

2024

Pasco Recycling



Recycling@MyPasco.net • 727-857-2780

[Facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling](https://www.facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling)



Calendar of events 2024-2025

April 2024

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park
April 27, 2024

June 2024

World Oceans Day
June 8, 2024

September 2024

Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup
September 21, 2024

November 2024

America Recycles Day
November 15, 2024

December 2024

Household Hazardous Waste
and Electronics Collection Event
Dec. TBD, 2024

Christmas Tree Recycling

December 26, 2024 – January
TBD, 2025

January 2025

Florida Arbor Day
January 17, 2025

March 2025

Great American Cleanup
March 1, 2025

All dates subject to change. Visit

KeepPascoBeautiful.org, or
call 727-247-2411 ext. 1072 or
727-857-2780 for updates.

What can I recycle curbside in Pasco County?

- **Aluminum cans and metal food cans** (clean and dry)
- **Plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7** (no caps or squirt bottle nozzles)
- **Mixed paper and newspaper** (clean and dry)
- **Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard** (no dirty or greasy cardboard)



What **NOT** to recycle curbside in Pasco County

- **NO** plastic bags
- **NO** glass
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** milk or juice cartons
- **NO** "tanglers" (hoses, wires, zip ties)
- **NOTHING** bigger than a cat litter container
- **NOTHING** smaller than your fist
- **NOTHING** wet or dirty



Why no glass?

Glass breaks during the recycling process, contaminating other materials and reducing their recyclability and their value. Glass is also the most expensive material to recycle, and there is currently very little market for it. Place glass in the trash, where it will be sent to Pasco's Waste-to-Energy Facility, burned to produce electricity and likely used in future sustainable public works projects. **Do the right thing and throw glass away.**



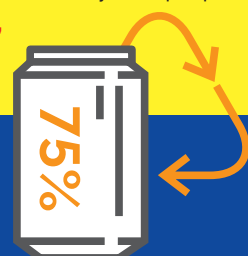
Size matters

Pasco County does not recycle items that are larger than a cat litter container. Recycling machinery is not designed for large items.

Please, no tires, laundry baskets or storage bins in your recycling bin!

Pasco County does not recycle items that are smaller than your fist. Small items fall through the recycling machinery and cannot be recycled properly.

Please, no bottle caps, single-use coffee pods, straws or lids in your recycling bin!



75 percent of all aluminum and steel ever produced is still in circulation. It is possible that the aluminum and steel in your beverage or food container can date back to the 1800s and have been used many times.

Source: Can Manufacturers Institute

Curbside trash and recycling collection in Pasco County

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 service.

Curbside recycling service is included with curbside trash service in Pasco County. Your trash hauler is obligated to provide you at least once-per-week recycling service.* If you would like to start recycling in Pasco County, call your trash hauler to request a recycling cart and for your recycling schedule.

Coastal Waste & Recycling
(County Sanitation)
888-522-5794 or 727-561-0360
CoastalWasteInc.com

J.D. Parker & Sons
727-845-1024
JDParkerAndSons.com

Republic Services
727-868-2566
RepublicServices.com

Waste Aid Systems
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
*Some restrictions apply

Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a laptop for five hours.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Solid waste items accepted at County facilities

- **Up to 8 bags of trash per day** (no charge)
- **Furniture** (\$91.75 per ton or \$4.45 for every 100 pounds)
- **Construction debris** (\$91.75 per ton or \$4.45 for every 100 pounds)
- **Yard waste** (\$91.75 per ton or \$4.45 for every 100 pounds)
- **Mixed loads** (\$91.75 per ton or \$4.45 for every 100 pounds)
- **Car/pickup tires** (\$2 per tire)
- **Truck/semi tires** (\$10 per tire)



- **All other tires and loads over 10 tires** (West Pasco location only) (\$200 per ton)
- **Refrigerators** (\$3 each)
- **Air conditioners** (\$3 each)
- **Metal** (no charge unless in a mixed load)

Pasco County Recycling Drop-Off Locations



Pasco County residents who do not have curbside recycling service can drop off recycling at the following drop-off sites.

