

GLASS



BOTTLES & JARS

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



2021

RECYCLE GUIDE

PLASTIC



BOTTLES & JUGS

EVERYTHING CLEAN AND DRY
no caps • no lids • no straws • no food
no shredded paper • no plastic bags

CANS



CARTONS



PAPER &



CARDBOARD

Based on a study conducted in October 2020, the contamination rate of recyclables collected in the County* was 19% (by weight).

This means that **nearly one in every five pounds** of recycling collected was either garbage or other materials not accepted in local recycling programs. Contamination can damage equipment, endanger staff and make quality recyclables unusable.

* Pinellas County and 18 municipalities participated in a recyclable materials composition study to collect data

A large, three-dimensional graphic of the number '19%' in a vibrant red color. The characters are thick and blocky, casting soft shadows on the white surface below them. The percentage sign is also rendered in the same 3D style.

CONTAMINATION RATE

TOP CONTAMINANTS

- **Plastic bags**
- **Tanglers (wires, cords or hoses)**
- **Styrofoam**
- **Food waste and food residue**
- **Yard waste**



Plastic Bags



**Wires, Cords,
or Hoses**



Styrofoam

What can you do to decrease contamination in your recycling bin?

Follow your recycling program rules, and review them at least once a year. Stick to the basics and place only items shown on the cover of this guide in your recycling bin.



