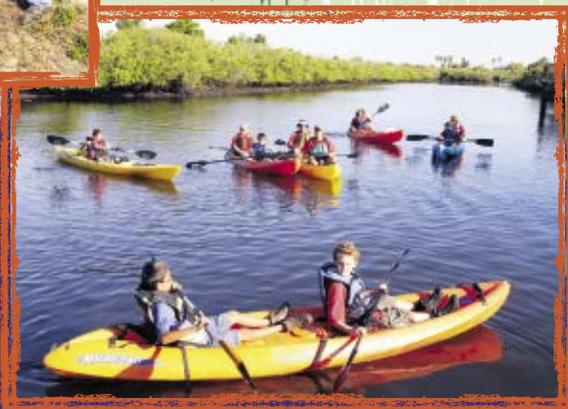




2018 Pasco Recycling

Show you care



PASCO
COUNTY FLORIDA
OPEN SPACES. VIBRANT PLACES.

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



Calendar of recycling events | [Page 2](#)
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Pasco County recycling drop-off center locations | [Page 11](#)

Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic

form as educational resources – a “living textbook.” Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world.

Since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of the daily newspaper plus award-winning original curriculum supplements, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources at no cost to schools, teachers or families. Each year, more than 5 million newspapers and electronic licenses are provided to Tampa Bay teachers and students free of charge thanks to our generous individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are correlated to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordermie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE).

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Credits

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Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for elementary, middle and high school students.

Language Arts: LAFS.3-12.L.1.1; LAFS.3-12.L.1.2; LAFS.3-12.L.2.3; LAFS.3-12.L.3.4; LAFS.3-12.L.3.5; LAFS.3-12.L.3.6; LAFS.3-12.RI.1.1; LAFS.3-12.RI.1.2; LAFS.3-12.RI.1.3; LAFS.3-12.RI.2.4; LAFS.3-12.RI.2.5; LAFS.3-12.RI.2.6; LAFS.3-12.RI.3.7; LAFS.3-12.RST.3.7; LAFS.3-12.SL.1.1; LAFS.3-12.SL.1.2; LAFS.3-12.SL.1.3; LAFS.3-12.SL.2.4; LAFS.3-12.SL.2.5; LAFS.3-12.SL.2.6; LAFS.3-12.W.1.1; LAFS.3-12.W.1.2; LAFS.3-12.W.2.4; LAFS.3-12.W.2.5; LAFS.3-12.W.2.6; LAFS.3-12.W.3.7

Science: SC.8.N.4.1; SC.8.N.4.2; SC.E.6.6; SC.E.7.7; SC.L.17.3; SC.L.17.12; SC.L.17.13; SC.L.17.14; SC.L.17.15; SC.L.17.16; SC.L.17.17; SC.L.17.20; SC.N.4.1; SC.N.4.2



Pasco Recycling *Calendar of Events* 2018–2019

APRIL 2018

Earth Day at Crews Lake
 Wilderness Park
 April 28, 2018

SEPTEMBER 2018

Coastal Cleanup
 September 15, 2018

NOVEMBER 2018

America Recycles Day
 November 15, 2018

UPCYCLE Festival
 November 17, 2018

DECEMBER 2018

Christmas tree recycling
 December 26, 2018 –
 January 17, 2019

Pasco Art of Recycling Scholarship applications are accepted beginning Dec. 1, 2018. Contact the Pasco Education Foundation at info@pascoeducationfoundation.org or 727-774-2705 for details.

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2019

Pasco Art of Recycling Contest for high school students.

MARCH 2019

Great American Cleanup
 March TBD, 2019

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



The Big Shred 2017

Privacy-conscious residents from around Pasco flocked to two Big Shred events in 2017, organized by Pasco Clerk & Comptroller Paula S. O'Neil to give people the opportunity to have their sensitive documents shredded for free.

Residents brought about nine tons of bills, receipts, cancelled checks and tax returns to the events, held Jan. 27 in New Port Richey and Feb. 3 in Dade City. The steely jaws of Shred360's specially-designed trucks turned all that paper into confetti, which will be recycled into paper towels and bathroom tissue.



The Clerk & Comptroller's Office was assisted by the Pasco County Recycling Department, the Pasco Sheriff's Office, Pasco County Facilities, the Dade City Police Department and the Dade City Public Works Department.

Volunteers from Mitchell High School's Navy JROTC, Pasco High School's DCT program and the Clerk & Comptroller's Office helped to make the events a success.

The Big Shred was partly sponsored by Covanta of Pasco County.

Protect yourself

For Pasco County's last four Earth Day celebrations, Shred360 has offered free shredding service to individuals.

Shred360 is a certified on-site shredding services company that specializes in protecting employees, customers, companies and reputations.

Individuals can bring up to three boxes or bags for shredding at Earth Day 2018 (please, no commercial entities).