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility
14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill
Mon. – Sat., 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053
(additional items accepted)

Holiday Area Recycling
Anclote Gulf Park
2305 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday
Wed. – Sat., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(recycling only)

East Pasco Transfer Station
9626 Handcart Road, Dade City
Mon. – Sat., 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
352-521-0500
(additional items accepted)

Land O'Lakes Area Recycling
Senior Services Center
6801 Wisteria Loop, Land O'Lakes
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(recycling only)

What is accepted at Drop-Off locations:

- Aluminum cans and metal food cans (clean and dry)
- Plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 (no caps or squirt bottle nozzles)
- Mixed paper and newspaper (clean and dry)
- Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard (no dirty or greasy cardboard)

Self-hauling

Pasco County residents who do not purchase curbside trash service can bring items to the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility or the East Pasco Transfer Station. Proof of Pasco County residency is required.

Going beyond the text: Wishcycling



“Wishcycling” is putting something non-recyclable in the recycling bin and hoping that somehow it will be recycled anyway.

Wishcycling is well-intentioned, but it ends up creating more problems than solutions. Read the article “Hey, Tampa Bay recyclers, mistakes could derail your goodwill” in the Nov. 25, 2023 issue of the Tampa Bay Times. Next, research items that are commonly wishcycled in Pasco County at bit.ly/RecyclePasco.

Using the information you have found, write down the causes and effects of contamination in home recycling bins. Write a cause-effect essay explaining how wishcycling leads to recycling contamination. A cause-effect essay tells how one event (the cause) leads to another event (the effect). Share what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.K12.C.1.1; ELA.K12.C.1.2; ELA.K12.C.1.3; ELA.K12.C.1.4; ELA.K12.C.1.5; ELA.K12.C.2.1; ELA.K12.C.3.1; ELA.K12.C.4.1; ELA.K12.R.2.2; ELA.K12.V.1.1; SC.K12.N.1



JOIN US FOR:

- **Live Remote with HITS106**
9 a.m. – noon
- **Mercury bounty:**
Bring a mercury-containing device for a \$5 gift card (excluding light bulbs).
- **Electronics recycling:**
Two TVs free, additional TVs \$5/each. All household electronics will be accepted.
- **Document shredding:**
Up to three copy-paper sized boxes or two 13-gallon trash bags per person.
- **Household Hazardous Waste collection:**
call 727-857-2780 for information.
- **Fox Tales Florida Rescue & Sanctuary**
- **Florida Skunk Rescue**
- **Ladybug release**
- **DunnDee Farms**
- **Children's crafts and educational displays**
- **Upcycle vendors**
- **And much more!**



COVANTA

HAPPY EARTH DAY



SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

CREWS LAKE WILDERNESS PARK

16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill

"COMPOST HAPPENS" WORKSHOP (FREE) • 10-11 A.M.

Attend this free and informative in-person presentation to learn tips and tricks about the science and art of composting.

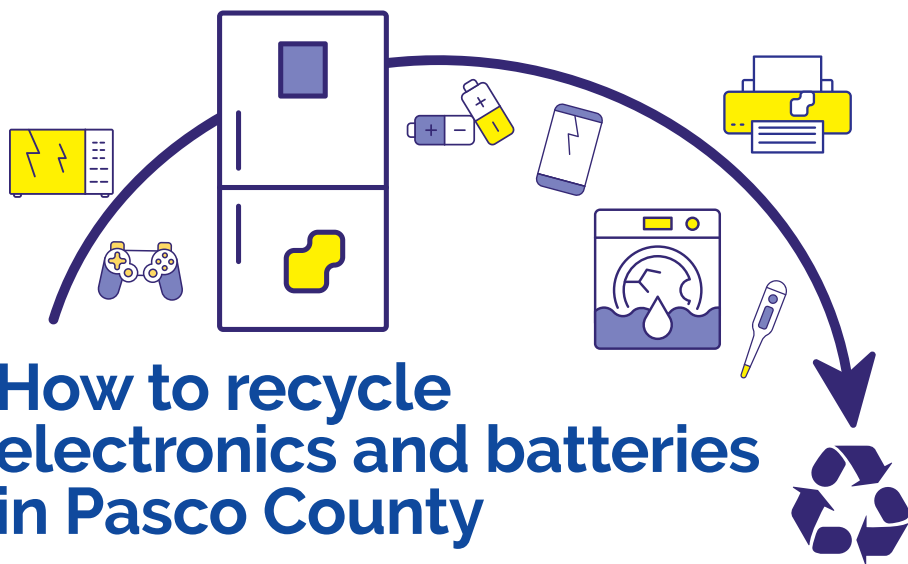
Register at
bit.ly/CompostHappens2024

RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOP WITH RAIN BARREL (\$65) • 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

This workshop will explain the purpose, benefits, and function of rain barrels for rainwater collection. Open to Pasco residents only. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

Register in advance at
bit.ly/RainWaterHarvesting2024.