Food



Yard Waste

No clothing



No yard waste



WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT



**No wires, cords
or hoses**



**No tissues, paper
towels or napkins**

**No Styrofoam or
packing materials**



No plastic bags

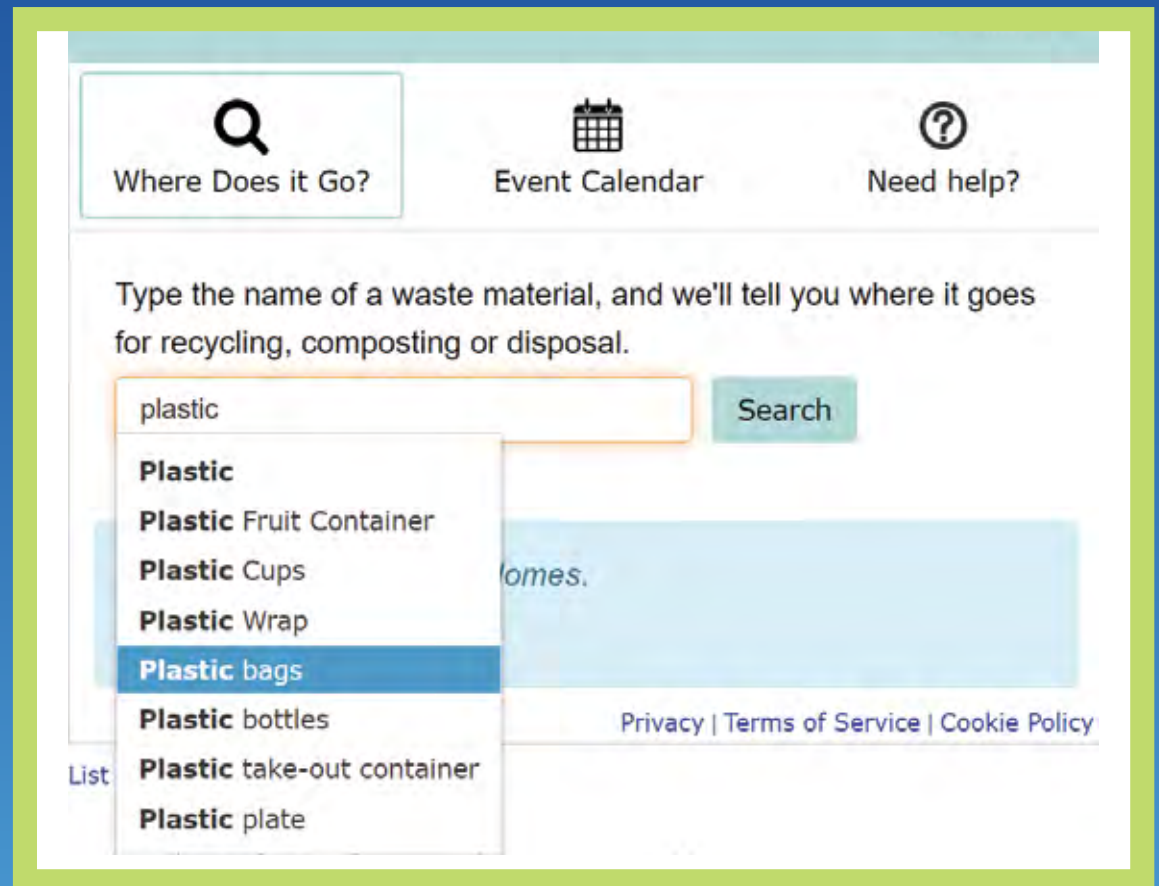


**These items do
not belong in
your recycle bin.**

Still not sure where it goes?



Where Does It Go? Search Tool



Use our search tool at pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo to find out!

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT: WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

In Pinellas County, local cities manage solid waste and recycling. Residents in unincorporated areas can contract with a private company for recycling pickup, or use Pinellas County's free recycling drop-off locations. Materials accepted by each city's program can differ. It's important to know what can and can't be recycled in your city.

Split the class into small groups by their home city. Use the contact information on Pages 6, 7 and 8 to research where and how they can recycle. Does their city offer curbside recycling? What are the drop-off locations? What items can be recycled? How should these items be prepared for recycling (e.g., rinse plastic bottles, remove lids)? Do residents need to separate items by type or are they sorted later? How does collection at businesses differ from household collection or collection at apartment buildings?

Using the advertisements and advertorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, create a full page advertisement to present the information you have learned. Present the information to your class.

Florida Standards: SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4



RECYCLING DROP



LOCATIONS

EXCEPTIONS

BELLEAIR

John J. Osborne Public Works Building • 1075 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

CLEARWATER

Clearwater Solid Waste Facility • 1701 N Hercules Ave.

North County Service Center • 29582 U.S. 19 N, west side, south of Curlew Road

Sand Key Park • 1060 Gulf Blvd.

Walmart • 23106 U.S. 19 N, southeast corner of parking lot

DUNEDIN

Highlander Park Recycling Site • 1941 Ed Eckert Dr., across from Highlander Pool

Lake Haven Recycling Center • 810 Lake Haven Road

GULFPORT

49th Street Neighborhood Center • 1617 49th St. S

Only cardboard, paper and glass are accepted.
Glass must be separated from other materials.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Brown Park • Bay Blvd. and 2nd St.

Cardboard is not accepted.

Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve • 903 Gulf Blvd.

Cardboard is not accepted.

Indian Rocks Historical Museum • 203 4th Ave.

Cardboard is not accepted.

Kolb Park • 1507 Bay Palm Blvd.

INDIAN SHORES

Indian Shores Town Hall • 19305 Gulf Blvd.

LARGO

Bank of America • 10900 Seminole Blvd.

Hamlin Boulevard 4-H • 14644 113th Ave. N

Pinellas County Extension • 12520 Ulmerton Road, south of Ulmerton Road, entrance on 125th St. N Frontage Road

Starkey Road Recycling Center • 1551 Starkey Road, north of Ulmerton Road, south of East Bay Dr.

Tri-City Plaza • U.S. 19 N and East Bay Dr., behind Ross store

PALM HARBOR

Curlew Retention Pond • 1740 Curlew Road, between Belcher Road and CR 1

John Chesnut Sr. Park • 2200 East Lake Road

William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility • 4111 Dunn Dr., Off Alt U.S. 19 N

REDINGTON SHORES

Redington Shores Town Hall • 17425 Gulf Blvd.

SAFETY HARBOR

Safety Harbor Fire Station 53 • 3095 McMullen-Booth Road

Safety Harbor Public Works • 1200 Railroad Ave.

SEMINOLE

Lake Seminole Park • 10015 Park Blvd., east of Seminole Blvd.