Making Safer Choices

In 2017, Pasco County collected more than 900 pounds of household hazardous waste. The county is encouraging people to bring their household hazardous waste materials for disposal to the Earth Day celebration on April 28, which is a good thing for the environment. Another good thing for the environment would be for people to reduce their use of hazardous waste materials. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has some suggestions about how consumers can make safer choices: epa.gov/saferchoice. Look through the advertisements in the *Tampa Bay Times* and find some safer choices on the EPA website. Make a chart of the hazardous materials you find in the *Times* and then list the possible alternatives for those products. Write a blog post about what you have discovered.



Earth Day 2018 Celebration

You're invited!

**Saturday, April 28, 2018
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Crews Lake Wilderness Park • 16739 Crews Lake Dr. • Spring Hill, FL 34610

BRING FOR SAFE DISPOSAL:

- **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 entities.
- **Medicines:** expired and unused medications, plus sharps.
- **Personal documents for shredding:** identity-sensitive documents for secure on-site shredding. You can watch as they are destroyed. Limit three boxes or bags per resident. Shredding 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. only.

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Hits-106 live broadcast 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Water Ventures Learning Lab
- Croc Encounters live reptile wildlife show
- Children's crafts and educational displays
- Rain harvesting and composting workshops (advance registration required)
- Recycling information
- Lady bug release
- Upcycle vendors
- Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad train rides
- Adoptable pets
- Florida native plant sale
- Monofilament recycling with West Marine

Crews Lake Wilderness Park is located off Shady Hills Road, just south of the Suncoast Parkway and north of State Road 52 in Spring Hill.

For more information, contact Lottie Kelley at lkelly@covanta.com or 727-856-2917, ext. 201.



At Earth Day 2017, Pasco County residents recycled:

ALMOST 2 TONS of latex paint



300 POUNDS of household batteries

MORE THAN 900 POUNDS of household hazardous waste





Gulf High School NJROTC

Gulf High School students *Make a Difference*

The Gulf High School Navy JROTC unit takes time from its busy schedule to make a difference in Pasco County. Once per semester, the unit heads out to Green Key Park to clean up the beach there. The rangers at the park do an outstanding job keeping the beach clean, but they enjoy the help from the GHS NJROTC.

In February 2016, the unit and their teacher sponsor, Liz Diaz, headed out for a day of beach cleaning. The students and their sponsors battled chilly weather and high winds to reach their goal of making Green Key a cleaner beach. They didn't just clean the beach, they also cleaned the entire road leading to the beach, collecting almost 10 bags of litter!

Florida Department of Education *Green School Award*

For the third year in a row, Pasco County Schools has won the Bronze award at the School District level from the Florida Green School Network.

The network acts as a central clearinghouse for the green school movement in the state of Florida. It was designed to recognize and support green school initiatives at the school and school district level and to aid them in adopting practices that will conserve natural resources, promote

sustainability and reduce operating costs.

In 2016-2017, Pasco County Schools increased its overall recycling rate by 5 percent to reach an average recycling rate of 32 percent. The hard work of staff, students and parents was apparent as the number of Earth Patrol groups rebounded and composting increased.



Green School Award

Schoolyard habitat

Chasco Elementary School in New Port Richey has joined more than 5,000 other schools from across the country that have been recognized for creating schoolyard habitats for wildlife.

A schoolyard habitat project is a naturalized habitat area that is created by students, for students. It enables teachers to take

students to an outdoor classroom for a hands-on experience. Schoolyard habitats are ecologically sound, integrated into the curriculum and designed to encourage long-term stewardship.

During students' elementary school years, they develop perceptions and values about

their environment. Schoolyard habitats can provide students with a powerful example of land conservation and stewardship. Chasco Elementary School began work on the area at the start of the 2017-2018 school year, and received its certification in January 2018. Congratulations to the Green Team at Chasco Elementary School!



Chasco schoolyard habitat

Do you compost?

Last year in Pasco County, food scraps, yard waste and newspaper made up about 25 percent of the material thrown in the trash. But by composting, you can transform this “trash” into “black gold!”

Q: What is compost?

A: Compost is a rich, dark, crumbly soil-like material made from broken-down organic material (plants, food scraps, eggshells, etc.).

Q: Why make compost?

A: Composting reduces the amount of reusable material sent to landfills or incinerators. Plus, compost is great for your garden! Here in central Florida, the soil is often very sandy. Adding compost helps to hold moisture and nutrients around your plants’ roots, and helps support beneficial soil microbes.

Q: What should I compost?

A: Your compost pile should include a mixture of “browns” and “greens” –

- “Browns” = Leaves / grass clippings / small sticks / pine needles / newspaper, etc.)
- “Greens” = Food scraps (fruits / vegetables / grains / eggshells, coffee grounds, etc.)

Q: Is there anything that I shouldn’t compost?