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



How to recycle electronics and batteries in Pasco County

Household battery recycling

Most batteries, regardless of type, contain toxic chemicals such as cadmium, lead, lithium or sulfuric acid. When a battery is thrown away in the trash, it ends up in a landfill or incinerator where pollutants like these can be released. Not only does this have the potential to impact human health and the environment, but we also are losing metals and natural resources that require energy to mine and manufacture.

Pasco County Resource Recovery has public drop-off locations with battery recycling containers located across the county. Batteries also are accepted at Pasco County's two Household Hazardous Waste collection centers, listed on Page 7.

In 2023,
Pasco County
collected for
recycling:

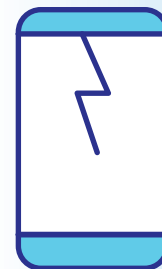
25,000
POUNDS
OF
HOUSEHOLD
BATTERIES

97.3 TONS
OF ELECTRONICS

Household battery drop-off locations

- **All Pasco County Libraries**
- **Central Pasco Professional Center** –
4111 Land O'Lakes Blvd., Suite 202, Land O' Lakes
- **East Pasco Government Center** –
14236 6th St., Dade City
- **J. Ben Harrill Holiday Recreation Complex** –
2830 Gulf Trace Blvd., Holiday
- **Land O'Lakes Recreation Center** –
3032 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes
- **New Port Richey City Hall** –
5919 Main St., New Port Richey
- **Pasco County Community Services Elderly Nutrition** –
600 Galen Wilson Blvd., Port Richey
- **West Pasco Government Center** –
8731 Citizens Dr., first floor, New Port Richey

Electronics recycling



As of 2019, only 17.4% of e-waste in the U.S. was collected and recycled. It is estimated that up to 75% of old electronics remain in homes because people don't know what to do with them. Computers, TVs, stereo systems and other electronic equipment contain both useful recyclable materials and elements that are hazardous and must not end up in landfills or be incinerated.

Electronic equipment accepted for recycling in Pasco County includes cellphones, computers, TVs, computer monitors, printers and fax machines. There is a \$5 per item charge for TVs, laptops, computer monitors and CPUs. TVs larger than 36 inches are \$10 each.

Pasco County accepts electronics for recycling at its two Household Hazardous Waste collection centers, listed on Page 7.



Going beyond the text: Dealing with e-waste

According to the [Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse \(ERCC\)](#), 25 states have laws banning electronics from the trash. According to the [Product Stewardship Institute](#), 23 states have passed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, requiring manufacturers to create or fund programs to recycle their electronic products. While the Florida Department of Environmental Protection strongly recommends recycling all unwanted electronic products, Florida has no specific laws or regulations that apply to them. Should it be illegal to throw electronic waste in the trash in Florida? Should manufacturers be required to create or fund programs to recycle the products they sell in Florida? Research this issue using the Tampa Bay Times and the Internet. Using the opinion articles and editorials in the Tampa Bay Times and online at tampabay.com/opinion as models, write an opinion article in support of or against implementing these laws in Florida. Share your argument and what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: SC.K2.CS-PC.1.1; SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16; ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.K12.C.1.1; ELA.K12.C.1.2; ELA.K12.C.1.3; ELA.K12.C.1.4; ELA.K12.C.1.5; ELA.K12.C.2.1; ELA.K12.C.3.1; ELA.K12.C.4.1; ELA.K12.R.2.2; ELA.K12.V.1.1

For more information about recycling electronics and batteries, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-847-2411, ext. 2046.