TOP-OFF CENTERS



LOCATIONS

EXCEPTIONS

ST. PETERSBURG

City of St. Petersburg Recycling/Brush Sites

- 1000 62nd Ave. NE
- 7750 26th Ave. N
- 2453 20th Ave. N
- 2500 26th Ave. S
- 4015 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S

Clearview United Methodist Church • 4515 38th Ave. N

Crescent Lake Park • 1320 5th St. N

Enoch Davis Recreation Center • 1111 18th Ave. S

Only accepts aluminum cans accepted.

Former Sweetbay • 6095 9th Ave. N, northeast corner of store

Lakewood Youth Association • 4801 31st St. S

Only cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and newspaper are accepted.

Northwest Park • 2331 60th Ave. N

Only cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and newspaper are accepted.

Pinellas County Solid Waste • 2855 109th Ave. N, next to HEC₃

St. Petersburg Municipal Marina • 300 2nd Ave. SE

TARPON SPRINGS

A.L. Anderson Park • 39699 U.S. 19 N, between Klosterman Road and Tarpon Ave.

Brooker Creek Education Center • 3940 Keystone Road

Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue Station 70 • 1023 Gulf Road

Tarpon Springs Yard Waste Facility • 898 S Levis Ave.

TIERRA VERDE

Fort De Soto Park boat ramp overflow parking area • 3600 Pinellas Bayway S

Fort De Soto Park campground • 3500 Pinellas Bayway S

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

Read the *Tampa Bay Times* article “What actually happens to your recycling? We toured a Tampa Bay recycling sorting facility to find out” at tampabay.com/news/florida/2019/08/06/where-does-your-recycling-actually-go-we-toured-a-tampa-bay-plant-to-find-out/. Choose one of the recyclable materials discussed in the article and use the Internet to research what happens to this material after it is sorted and baled. Who purchases this material? What is the value of this material? What happens to the material next? What form does it take and where does it go? What is the final end use of the material? Who is the buyer of the end product? Is it a consumer or a manufacturer? Using the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as a model, write a newspaper article about the

information you have learned. Make sure you answer the basic journalism questions: Who, what, where, when, why and how.

Florida Standards: SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.5-12.L.1.2; LAFS.5-12.RF.4.4; LAFS.5-12.RI.1.2; LAFS.5-12.RI.1.3; LAFS.5-12.RI.2.5; LAFS.5-12.RI.3.7; LAFS.5-12.RI.3.9; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.1; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.2; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.3; LAFS.5-12.SL.2.4; LAFS.5-12.W.1.2; LAFS.5-12.W.2.4; LAFS.5-12.W.3.7