A: Some items *shouldn’t* be added to a home compost pile. These include meat scraps, dairy products, fats, oils, greases and pet waste.

Q: How do I make compost?

A: There are many ways to make compost. From simple bins to rotating tumblers to indoor “worm farms,” there’s an option for anyone!

For more information on composting, visit livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/waste/composting.html.

Classroom activity: Compost in a bucket

Composting is the biological decomposition of organic waste, such as food or plant material, by bacteria, fungi, worms and other organisms under controlled aerobic (occurring in the presence of oxygen) conditions. The end result of composting is a dark, nutrient-rich material called humus, which can be used in gardening to build healthy soil and ensure better plant growth.

Composting is an environmentally sound way of reducing the amount of yard and food waste that is landfilled or incinerated. By returning valuable nutrients to the soil, we are caring for the environment. And, adding compost to a garden reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.



In this activity, your class will create and maintain a classroom compost bin.

Materials Needed

- 5-gallon bucket with lid
- Trowel or spade
- Tarp
- 1 gallon of soil, compost, potting mix or sawdust from untreated wood
- Noncompostable materials (e.g., plastic cups or bottles)
- Water
- Compostable materials

“Greens” (Greens include moist vegetable and food scraps, fresh grass clippings and yard waste, coffee grounds, tea bags and eggshells)

“Browns” (Browns include dry and woody plant trimmings (such as wood chips, dried leaves, dried grass and hay or straw), shredded newspaper, cardboard rolls and wool or cotton rags)

Procedure

- 1 With the trowel or spade, chop the food and other organic material into small pieces. The smaller the pieces, the faster the decomposition. Leave some large pieces for comparison.
- 2 Fill the bucket half full with greens and browns. Layer and mix as you go. Include nonbiodegradable items in the layers as well. Add water as needed to keep the pile moist. Record the items that you add to the bucket.
- 3 Add about 1 gallon of soil, compost, potting mix or sawdust to the bucket. The bucket should not be more than ¾ full. Keep the material moist but not completely wet.
- 4 Individually, write down your predictions about what will happen to the contents of the bucket and the individual items. Will it smell bad? Will it decay? Will things grow in it? What will happen to the large pieces vs. the small pieces? What will happen to the nonbiodegradable items?
- 5 Every few days, open up the bucket to mix and water the contents. What changes are occurring?
- 6 After four weeks, examine the contents of the bucket. Try to identify as many items as possible. Record your observations.
- 7 As a class, discuss the outcome. What happened? How does the outcome compare to the predictions made at the start of the experiment?
- 8 If your school has a garden, use your compost to enrich the soil!

Adapted from: “Compost in a Bucket,” *Do The Rot Thing: A Teacher’s Guide to Compost Activities*, Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

Additional sources: University of Florida IFAS Extension



Your trash is not landfilled...



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.



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



Remaining ash, reduced to only 15 percent of the original volume, is landfilled or used in roadbeds.



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.



If you are receiving twice-a-week trash pickup at the curb, then you already have recycling service. You just have to use it.

Your trash hauler is obligated to provide you at least twice-a-month recycling service. They also can give you a sticker and your recycling schedule. See Page 7 for your trash hauler's contact information.



In Pasco County, we recycle the following items at the curb:

- Aluminum cans
- Metal food cans
- Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars
- Mixed paper
- Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard
- Plastic bottles, jars and small containers (such as yogurt cups, butter tubs or ketchup bottles) coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7

No plastic bags in the recycling stream

Never put plastic grocery, retail or trash bags in your recycling container.

Plastic bags become tangled in recycling machinery, which can damage the equipment and bring operations to a halt. The bags must be removed from the recycling

stream by hand, which is expensive, difficult and potentially dangerous.

Plastic bags can be reused and recycled at most grocery stores or upcycled into many useful and decorative items.



unless we exceed the capacity of our plant



Pasco County is growing again. More people create more trash. Pasco is projected to have 485,000 people by the year 2030. In 2016, we began to exceed the capacity of our Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant. We have too much garbage.

If we continue this way, "The facility will require an expansion to begin by 2022," said a Pasco County official. "The cost of

that expansion, which includes adding a fourth incinerator, is projected to be approximately \$190 million not counting inflation, which the citizens of Pasco County will have to pay for through increased fees."

The WTE expansion is inevitable. However, the longer Pasco County is able to hold off on the expansion, the more time the county will have to secure and grow the funding

needed to pay for it. One key way to delay the WTE expansion is to get more Pasco County residents to take part in curbside recycling, which all county-licensed haulers provide. Every Pasco County resident who starts recycling will play an important role in deferring the WTE expansion.

When in doubt, throw it out!

The largest challenge facing recycling programs today is contamination. Contamination is when nonrecyclable items or excessively dirty materials are placed into the recycling stream.

When nonrecyclable or dirty materials are placed in your curbside recycling container, they can contaminate the entire load, meaning that none of the items in that load end up being recycled.