Household Hazardous Waste



What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients are considered to be Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides contain potentially hazardous ingredients that require special care when you dispose of them. Improper disposal of HHW can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Items **ACCEPTED** at Pasco County HHW Collection Centers include:

- Automotive fluids
- Electronics
- Cooking oils
- Fluorescent lamps
- Gasoline
- Herbicides and pesticides
- Household chemicals and cleaners
- Household and lead-acid batteries
- Paints, solvents and stains
- Propane tanks



Items **NOT ACCEPTED** at Pasco County HHW Collection Centers include:

- Acetylene gas cylinders
- Ammunition
- Biomedical waste
- Business waste
- Drums of any size
- Explosives
- Fireworks
- Medications
- Radioactive materials
- Sharps
- Solar panels



Where do I take my HHW?



Pasco County manages and operates two Household Hazardous Waste collection centers for the safe handling, processing and proper disposal of HHW. HHW brought to the collection centers by Pasco residents is either recycled or sent out to a permitted hazardous waste management facility for treatment.

Household Hazardous Waste collection centers

East Pasco Transfer Station

Citizens drop-off
9626 Handcart Road, Dade City
352-521-0500
Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

Citizens drop-off
14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill
727-861-3053
Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Recycling one ton of plastic bottles reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 3,380 pounds - the equivalent of 173 gallons of gasoline.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries



Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Program



Household Hazardous Waste diversion and disposal is critical. Pasco County has a partnership with the local Habitat for Humanity and donates any household hazardous waste that is still in good condition and usable. This allows HHW that was previously bound for disposal to be used for its original purpose. The partnership with Habitat for Humanity reduces the cost for disposal and allows for better material management.

Approximately 670 pounds of HHW was diverted from disposal and donated to Habitat for Humanity for reuse in 2023.

Going beyond the text: Interviewing mother nature



In this activity, students will act as reporters trying to discover how household hazardous waste can affect the natural environment if it is not disposed of properly.

In pairs, prepare 5-10 questions and answers representing an interview with an animal, tree, flower or other member of nature. Use the interviews in the Tampa Bay Times as models. Think about what questions the reporter should ask in order to write a compelling story, and how elements in nature would think and feel if hazardous waste was contaminating the environment around them. Roleplay your interview for the class without telling them who your interview subject is. See if your class can guess based on your questions and answers.

Adapted from: *The Quest for Less: Activities and Resources for Teaching K-8*, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Florida Standards: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16; ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.K12.C.1.1; ELA.K12.C.1.2; ELA.K12.C.1.3; ELA.K12.C.1.4; ELA.K12.C.1.5; ELA.K12.C.2.1; ELA.K12.C.3.1; ELA.K12.C.4.1; ELA.K12.R.2.2; ELA.K12.V.1.1

Using recycled plastics in manufacturing saves up to 88 percent of the energy needed to produce plastics from raw materials.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries



Fluorescent lamp recycling

Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) should never be placed in household trash or in curbside recycling.

Fluorescent tubes and CFLs contain a small amount of mercury that is essential for the bulb to emit light. While mercury is effective in emitting white light, it is also highly toxic. When one of these types of lamps breaks, toxic mercury is released in a vapor form.

Pasco County incinerates household trash in a Waste-to-Energy facility. Removing mercury from the solid waste stream is critical for the health of our workers, our residents and the environment.

Pasco County Solid Waste accepts residential fluorescent lamps for recycling at its two Household Hazardous Waste collection centers.

LED, incandescent and halogen bulbs can be placed directly into household trash. These types of lamps are mercury-free and contain no hazardous materials, and any metals are recovered from the incineration process.

Bright ideas: Reasons to switch to LED lighting

- LEDs emit the least amount of CO₂ compared to other types of lighting
- LEDs last about 50,000 more hours than fluorescent lighting
- LEDs use roughly half the wattage of fluorescent and CFL lighting

For more information on Household Hazardous Waste disposal, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 727-847-2411, ext. 2046, or visit bit.ly/HouseholdChemicalDisposal.



Pasco Re
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Going beyond the text: Human-environment interaction



Geographers use the term human-environment interaction to describe how people react to and change the environment in both positive and negative ways.

There are three types of human-environment interaction:

1. **We depend on it.** For example, people depend on lakes and rivers for water and transportation.
2. **We modify it.** For example, people modify our environment by heating and cooling buildings for comfort.
3. **We adapt to it.** For example, people adapt to the environment by wearing clothing or using other tools suitable for heat (shorts) and cold (coats), rain (umbrella) and sun (sunscreen).