CURBSIDE RECYCLING

CITY/TOWN

BIN REQUEST

Belleair · 727-588-3769 x406 · townofbelleair.com

City · 727-588-3769 x401

Belleair Beach · 727-595-4646 x120 · cityofbelleairbeach.com

City · 727-595-4646 x120

Belleair Bluffs · 727-584-2151 · belleairbluffs.org

Hauler · 727-572-8779

Belleair Shore · 727-593-9296 · belleairshore.com

Hauler · 727-572-6800

Clearwater · 727-562-4920 · myclearwater.com/recycling

City · 727-562-4920

Dunedin · 727-298-3215 x1324 · dunedingov.com

City · 727-298-3215

Gulfport · 727-893-1089 · mygulfport.us*

City · 727-893-1089

Indian Rocks Beach · 727-595-6889 · indian-rocks-beach.com

City · 727-595-6889

Indian Shores · 727-595-4020 · myindiashores.com

Hauler · 727-572-6800

Kenneth City · 727-498-8948 · kennethcityfl.org

Hauler · 727-572-6800

Largo · 727-587-6760 · largorecycles.com

City · 727-587-6760

Madeira Beach · 727-543-8154 · madeirabeachfl.gov

City · 727-543-8154

North Redington Beach · 727-391-4848 · townofnrb.com**

Hauler · 727-452-5278

Oldsmar · 813-749-1135 · myoldsmar.com

City · 813-855-5257

Pinellas Park · 727-369-0690 · pinellas-park.com

City · 727-369-0690

Redington Beach · 727-391-3875 · townofredingtonbeach.com

City · 727-391-3875

Redington Shores · 727-397-5538 · townofredingtonshores.com

City · 727-397-5538

Safety Harbor · 727-724-1550 x2002 · cityofsafetyharbor.com

City · 727-724-1550 x2002

Seminole · 727-397-6383 x3 · myseminole.com

City · 727-393-6383 x3

South Pasadena · 727-384-0701 · mysouthpasadena.com

Hauler · 727-572-6800

St. Petersburg · 727-893-7838 · stpete.org/recycle

City · 727-893-7838

St. Pete Beach · 727-363-9243 · stpetebeach.org

City · 727-363-9243

Tarpon Springs · 727-943-4837 · ctsfl.us

City · 727-943-4837

Treasure Island · 727-547-4575 x253 · mytreasureisland.org

City · 727-547-4575 x253

* Recyclables are collected in two separate bins. Glass is not accepted curbside.

** Call for information about "back door" recycling service.

DON'T LIVE IN ONE OF THE CITIES/TOWNS ABOVE?

Residents who live in unincorporated areas can contract directly with one of the haulers listed below to request curbside recycling service. To find out if you live in an unincorporated area, visit pinellascounty.org/resident/unincorporated_areas.htm.

County Sanitation
727-522-5794
countysanitationservice.com

**Orion Waste Solutions
d/b/a Russo & Sons LLC**
727-561-0360
orionwaste.com

**Superior Trash
Service**
727-254-0664
superiortrashservice.com

Waste Management
727-572-8779
wm.com

D & D Hauling
727-586-6416
dndhauling.com

Solar Sanitation
727-535-0447
solarsanitationinc.com

Waste Connections
727-572-6800
local.progressivewaste.com/Pinellas

Waste Pro
727-452-5278
wasteprousa.com/office/clearwater

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND ELECTRONICS

Pinellas County offers two free options for residents to dispose of unwanted household chemicals and electronics:

WHAT TO BRING



Automotive products

- Oils and antifreeze (Limit: 5 gallons)
- Gasoline and diesel (Limit: five 5 gallon containers)

Batteries (tape terminals)

- Single-use batteries go in trash
- All others are accepted



Electronics accepted

- Cellphones • Computers, laptops, and monitors (Limit: 5)
- Cordless electronics (with nonremovable, rechargeable batteries) • TVs - must be whole (Limit: 6)

Household chemicals

- Adhesives/epoxies • Aerosols
- Cleaners • Cooking oil



Lawn and garden chemicals

- Pesticides/herbicides • Fertilizers • Sprayers

Mercury-containing devices

- Thermometers • Thermostats
- Fluorescent bulbs (Limit: 12)



Paint products

- Paints/stains • Solvents
- (Limit: 20 one-gallon, 5 five-gallon)

Pool and spa products

- Chlorine • Muriatic acid
- Cleaners/clarifiers



Signal flares

- Marine • Road

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS AND CHEMICAL COLLECTION CENTER (HEC₃)

Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2855 109th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
pinellascounty.org/hec3

MOBILE COLLECTION EVENTS

Select Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/mobileoptions

WHAT NOT TO BRING



Appliances

Fire extinguishers



All other electronics, including:

- Printers • Stereos • DVD players • Speakers

Medicine and sharps



Tanks

- Propane tanks over 16oz.
- Oxygen tanks • Helium tanks

Visit pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo to find out what to do with these items.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT: HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

Many of the chemical products that we use in and around our homes can be hazardous to our health and our environment if they are not properly used, stored and disposed of. Using the information above as a guide, find five examples of potentially hazardous products in your home. Next, research nontoxic alternatives using the EPA's Safer Choice website at epa.gov/saferchoice. Write an editorial or a letter to the editor urging consumers to choose products that are safer for human health and the environment. Use the editorials

and letters to the editor in the *Tampa Bay Times* or at tampabay.com/opinion/ as models.