At recycling facilities across the U.S., 16 percent of all collected material is contaminated, meaning that for every 100 tons of recyclables picked up from homes, 16 tons is garbage that must be taken back to a disposal facility, according to Waste Management's vice president of recycling operations Brent Bell.

- Contamination damages processing equipment and increases processing cost
- Contamination reduces the amount of quality recyclables that can be recovered
- Contamination endangers staff at the recycling facility

Attempting to recycle items that can't be recovered in your local recycling program causes more harm than good. If you're not sure if an item is recyclable or not, always discard it in the trash.



Pasco's trash and recycling collection system

In Pasco County, curbside trash and recycling collection services are provided by independent haulers. Residents need to sign up with one of these companies to receive services.

For your trash and recycling pickup schedule, contact your hauler:

All Haul Waste • 727-847-2420 • allhaulwaste.com

County Sanitation • 888-522-5794
countysanitationservice.com

J.D. Parker & Sons • 727-845-1024

Republic • 727-868-2566 • republicservices.com

Waste Aid • 813-996-1457 or 727-842-9309
wasteaidsystems.com

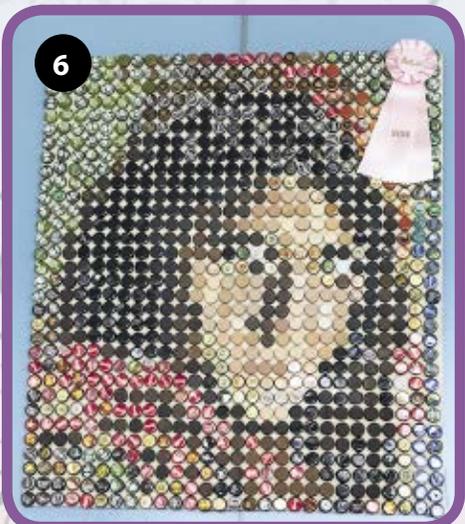
Waste Connections • 352-583-4204 or 727-847-9100
wasteconnections.com

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



Recycle Now!

Pasco County is projected to have 485,000 people by the year 2030. Not only is that a lot of people, but that is a lot of trash. Think about it: Where is all that trash going to go if people don't start reducing, reusing and, most of all, recycling? Did you know that if you are receiving twice-a-week trash pickup at the curb, then you already have recycling service? Is your family recycling? How can you persuade your family members, peers and neighbors to recycle every week? Using the information in this Newspaper in Education publication, create an advertising campaign persuading others about the benefits of recycling. Use the ads, editorials and letters to the editor in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models to build your campaign. Look for key words, images and slogans in those items to help with your campaign. Share your campaign with your classmates. Have your classmates vote for the best campaign.



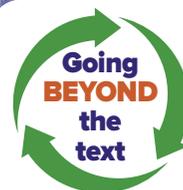
Pasco County
Art of Recycling

Combining art, recycling

Pasco County high school students turned trash into art for the 2018 Pasco Art of Recycling Contest. This annual competition is a collaborative project of Pasco County Schools, Pasco County Recycling and Education, and Keep Pasco Beautiful. For more than 20 years, it has encouraged awareness of the arts and promoted recycling. It offers a total of \$2,200 in prize money to winning students.

2018 Art of Recycling winners

- 1 **First Place:** Grace Carter, *In the Eyes of the Turtle*
- 2 **Second Place:** Anna Scarfone, *Bee Green, Bee Pollution Free*
- 3 **Third Place:** Holly Denette, *Bleached Life*
- 4 **People's Choice:** Hannah Farrell, *Sisters in Solidarity*
- 5 **Covanta's Choice Award:** Kiersten Houck, *Recycling is a Piece of Cake*
- 6 **Best Artistic Expression:** Sarah Wasley, *Afghan Girl – Steve McCurry*
- 7 **Best Use of Printed Material:** Kendyl Ward, *Camouflaged Owl*



Interpreting Art

There are many definitions and genres of art. The common principle, or visual beauty. However, since everyone's perspective is subjective. Explore the art depicted in this educational resource and share your meaning art has for you personally. Do you see things inside the image? How does the artist and the mood of the artwork? How does the art make you feel? Share your thoughts and share it with your class. Write a letter to the editor of the Pasco County Recycling Contest and which art piece is your favorite. Ask your teacher for more information.