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Recycling Community



Recycling one ton of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

Working in small groups, brainstorm ways that people affect their environment every day (for example, driving cars, using water, disposing of trash) and through seasonal activities (for example, watering lawns, raking leaves, hunting). Label three pieces of paper “We depend on it,” “We modify it” and “We adapt to it.” Write each activity under the category your group believes it belongs.

Next, look through the Tampa Bay Times for headlines, news articles, photographs, illustrations and advertisements that show examples of human-environment interaction. Cut each example out and paste it under the category where your group believes it belongs.

When studying human-environment interaction, geographers look at all effects, both positive and negative, that occur when people interact with their surroundings. Sometimes a human act intended to produce only

positive effects, such as constructing a dam to prevent flooding of people’s homes, also produces unintended negative effects, such as harm to wildlife.

As a class, discuss the examples the groups found. Which are more harmful to the environment? Which are more helpful to the environment? Suggest ways that people can change their behavior and improve their environment.

Adapted from: *GOING GREEN: Newspapers as Sources for Greener Teaching*, New York New Publishers Association Newspaper In Education Program

Florida Standards: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16; ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.K12.C.1.1; ELA.K12.C.1.2; ELA.K12.C.1.3; ELA.K12.C.1.4; ELA.K12.C.1.5; ELA.K12.C.2.1; ELA.K12.C.3.1; ELA.K12.C.4.1; ELA.K12.R.2.2; ELA.K12.V.1.1

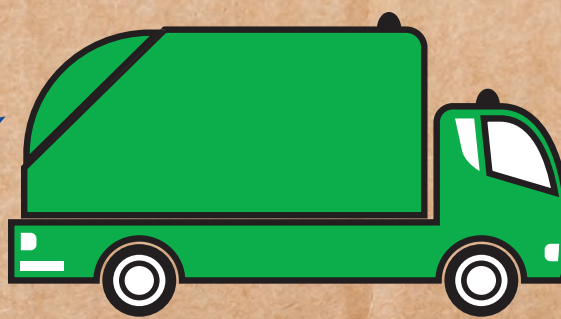
1

Pasco county has seven different, licensed trash haulers who pick up both garbage and recycling. Call your trash hauler to find out your recycling pickup schedule.



2

Your recycling is brought by your trash hauler to a County facility in Spring Hill. This facility acts as a halfway point between Pasco County residents and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).



3

Your recycling is then sent to a MRF to be sorted and prepared for remanufacturing. Pasco County's recycling is sent to a MRF in St. Petersburg.



What happens to your recycling?



4

After your recycling arrives at the MRF, the recycling load is looked over by employees, who remove any large pieces of contamination.



7

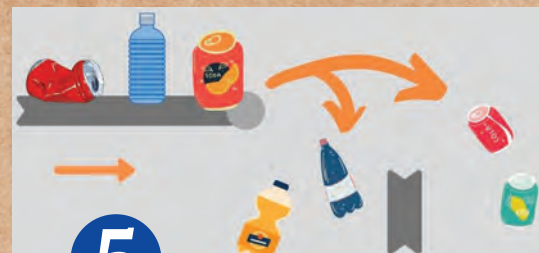
The final and most important part of the recycling process is YOU! For recycling to work, products that use recycled materials need to find homes on our shelves, not only in our recycling bin.

Made with recycled content



5

Next, a series of complex machines sorts the recycling into paper and cardboard, plastics, magnetic items such as steel food cans and aluminum.



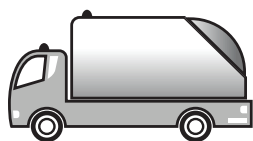
6

The sorted recycled materials are then shipped locally and internationally to be remanufactured into new products.



Waste-to-Energy: In Pasco County, trash = electricity

1 Trash is collected from homes and businesses by third-party haulers and taken to the Pasco County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility.

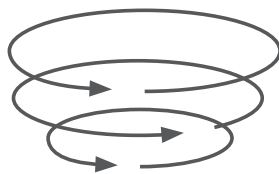


2 Trash is combusted to produce energy, which is sold to Duke Energy. Gases produced by combustion are processed, filtered and cleaned before being safely released into the atmosphere.

