

Pasco County Great American Cleanup 2014:
442 volunteers picked up 23.50 tons of trash

Pasco County Coastal Cleanup 2014:
1,041 volunteers picked up 19.83 tons of trash

Flushing wipes will clog your pipes

The Pasco County Sanitary Sewer Collection System is a network of sewer lines, manholes, pumping stations and other structures used to collect wastewater and transport it to a treatment plant. In Pasco County, the infrastructure is battling the problem of "ragging," which occurs when baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, diapers, dental floss, paper towels and other items not designed for flushing clog sewer pumps.

Sewer agencies around the country are dealing with the growing problem of flushable wipes. Toilet paper manufacturing companies market the wipes as flushable, but these products are not safe for sewage systems. Instead of disintegrating like toilet paper, they stay intact, clinging to the interior walls of pipelines and getting stuck on snags inside the pipes. They also clog pumps which transport sewage to treatment plants and

can eventually destroy the pumps. De-ragging pumps and unclogging pipes is labor intensive and increases the cost of maintaining your sewer system.

Just because you can flush a product does not mean you should. Never flush items such as paper towels, diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products or cotton balls.

For more information, visit pascocountyfl.net or call 727-847-8041.



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.

They 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. **They 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, they accept: televisions, computer monitors, computer components, 20-gallon (or less) propane tanks, car and truck tires, refrigerators and air conditioners.

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill
Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

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

Pasco County Schools recycling report

For more than 20 years, Pasco County Schools has initiated numerous sustainable and cost-saving environmental programs. Its commitment is to help others in achieving the conservation and recycling goals of the district. It does so by educating students, employees, administrators and community partners on practices that conserve energy, reduce costs and nurture the environment.

In 2013-2014, Pasco County Schools recycled:

- 1,848 tons of paper and cardboard, saving almost 31,170 trees
- 35 tons of plastic bottles, saving about 560 barrels of oil
- 203 tons of metal, saving about 2,500,080 kilowatt hours of energy
- 12 tons of batteries, which won't cause harm to the environment

These numbers are impressive, but we can do better. Remember, if we all do a little, it will mean a lot.

If you'd like more information about Pasco County Schools' recycling programs, visit the Conservation and Recycling Operations website at pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle or contact recycling coordinator Tony Bartenope at 727-794-7936.



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 products will be produced and the more we can recycle. It's up to you.

Analyzing information critically

It is time to use your critical thinking skills. After all, that is a main focus of learning about yourself and what makes you a strong individual. Using the electronic edition of the *Tampa Bay Times*, review the articles and ads for a one-week time period. Save all articles that focus on conservation, waste and the environment. Write down the main points for each article. Be sure to comment

on whether the article is focusing on positive or negative choices. Choose one of the points represented in one of the articles to write a research paper. You can focus your research and paper on any aspect of the article. After your paper is written, create an oral presentation for your class. Explain whether the information you found is positive, negative, helpful or harmful. Be sure to use specific examples from the article and your research in your paper and presentation.

Learning with
the Times