Recycling

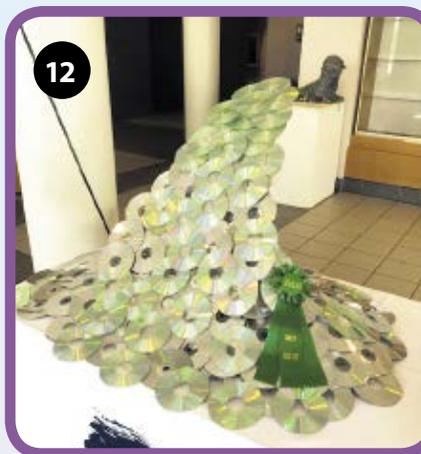
Recycling and creativity

- 8 **Most Innovative:** Felicitee Bly, *Worlds*
- 9 **Art of Recycling Award:** Faith Graves, *Light the Way*
- 10 **Best Use of Aluminum:** Alexys Armentrout, *We Can Save Our Birds*
- 11 **Best Use of Materials:** Meagan Reiss, *Rainbow Fish*
- 12 **Best Use of Plastic:** Wesley Womack, *Waves of Plastic*
- 13 **Best Environmental Concept:** Brittany Stumpf, *Turtle Trouble*

2018 Art of Recycling sponsors:

County Recycling
Covanta Pasco
Fine Arts of the Suncoast
Regency Technologies
Republic Services

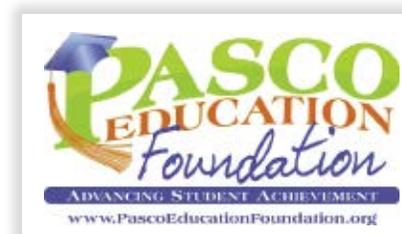
Sierra Family Foundation
Simpson Farms
Waste Aid Systems
Waste Connections
Waste Management



Pasco County Art of Recycling Scholarship

Students who participate in the Art of Recycling Contest are eligible to apply for two \$750 scholarships from the Pasco Education Foundation. To be eligible, students must:

- › Be a Pasco County Schools graduating senior
- › Major in art or environmental science field
- › Have a minimum of a 2.0 unweighted GPA
- › Have entered the Art of Recycling Contest in the last four years.



The Pasco County Art of Recycling Scholarship has been discontinued for 2019.

A common thread in all of the definitions is that art has an aesthetic. Some define beauty and art differently, that definition is highly subjective. Think about the diverse types of art and the mediums or graphics that others do not? Can you detect the tone of the artist's work? What message is the artist sending? Write a blog post about the importance of the Art of Recycling. Send your letter to ordernie@tampabay.com.

2017 Collection Event Diverts 32 Tons of Hazardous Waste

Pasco County Utilities staff collected 32 tons of hazardous materials at the most recent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event, held Dec. 9, 2017 – the County’s most successful one-day collection event ever! During the six-hour event, Pasco County staff helped unload 595 cars and trucks and collected:

24,043
pounds of electronics



11,354
pounds of household chemicals



21,900
pounds of latex paint



220
gallons of used automotive fluids



800
pounds of household batteries



Battery Recycling



On average, Americans purchase and consume nearly 3 billion batteries every year. Did you know that batteries should be removed from the solid waste stream? Batteries contain heavy metals and chemicals that can be released when landfilled or incinerated.

To encourage battery recycling, Pasco County has placed collection buckets in 17 government buildings and libraries.

For more information, call Pasco County’s Environmental Compliance Department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6894.

Household Battery Recycling Contest

To encourage students and school employees to recycle their household batteries, Pasco County Utilities and Pasco County Schools have partnered up to co-sponsor the annual Household Battery Recycling Contest.

To recognize their commitment to the environment, all participating schools received certificates of appreciation, with the Top 10 schools receiving monetary awards from funds generated from the District’s recycling efforts.



Plant managers of the top three schools (L-R): David Whaley, West Zephyrhills E.S.; Harry Keenan, Charles S. Rushe M.S.; and Steve Ganelly, Thomas E. Weightman M.S.

2016-2017 Household Battery Recycling Contest Winners

1,421
pounds

West Zephyrhills Elementary School

755
pounds

Charles S. Rushe Middle School

560
pounds

Thomas E. Weightman Middle School

430
pounds

Mittyte P. Locke Elementary School

421
pounds

Oakstead Elementary School

394
pounds

Hudson Elementary School

394
pounds

Schrader Elementary School

393
pounds

Chasco Elementary School

386
pounds

Hudson High School

312
pounds

Wesley Chapel Elementary School

For more information about Pasco County Schools recycling programs, visit pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle or contact Pasco County Schools recycling coordinator Salinda Strandberg at 727-794-2380.

BRIGHT IDEAS: Eight reasons to switch to LED lighting

LED bulbs...



- 1 Last more than 25 times longer than traditional light bulbs
- 2 Use energy far more efficiently with little wasted heat
- 3 Contain no mercury
- 4 Use at least 75 percent less energy than traditional light bulbs
- 5 Are significantly more durable than traditional light bulbs
- 6 Protect your indoor paint, artwork and photographs from fading
- 7 Are much cooler than traditional light bulbs
- 8 Reduce your carbon footprint!

Pasco County Electronic Equipment Recycling Program



Computers, cellphones and other electronic equipment contain both useful recyclable materials and hazardous materials that must not be landfilled or incinerated.