3 Reclaimed water from the County's wastewater treatment plant is used in the Waste-to-Energy facility's cooling tower.



4 Magnets are used to recover ferrous metals, such as iron and steel, from the ash.



5 Electrical currents called eddy currents are used to recover nonferrous metals such as aluminum and copper. These metals are then sold for recycling.



6 The leftover ash, which takes up 85 percent less space than the original trash, is landfilled or used in roadbeds.

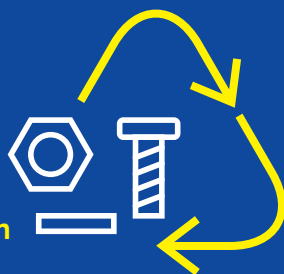
The WTE will undergo improvements to better handle Pasco's growing population.

Ferrous scrap, which is made from iron and steel, is the most recycled material in the United States and worldwide.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

One metric ton of electronic scrap from personal computers contains more gold than that recovered from 17 tons of gold ore.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries



Landfilling vs. Waste-to-Energy

Landfill	Waste-to-Energy
Landfill waste can take 100 years or more to fully degrade.	Garbage is processed into energy in a matter of hours.
Landfills recover no discarded metals.	Pasco's WTE facility recovers enough metal annually to make 9,000 cars, 83 million aluminum cans or a paper clip chain long enough to encircle the Earth 16 times.
Methane emitted by landfills is the second-largest contributor to global climate change.	One ton of waste processed in a WTE facility avoids a ton of CO2 equivalent emissions.
Landfills accounted for 15 percent of all methane emissions in 2019.	Pasco's WTE facility operates at up to 99 percent below federal emissions standards.

**MORE THAN
1,050 TONS OF TRASH**



are combusted in Pasco County each day to produce energy.



10,500 TONS

OF FERROUS METALS ARE RECOVERED ANNUALLY, ENOUGH TO BUILD 9,000 CARS.

1,200 TONS OF NON-FERROUS METALS



are recovered annually. Manufacturing products from recycled aluminum saves up to 95 percent of the energy needed to manufacture them from new materials.

Pasco County's WTE facility generates



31 MEGAWATTS OF ENERGY

per year, enough to power 22,000 homes.

Protect your family, your pets and the Earth: Dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication properly



- Prevent poisoning of children, pets and wildlife
- Deter misuse and abuse
- Avoid health problems from accidentally taking the wrong medicine or medicine that is too old to work well
- Keep pharmaceuticals from entering our waterways

Unwanted or expired medication should never be flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink.

In cities and towns where residences are connected to wastewater treatment plants, prescription and over-the-counter drugs

poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the treatment system and enter rivers and lakes. They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Water treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines.

In homes that use septic tanks, prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can leach into the ground and seep into groundwater.

Eventually, these drugs end up in our waterways, where they can negatively impact aquatic wildlife and, potentially, human health and life.

Pasco County medication take-back locations



Pasco County law enforcement agencies offer several take-back locations across the county.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office West Operations Center

7432 Little Road, New Port Richey
M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office East Operations Center

36409 SR 52, Dade City
M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office District 3 Office

11530 Trinity Blvd., Trinity
M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New Port Richey Police Department

6739 Adams St., New Port Richey
M-F 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dade City Police Department

38030 Meridian Ave., Dade City
24/7

In addition to the locations above, some retail pharmacies offer medication take-back collection. Contact your local store or visit dea.gov/takebackday to find a location near you.

Medication disposal **DOs** and **DON'Ts**

- **DO** visit a participating take-back location or collection center for proper disposal.
- **DO** participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (dea.gov/takebackday).
- **DO** follow the guidelines below if you must dispose of medications in the trash.
- **DON'T** give medications to another person.
- **DON'T** flush medications down the toilet or pour them down the drain.
- **DON'T** throw away medications without disguising them from humans and animals.

Put medications in the trash the right way

If none of the disposal options above are available to you, follow these steps to safely dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medications. Never put medications in the trash without disguising them.