Florida Standards: HE.612.B.5.1; SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7



FREE MULCH

More than
270,000 tons
of yard waste is
turned into mulch
each year in
Pinellas County

Mulch saves water,
prevents erosion,
protects plants and
reduces weeds

For more information, visit pinellascounty.org/mulch

FREE MULCH PICKUP LOCATIONS

A.L. Anderson Park

39699 U.S. 19 N, Tarpon Springs
727-464-7500

Bicentennial Park

East of 565 Tom Stuart Causeway
Madeira Beach
727-543-8154

John Chesnut Sr. Park

2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor
727-464-7500

St. Petersburg recycling/brush sites

- 1000 62nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 7500 26th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 2453 20th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 2500 26th Ave. S, St. Petersburg
- 4015 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S, St. Petersburg
727-893-7398

Clearwater Solid Waste Facility

1701 N Hercules Ave., Clearwater
727-562-4920

Cypress Forest Recreation Center

200 feet north of 650 Pine Ave. N, Oldsmar
813-749-1135

Gulfport Neighborhood Center

1617 49th St. S, Gulfport
727-893-1089

Lake Haven Recycling Center

810 Lake Haven Road, Dunedin
727-298-3215

Pinellas County Solid Waste

3095 114th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
727-464-7500

Pinellas County HEC₃

2855 109th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
727-464-7500

Starkey Road Drop-off Recycling Center

1551 Starkey Road, Largo
727-587-6760

Walsingham Park

12615 102nd Ave. N, Largo
727-464-7500

Waste Management Brush Site

12950 40th St. N, Pinellas Park
727-369-0690

Instead of buying mulch, get it for free! Free mulch is available to Pinellas County residents at the sites above — just bring a pitchfork or shovel and take as much as you need.

For pickup truck or trailer loads, be sure to come prepared with a tarp or vehicle cover to keep your mulch load secured, as required by law.



COMPOSTING

Use the contact information on Page 8 to find out if your city has a home composting program.



Composting occurs when organic waste such as food or plant materials are broken down. This process takes place in the presence of air (aerobic) and is facilitated by beneficial microorganisms.

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. Adding compost to a garden reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.

Food waste should not be put in the county's yard waste collection.

Learn more about composting at sfl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota/natural-resources/waste-reduction/composting

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: COMPOST IN A BUCKET



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" (e.g., grass clippings, manure, and kitchen scraps) and "Browns" (e.g., leaves, sawdust, and wood chips)

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 noncompostable 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 noncompostable 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.

As a class, discuss the outcome. What happened? How does the outcome compare to the predictions made at the start of the experiment? Using the video examples on tampabay.com and on the Resources page at tampabay.com/nie as models, create a video presentation about your experiment and results to share with your school.

*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*

Florida Standards: SC.512.N.1.1; SC.612.CS-CC.1.3; SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7

WHAT DO I DO WITH OLD BATTERIES?



Never place batteries in your recycling bin.

Alkaline

Non-rechargeable household batteries such as AA, C, D, 9-volt



Place in trash



All Others

Lithium, Li-ion, lead acid, rechargeable, button cell, etc.



Drop-Off



Visit pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo and search for "batteries" to find a drop-off location near you.

ABOUT NIE

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.

NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tampa Bay Times* plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2019-2020, NIE provided more than 1.1 million print copies and 10 million digital editions of the *Times* to area classrooms free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are aligned to the Florida Standards.



For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/TBTimesNIE. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

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TEACH WITH THE TIMES AND WIN

Educators, share 100 words about how you used this resource in your classroom for a chance to win a \$15 gift card! Visit tampabay.com/nie for details and to enter.

Contact Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

pinellascounty.org/recycle
Live Chat Available

727-464-7500

recycle@pinellascounty.org

Florida Standards

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

Health: HE.612.B.5.1 **Language Arts:** LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.L.2.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.2.6; LAFS.512.L.3.4; LAFS.512.RF.3.3; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.4; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.8; LAFS.512.RI.3.9 **Science:** SC.4.L.17.4; SC.912.L.17.17; SC.512.N.1.1; SC.612.CS-CC.1.3 **Social Studies:** SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5;

A text-only version of this guide can be found at pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/recycle-guide/