Pasco was the first county in Florida to implement an electronic equipment demanufacturing program, which involves the disassembly and recycling of obsolete consumer products.

Although the revenue derived from selling materials recovered from demanufacturing only offsets a small portion of the costs associated with the process, closing the recycling loop of electronic

equipment protects Florida's unique environment by keeping hazardous elements out of our soil and water.

In 2017, Pasco County diverted 1,048,495 pounds of electronics from the solid waste stream, at a cost of \$321,769.16.

Pasco County residents can drop off their unwanted electronic equipment at the Resource Recovery Center or the East Pasco Transfer Station. For more information, visit pascocountyfl.net and click on the residents tab, then on Household Hazardous Waste or call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance Department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6894.



Carbon Footprint

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Many of our daily activities – such as using electricity, driving a car or disposing of waste – cause greenhouse gas emissions. Together these emissions make up a household's carbon footprint. Reducing, reusing and recycling are great ways to help reduce your carbon footprint. There are a lot of good suggestions on the pages of this Newspaper in Education publication. Do some research about your carbon footprint. Research the who, what, where, when and how of the topic. Try to determine your current footprint and what you and your family members can do to reduce your footprint. Gather the information together you have researched, and write an opinion article to persuade other Pasco residents to reduce their carbon footprints. Use the editorials and opinion articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models for your article.

Pasco County recycling drop-off centers

All Pasco County recycling drop-off locations accept:

- Aluminum and metal food cans
- #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 and #7 plastic bottles, jars and small containers
- Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars
- Newspaper, mixed paper, office paper and phone books
- Flattened corrugated cardboard

Anclote Gulf Park

2305 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday, FL 34691
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
352-521-0500
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

Embassy Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant

9560 Crabtree Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34654
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(also accepts used cooking oils)

Senior Services Center

6801 Wisteria Loop, Land O'Lakes, FL 34638
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (can vary)
813-929-1200

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)



Electronics, bulbs, chemicals and more

Only at the following Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Resource Recovery Class III Landfill

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information about Pasco County's HHW programs, call Pasco County Utilities at 813-929-2755, ext. 6890.

C.O.R.E.: Cooking Oil Recycling Effort



When cooking oils and grease are poured down the drain, they stick to the inside of sewer pipes and build up over time. This can cause blockages that back up sewage into your home, cause a sewer overflow onto neighborhood streets or cause septic system drain field

Pasco County's residential cooking oil recycling program began in 2007 with just two drop-off locations, and has grown to more than 19 locations, including public drop-off sites, schools, parks and residential communities.

In 2017, Pasco County collected more than 2,700 gallons of used oils and grease that otherwise might have gone down the drain.

For more information, call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance department at 813-929-2755 ext. 6894.

problems. Overflows are messy, expensive and a health hazard.

Recycling used cooking oils and grease helps decrease sewer blockages and reduces the County's pump station and sewer maintenance costs, saving your tax dollars.

Tips

- Never pour cooking oils, fats or grease down the drain.
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape grease and food waste into the trash.
- Minimize the use of garbage disposals – a lot of small pieces can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers, and clean them often.

How to recycle your used cooking oil for free:

- Pour cooled oils and fats into a jug or can and bring them to a C.O.R.E. location.
- Liquids and semi-solids such as bacon grease are accepted.
- Noncooking oils such as motor oil are not accepted.

Public C.O.R.E. Drop-off sites

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Embassy Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant

9560 Crabtree Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34654
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pasco County Facilities

7220 Osteen Road, New Port Richey, FL 34653
24/7 drop-off

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Westport Community

Sea Breeze Drive, Port Richey, FL 34668
24/7 drop-off

Zephyrhills City Maintenance Yard

39421 South Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Household used sharps recycling program

Sharps are medical instruments such as needles, syringes and diabetic testing supplies. If not safely disposed of, sharps can harm people, pets and wildlife and can damage public sewers and pump stations. Sharps should never be put in household trash or flushed down the toilet.

The household used sharps recycling program provides Pasco County residents with a means to dispose of their sharps in a safe manner and keep them out of our environment.

To participate, visit a participating location to obtain a red sharps container. Once the container is filled, seal it and return it to the same location to be exchanged for a new one.

To find a participating location, visit pascocountyfl.net and click on the residents tab, then on Household Hazardous Waste or call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance Department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6894.

Think before you flush

Baby wipes, personal hygiene wipes and cleaning wipes should never be flushed down the toilet.

Although many of these products advertise themselves as “flushable,” they do not break up and disintegrate like regular bathroom tissue.

Instead, they snag on sewer pipe walls, clog pumps and cause blockages in the sewer system, costing the County money for added maintenance and repairs.

Be kind to our sewers – avoid flushing any type of wipe, “flushable” or otherwise, down the toilet.

Never flush:

› Wipes

› Paper towels

› Cloth or disposable diapers

› Feminine hygiene products

› Cotton balls



TOXIC



Protect our environment: Never down the drain

Everything that washes down a household or storm drain eventually ends up in our waterways. When household products or wastes are not disposed of properly, it causes harm to people, wildlife and our environment. To protect our precious rivers, lakes and oceans:

Never pour household hazardous waste (HHW) down household or storm drains. Examples of HHW include:

- › Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- › Household chemicals
- › Motor oil and automotive fluids
- › Paint, paint thinners and removers
- › Pesticides
- › Pool chemicals
- › Solvents

Always bag or bundle yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves instead of letting it wash into storm drains.

Always recycle HHW at one of Pasco County’s HHW collection centers, listed on Page 11.



Be Kind to Sewers

Everything that washes down a household or storm drain eventually ends up in our waterways. Okay, that seems like common sense. Why is that a big deal? That means that anything you flush in the toilet or put down the drain or garbage disposal, or drop down a sewer is going to wind up in a waterway. Using the information on Pages 12 & 13, create a promotional campaign to teach other people in your community about the cooking oil recycling program and the importance of protecting our waterways from household hazardous products. Use the advertisements and advertorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as examples. For your promotional campaign, create an advertorial and a cartoon.



The evolution of cleanups

Keep Pasco Beautiful (KPB) was formed in 1992. It's no coincidence that the first Great American Cleanup in Pasco County was also in 1992! After all, our mission is to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction and encourage beautification.

The purpose of the Great American Cleanup is pretty straightforward: To pick up trash along roads and in public spaces.

Since 1992, we have continued to improve and expand our efforts. In 2017, we took it a step further. Because we live on the Gulf Coast, litter that is tossed on the side of the road can end up in our coastal waters, polluting our environment and endangering wildlife.

On March 3, 2017, in addition to our traditional cleanup at Anclote Gulf Park, KPB partnered with SCUBA divers to clean the water around the fishing pier. Divers collected monofilament, lead weights and fishing lures that, if left in the environment, can entangle, choke or poison animals.

In 2017, KPB had 625 volunteers participate in the Great American Cleanup and collected 26.14 tons of trash.

We continue to hope that one day, our cleanups will no longer be needed. But until that happens, we will be out there with trash bags and gloves, doing what we can to care for our environment.



**VOLUNTEER
AT A CLEANUP**

For more information about volunteering at a KPB cleanup, email info@keepascobebautiful.org or call 727-856-7252.





Keep Pasco Beautiful

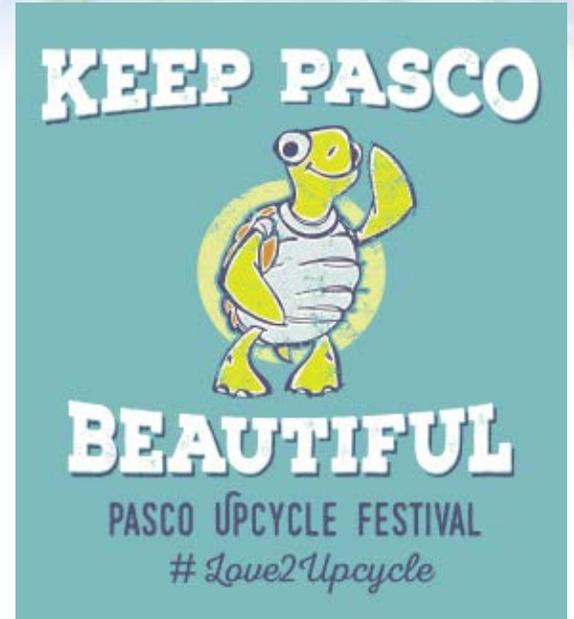
Wins national award

In 2017, Keep Pasco Beautiful received the nationally prestigious America Recycles Day Program award from Keep America Beautiful. The award was won for the Pasco Upcycle & Art Festival.

The purpose of the Pasco Upcycle & Art Festival is to reduce waste by changing peoples' perceptions of what can be salvaged into not only something useful, but oftentimes a work of art. The event started in 2015 with 30 vendors and 500 attendees at the Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City. In 2016, it moved to Sims Park in New Port Richey. Attendance grew to 5,000 in 2017, with approximately 100 vendors.

The 2018 Pasco Upcycle & Art Festival will be held at Sims Park in New Port Richey on Nov. 17. Admission is free. Vendor applications can be downloaded from KeepPascoBeautiful.org.

The event, a partnership with Keep Pasco Beautiful and Pasco County, is made possible through the sponsorship of Covanta Pasco, the Rotary Club of New Port Richey and JMG Engineering. For information about becoming a sponsor, email info@keepascobehautiful.org or call 727-856-7252.



Pasco Recycling publication

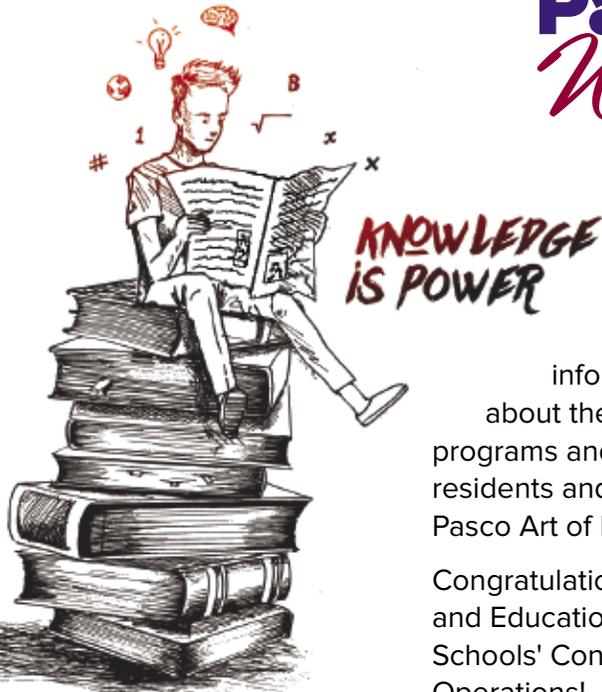
Wins national award

Pasco Recycling 2017: Make Every Day Earth Day, an educational publication created in partnership with Pasco County Recycling, Pasco County Schools and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program, won an Honorable Mention in the 2017 National Newspaper Association Newspaper And Education Contest.

This annual publication informs Pasco County residents about the many recycling facilities, programs and events available to county residents and showcases the winners of the Pasco Art of Recycling contest.

Congratulations to Pasco County's Recycling and Education Division and Pasco County Schools' Conservation and Recycling Operations!

2017
NNA Newspaper
And
Education Contest
Award-winning Newspaper



Community Partners

Pasco County Recycling, Pasco County Schools and the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program are community partners. That means that these organizations work together for a common goal. In this case, the goal is to education and enhance the lives of Pasco County students and families. Look through the *Tampa Bay Times* and this Newspaper in Education publication to find articles or photos about business and community partnerships that are working together. Create a chart depicting these partnerships. Write a fully developed paragraph explaining what you have discovered and learned about your community and the partnerships you have discovered. Share this information with your class.

Pasco County Schools Annual Recycling Report

In 2016-2017 Pasco County Schools recycled:



1,580

tons of paper/
cardboard, which
saved almost
26,860 trees

23.26

tons of plastic
bottles, which
saved about
414 barrels of oil



168.87

tons of metal,
which **saved**
enough energy
to power
38,000 homes

6

tons of batteries, which
won't be causing harm
to the environment



A Bag's Life

According to Waste360, every person in the world uses about 32 pounds of plastic bags, film and wrap each year. This means that Pasco County residents use about 8,000 tons of these types of plastic every year – as much as 640 school buses, or more than 2,600 elephants!

Plastic bags, film and wrap can't be recycled from home or school in Pasco. Plastic bags tangle up recycling equipment and can even ruin a whole truckload of recyclable materials. Although plastic bags cannot be recycled at home, many retailers accept them for recycling. Look for bins at your local stores.

In 2017-2018, 15 Pasco County elementary schools joined the National Plastic Bag and Film recycling campaign, A Bag's Life, to teach the importance of recycling this particular material.

Participating elementary schools had 52 school days to collect as many bags as possible. Walmart served as the campaign's retail sponsor and accepted the bags for recycling.

In the 52 school days, the 15 schools collected 6,123.5 pounds of plastic bags, films and wrap, the equivalent of more than 408,000 bags.

Pasco County Schools kicked off the contest at Gulf Trace Elementary on Aug. 31 with a banner signing and guest speakers superintendent Kurt Browning and Kristen King of Keep Pasco Beautiful. The closing ceremony was held at the winning school, Odessa Elementary, on Dec. 4. A representative from the Plastics Industry Association presented Odessa Elementary's principal and students with prizes recognizing their achievement.

The two schools with overall most weight collected and most per capita collected received garden benches made from 10,000 plastic bags each, donated by Trex Inc. Other winners received Walmart gift cards – more than \$1,000 in total – and Trex Certificates of Achievement set in frames made from plastic wrap.



Celebrating Earth

Every day is Earth Day for people who care about the environment. Find an article in the *Tampa Bay Times* that discusses an environmental issue. Clip or print the article. Read the article closely. Underline or highlight the main points and facts. Circle any statements you think are opinions. In full sentences, respond to the following questions:

- What is the environmental issue being discussed?
- Is the issue of local, national or international concern?
- Who is most directly impacted by this issue?
- Do you feel this issue is important to the future of our environment? Why or why not?
- What piece of information do you feel is missing in this article?

Share what you have learned with your class.