1. Keep medicine in the original container so it can be identified in case of accidental ingestion.
2. Use a marker or razor blade to remove your personal information and prescription number from the label.
3. Add water or soda to pills to start dissolving them. If the drug is a liquid, add dirt or cat litter to help discourage misuse or unintentional use of the medication if it's found and opened.
4. Secure the lid tightly and seal it with duct tape.
5. Place medicine container(s) in a non-see-through container such as a coffee can or empty laundry bottle.
6. Tape that container closed and place it in the trash.



Sharps Exchange Program

The Pasco County Sharps Exchange Program provides residents with a way to safely dispose of their needles, syringes, tubes and lancets for no charge while also receiving a new sharps container for free.

Improper disposal of sharps can lead to them entering the sewer system, solid waste stream or environment, which endangers the safety and health of sanitation workers, residents, pets and wildlife.



Going beyond the text: Writing environmental photo captions

In pairs or small groups, look through the Tampa Bay Times for photos that show plants, animals and humans in their environment. Cut or print out the photos, including the captions and stories. Discuss what is happening in the photo and what short- and long-term impact(s) the actions observed in the photo might have on the environment.

For each photo, write a new narrative that includes a new caption, headline and brief story about the environment. Use the captions, headlines and articles in the Tampa Bay Times as models. Present your finished narratives to the class.

Adapted from: *GOING GREEN: Newspapers as Sources for Greener Teaching*, New York New Publishers Association Newspaper In Education Program

Florida Standards: ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.

K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.K12.C.1.1; ELA.K12.C.1.2; ELA.K12.C.1.3; ELA.K12.C.1.4; ELA.K12.C.1.5; ELA.K12.C.2.1; ELA.K12.C.3.1; ELA.K12.C.4.1; ELA.K12.R.2.2; ELA.K12.V.1.1



How does the program work?

1. Visit one of the six sponsoring facilities to obtain a red sharps container. Visit bit.ly/HouseholdChemicalDisposal to find a list of participating locations.
2. Take the new container to your home and place it out of reach of children.
3. Perform your injections as needed and then dispose of the syringes completely intact into the sharps container.
4. When full, seal the container and exchange it for a new one at a participating location.

Sharps are **not** accepted at any of the Pasco County Health Department locations or any Pasco County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.

For more information about medication disposal or sharps exchange, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 727-847-2411, ext. 2046.

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf within just 60 days.

Source: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

Pasco County Residential Cooking il Recycling Effort (CORE)



CORE drop-off locations

Pasco County residents are encouraged to recycle all used cooking oils and fats, including bacon grease. Liquids and semi-solids are accepted at the drop-off locations. Every ounce recycled is one less down the drain!

East Pasco Transfer Station
9526 Handcart Road, Dade City

Pasco County Facilities
220 Osteen Road, New Port Richey

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility
14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill

Zephyrhills Maintenance Yard
39421 South Ave., Zephyrhills

Commercial and industrial customers must contact a licensed commercial grease hauler for cooking oil disposal.

CORE tips

- Never pour oils or grease down the sink.
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape food waste into the trash.
- Minimize use of your garbage disposal. Remember, it is not a trash can. A lot of small pieces of food can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers and clean them often.
- Pour cooled cooking oils and fats into a container and store in a cool, safe location.
- Don't mix the cooking oil with any other liquids or products.
- Once the container is full bring it to a C.O.R.E. drop-off location.



Since 2007, Pasco County has participated in the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort (CORE) program, a statewide initiative to educate the public on residential cooking oil collection and recycling.

Have a septic tank? Recycling your used oils can help reduce drain field problems.

Used cooking oils are recycled and processed for use in many products like poultry feed, soap, biofuel and fertilizer. Newer uses include lubrication for construction pilings. Your used cooking oil

is a commodity in demand! It can also be an environmentally friendly substitute for petroleum.

Residents are encouraged to recycle all used cooking oils and fats, including bacon grease. Liquids and semi-solids are both accepted at the CORE drop-off locations. Every ounce recycled is one less down the drain!

Commercial and industrial customers must contact a licensed commercial grease hauler for cooking oil disposal.

In 2023, the Pasco County CORE program collected more than 2,795 GALLONS OF COOKING OIL

For more information about Pasco County's CORE program, contact FOG@MyPasco.net or 727-847-8123.



Think before you flush:

Protect your home and family from sewer backups



The Pasco County Sanitary Sewer Collection System is a network of sewer lines, man-holes, and pumping stations. Many sewer line clogs are caused by residents flushing wipes, trash, hygiene products and other solids down the toilet. Hygiene and baby wipes do not dissolve like toilet paper when flushed, and are one of the leading causes of problems in the wastewater collection system.

Most clogs can be avoided. They not only have potential health risks, but also cost money for added maintenance and repairs to sewer lines and pump stations. Help avoid backups by putting items such as wipes, feminine hygiene products, family planning products, cotton balls and swabs, and cat litter in the trash.

Think before you flush and protect your home and family from sewer backups. Just because you can flush it, doesn't mean you should.

NEVER FLUSH

- Baby, personal care or cleaning wipes (including the “flushable” kind!)
- Paper towels or cloth rags
- Cloth or disposable diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Dental floss
- Cotton balls, swabs or Q-tips
- Family planning products
- Coffee grounds
- Cat litter
- Contact lenses
- Prescription or over-the-counter medications
- Syringes or sharps



FLUSHABLE WIPES



DIAPERS



COTTON PRODUCTS



DENTAL FLOSS



FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS



CAT LITTER



COFFEE GROUNDS AND TEA LEAVES



MEDICATIONS AND BANDAGES

Going beyond the text: Flushable or not?



In this activity, you will measure the speed at which common products break down in the presence of water. From these observations, you will be able to make suggestions about materials that should or should not be flushed down the toilet.

Materials needed

- Five one-quart jars
- Materials to test:
 - Single-ply toilet paper
 - Double-ply or super-soft toilet paper
 - Wipes labeled as flushable
 - Kitchen paper towels
 - Cotton balls, swabs or Q-tips

Procedure

1. Predict what you think will happen to each sample material. Write your predictions down.
2. Fill each jar with tap water and put one type of sample material in each. Label each jar with the name of the material it contains.
3. Shake each jar to mix the contents. Shake each jar with the same force and for the same number of times.
4. Over a period of two to six weeks, observe, draw and describe the changes in the materials. Create graphs of the changes in the materials over time.
5. At the end of the observation period, draw conclusions based on your results. Are there any materials that completely dissolved? Are there any that did not appear to change in any way? Based on your observations and knowledge, which materials should be flushed? Why? Which should not be flushed? Why?

Using the articles in the Tampa Bay Times as your models, write an article about what you have discovered. Enhance your article with a graph, chart or infographic.

Florida Standards: SC.68.N.3.1; SC.68.N.3.2; SC.68.N.3.3; SC.68.N.3.4
ELA.68.C.1.3; ELA.68.C.1.4; ELA.68.C.2.1; ELA.68.C.3.1; ELA.68.C.4.1;
ELA.68.R.2.2; ELA.68.R.2.3; ELA.68.R.2.4; ELA.68.V.1.1; ELA.68.V.1.3;
ELA.612.F.2.1; ELA.612.F.2.2; ELA.612.F.2.3; ELA.612.F.2.4



About the Recycling and Education Division

The Recycling and Education Division is committed to reducing the waste stream through recycling and reuse, encouraging environmental stewardship, and providing information and presentations to educate citizens about recycling and the benefits of waste reduction.

Pasco Recycling is a frequent presence at community events, from neighborhood gatherings to large festivals, holiday jamborees and farmer's markets, educating residents about recycling and waste reduction.

For more information about recycling in Pasco County or to invite Pasco Recycling to your event, call 727-857-2780 or email recycling@MyPasco.net.



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Florida Standards

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

ELA.K.12.EE.1.1; ELA.K.12.EE.2.1;
ELA.K.12.EE.3.1; ELA.K.12.EE.5.1;
ELA.K.12.EE.4.1; ELA.K.12.EE.6.1;
ELA.K.12.C.1.1; ELA.K.12.C.1.2;
ELA.K.12.C.1.3; ELA.K.12.C.1.4;
ELA.K.12.C.1.5; ELA.K.12.C.2.1;
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SC.g12.L.17.14; SC.g12.L.17.16;
SC.68.N.3.1; SC.68.N.3.2;
SC.68.N.3.3; SC.68.N.3.4



**Recycling 10 plastic bottles
saves enough energy to power
97.8 hours of a 60W CFL lightbulb.**



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency