

# PASCO Recycling 2019

*Caring for our Earth*



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## 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.

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 2017-2018, NIE provided more than 1.5 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](http://tampabay.com/nie), call 727-893-8138 or email [ordernie@tampabay.com](mailto:ordernie@tampabay.com). Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE). Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TBTnie](https://facebook.com/TBTnie).

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# Teach with the *Times* and win \$15

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](http://tampabay.com/nie) for details and to enter.

## 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.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.7.E.6.6; SC.7.L.17.3; SC.8.N.4.1; SC.8.N.4.2; SC.912.E.6.6; SC.912.L.17.3; SC.912.L.17.12; SC.912.L.17.13; SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.15; SC.912.L.17.16; SC.912.L.17.17; SC.912.L.17.20; SC.912.N.4.1; SC.912.N.4.2

## Get educated

The Pasco County Recycling program offers educational presentations to groups such as civic associations, homeowners associations and youth groups on topics including waste reduction, recycling and the county's Adopt-a-Road Program. For more information, contact Lisa at 727-856-4539.

# Pasco Recycling Calendar of Events

2019-2020

## APRIL 2019

Earth Day at Crews Lake Wilderness Park  
April 27, 2019

## SEPTEMBER 2019

Coastal Cleanup  
September 21, 2019

## NOVEMBER 2019

America Recycles Day  
November 15, 2019

Upcycle Festival at Heritage Park  
November 16, 2019

## DECEMBER 2019

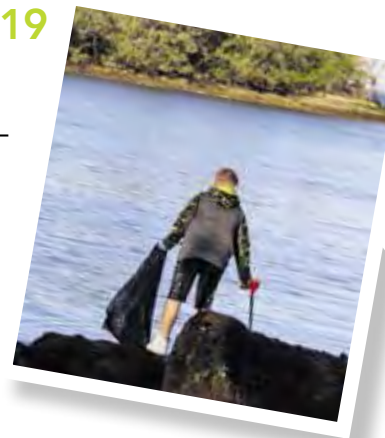
Christmas tree recycling  
December 26, 2019 – January 17, 2020

## MARCH 2020

Great American Cleanup  
March 7, 2020

All dates subject to change.

Visit [pascocountyfl.net](http://pascocountyfl.net) and [pasco.k12.fl.us](http://pasco.k12.fl.us) for updated information.



## Going Beyond the Text Engaging the community

Keep Pasco Beautiful is a small, nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction and encourage beautification. Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for other organizations and individuals who are trying to make a positive difference in Pasco County. Look through all sections of the newspaper, including the news, features, editorials and classifieds. Make a list of the organizations and individuals you find and write down what they are doing to help the community. Share what you have learned with your class and family.

# Keep Pasco Beautiful

Keep Pasco Beautiful is a small, nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction and encourage beautification.

It has been documented that trash will attract more trash. Keep Pasco Beautiful tackles this problem with two annual cleanups: the Great American Cleanup, on the first Saturday in March, and the Coastal Cleanup, on the third Saturday in September. In 2018, these cleanups had 2,448 volunteers that worked for 3,307 hours and picked up 79,640 pounds of trash.

Each year, Keep Pasco Beautiful celebrates America Recycles Day by hosting the Pasco Upcycle and Art Festival. The 2018 festival had approximately 6,000 attendees and 120 vendors. Keep Pasco Beautiful also co-sponsors Pasco's award-winning Earth Day event on the fourth Saturday in April.

In 2018, Keep Pasco Beautiful was awarded the Non-Profit of the Year award from the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about Keep Pasco Beautiful, visit [keepascobeautiful.org](http://keepascobeautiful.org), email [info@keepascobeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepascobeautiful.org) or call 727-856-7252.



## Keep monofilament out of our waters

Monofilament fishing line is a single-strand plastic that is strong and flexible, which makes it perfect for fishing. But, if not properly disposed of, monofilament can harm wildlife and our environment.

According to the Texas A&M Sea Grant program, monofilament is nonbiodegradable and lasts approximately 600 years. Birds and other animals have difficulty seeing it because it is so thin and clear, and can become entangled. Once entangled, they can become injured, drown or starve to death. Animals also mistake the fishing line for food and swallow it.

To address this problem, Keep Pasco Beautiful is starting the Monofilament Education and Recovery Program. Businesses and organizations will soon be able to adopt a monofilament tube or bin. The first phase of the program will focus on the coastline of the county from U.S. 19 westward. The monofilament that is collected will be recycled.

For more information on the Monofilament Education and Recovery Program, email [info@keepascobeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepascobeautiful.org) or call 727-856-7252.

**If you are fishing and your line gets snagged on a rock or mangrove, try to free it before cutting it. When you do have to cut your line, make sure to dispose of it properly in a trash can.**



# Earth Day



The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970, in reaction to the increasing pace of environmental disasters and a growing public awareness of the consequences of environmental damage. Earth Day is now a global event, with more than 1 billion people in 192 countries taking part annually.

The theme of Earth Day 2019 is Protect Our Species. The theme is intended to highlight the destruction of plant and wildlife populations due to causes driven by human activity, such as climate change,

deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides.

In Florida, more than 100 species of animals are considered endangered, threatened or of special concern; while more than 500 species of plants are considered endangered, threatened or commercially exploited.

*Sources: Earth Day Network, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*



You're invited!

# Earth DAY

## Pasco County Earth Day 2019

# Celebration

Saturday, April 27, 2019 🌸 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sponsored by

## COVANTA

### Crews Lake Wilderness Park

16739 Crews Lake Dr. • Spring Hill, Fla. 34610

# Pasco County receives national award for Earth Day celebration

The North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) has awarded Keep Pasco Beautiful, Covanta Pasco and Pasco County Utilities Environmental Services the national Innovative Partnerships award for its Earth Day celebration. The award recognizes the collaboration among the three organizations. "We are honored to receive this national award," said Keep Pasco Beautiful coordinator Kristen King. "Lottie Kelley of Covanta Pasco has chaired the Earth Day celebration for 20 years. It is her passion for the environment and community that makes the event such a success."

The Innovative Partnerships award recognizes partnerships among companies, government agencies, nonprofit groups and political entities that have worked together to accomplish a goal supportive of the NAHMMA mission. It is the strength and diversity of the Pasco collaboration that impressed the national organization.

Now in its 23rd year, the Pasco County Earth Day celebration provides fun environmental activities for families while educating participants about waste reduction, pollution prevention and water conservation. In 2018, on-site household waste and recycling services collected 6,585 pounds of electronics, as well as hundreds of pounds of hazardous household materials.



## 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.
- 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.
- Croc Encounters live reptile wildlife show
- Rain harvesting and composting workshops (advance registration required)
- Lady bug release
- Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad train rides
- Florida native plant sale
- Children's crafts and educational displays
- Recycling information
- Upcycle vendors
- Suncoast Trails Earth Day ride
- Adoptable pets
- Rick's Raptor Rescue

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](mailto:lkelly@covanta.com) or 727-856-2917, ext. 201.

## Going Beyond the Text Earth Day

The theme of Earth Day 2019 is **Protect Our Species**. The theme is intended to highlight the destruction of plant and wildlife populations due to causes driven by human activity, such as climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides. Do some research on plant and wildlife populations that are specific to Florida and Pasco County. Use the *Tampa Bay Times* to help with your research. Go to [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) to learn more about the Protect Our Species campaign. Design a full-page advertisement for the Pasco edition of the *Tampa Bay Times* for the campaign.

# What is single-stream recycling?

Pasco County's recycling program is single-stream. With single-stream recycling, all types of recyclable items accepted in the program can be placed together in one bin. There is no need for the customer to separate the different types of recyclables.

The collected recyclables are sorted at a material recovery facility (MRF). At the MRF, materials are sorted

by a combination of workers and automated systems, such as magnets, optical scanners and sorting screens.

Once the materials are sorted by material type, they are shipped to domestic or overseas markets or, in some cases, transported to another site for further processing.

Sources: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Green Machine, HowStuffWorks, Tampa Bay Times

**Don't put anything other than the items listed below in your curbside recycling container. Automated recycling systems can get damaged by anything else!**

## 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.

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.

Curbside recycling service is included with curbside trash service in Pasco County. Your trash hauler is obligated to provide you at least twice-a-month recycling service. Contact your trash hauler for a sticker to put on your recycling container and for your recycling pickup schedule.

#### All Haul Waste

727-847-2420 • [allhaulwaste.com](http://allhaulwaste.com)

#### County Sanitation

888-522-5794 • [countysanitationservice.com](http://countysanitationservice.com)

#### J.D. Parker & Sons

727-845-1024 • [jdparkerandsons.com](http://jdparkerandsons.com)

#### Republic

727-868-2566 • [republicservices.com](http://republicservices.com)

#### Waste Aid

813-996-1457 or 727-842-9309  
[wasteaidsystems.com](http://wasteaidsystems.com)

#### Waste Connections

352-583-4204 or 727-847-9100  
[wasteconnections.com](http://wasteconnections.com)

#### Waste Management of Pasco

813-621-3053 or 800-255-7172 • [wm.com](http://wm.com)

## What can I recycle curbside in Pasco County?



**Aluminum cans and metal food cans**



**Plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7**



**Mixed paper and newspaper**

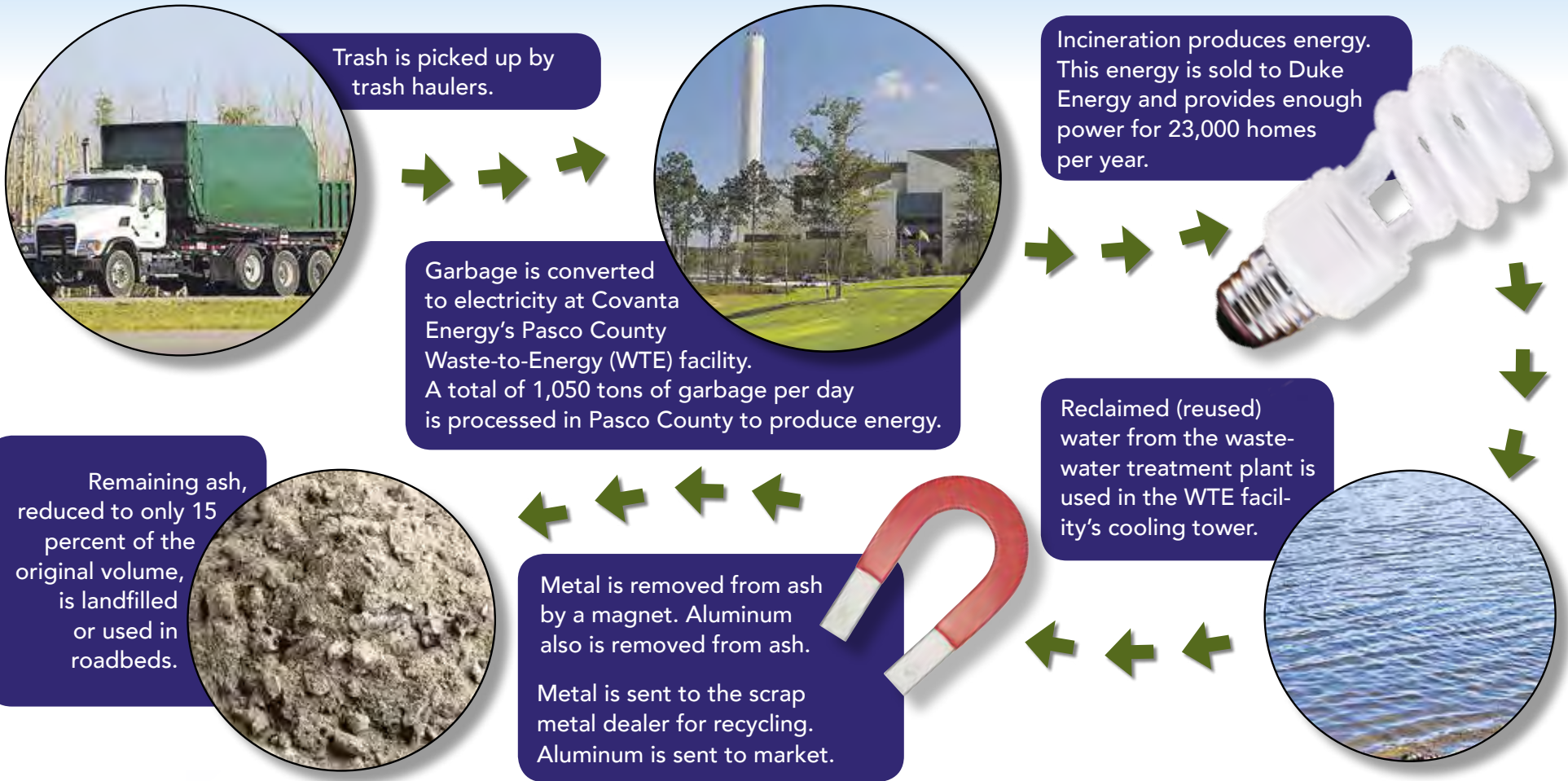


**Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard**

### Why no glass?

Glass is the most expensive material to recycle, and its costs are only getting higher. It's also a problem because when it breaks, it contaminates other material. In Pasco, glass does more harm than good in the recycling stream. Do the right thing and throw glass away.

# Your trash is not landfilled



## Your trash makes electricity

Waste-to-energy (WTE) plants burn municipal solid waste – your trash – and use the heat to generate electricity.

The Pasco County WTE plant burns 1,050 tons of garbage per day to produce energy.

WTE offers many environmental benefits over landfilling trash:

- Reduces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change
- Conserves land by reducing the need for landfills
- Generates clean, renewable energy

population, Pasco's WTE facility will need to be expanded, at a cost of approximately \$190 million.

Although the WTE expansion is inevitable, the longer Pasco County is able to delay 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 expansion is to reduce the amount of trash going to the WTE plant by increasing the number of Pasco County residents participating in curbside recycling.

Every Pasco County resident who recycles makes a difference!

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Solid Waste Association of North America, Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council

By the year 2030, Pasco County is projected to have 485,000 residents. To handle the increased amount of trash generated by this growing

## Trash the tanglers

Items such as plastic bags, cords, wires, tarps, clothing and hoses jam and damage recycling sorting equipment. They should never be placed in your curbside recycling.

Not only can these items damage the equipment, but workers must manually remove them, a difficult, dirty and potentially dangerous task.

Recycle plastic bags at your local grocery or big box store, or reuse them as trash bags or pet waste bags.

Cords, wires, tarps and hoses of any type should always be discarded in the trash.



### Going Beyond the Text

# 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 where all that trash goes 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 informing 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 high school students turned trash into art for the 2019 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.

# 2019 Pasco Art of Recycling

## Combining art, recycling



### Going Beyond the Text

## Interpreting art

There are many definitions and genres of art. The common thread in all of the definitions is that art has an aesthetic principle or visual beauty. However, since everyone defines beauty and art differently, that definition is highly subjective. Explore the art depicted in this educational publication. Think about the different types of art and the meaning art has for you personally. Do you see things inside the images or graphics that others do not? Can you detect the tone of the artist and the mood of the artwork? How does the art make you feel? What message is the artist sending? Write a blog post about your thoughts and share it with your class. Write a letter to the editor of the *Tampa Bay Times* explaining the importance of the Art of Recycling contest and which art piece is your favorite. Ask your teacher to send your letter to [ordernie@tampabay.com](mailto:ordernie@tampabay.com), attention: editor.

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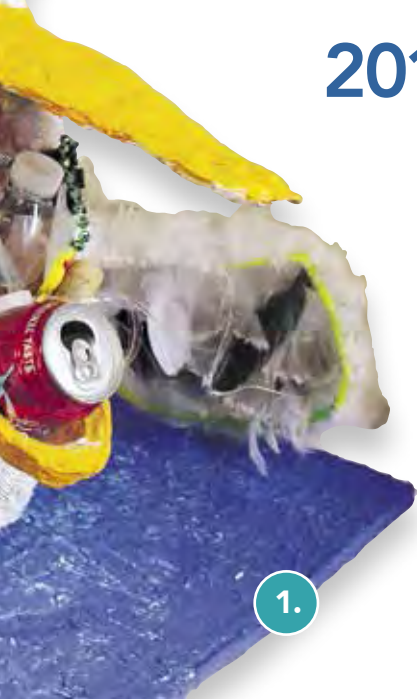
# Recycling Contest

## ycling and creativity



## 2019 Art of Recycling Winners

1. First Place: Breanna Martin, *Birds Among The Sea*
2. Second Place: Victoria Fiest, *Pacific Trash Coast*
3. Third Place: Mia Manning, *Oceans Galore*
4. Best Use of Aluminum: Sarah Bruner, *Invasive*
5. Best Use of Plastic: Paige Webster, *Current*
6. Best Use of Printed Material: Morgan Casel, *Knowledge From The Sea*
7. Best Environmental Concept: Mackenzie Watkins, *Life In A Bowl*
8. Most Innovative: Janna Veneracion, *There's No Place Like Home*
9. Best Use of Materials: Isabella Knight, *Long Live My Copper Turtle*
10. Best Artistic Expression: Camerin Lewis, *Try To Be A Turtle At Ease In Your Own Shell*
11. Art of Recycling Award: Amanda Moore, *Simple, Happy Life Of Manatees*



**Art of Recycling is changing**  
The Pasco Art of Recycling contest is changing for 2020. Look for details in late 2019!



**ART OF RECYCLING SPONSORS**  
Recycling • Covanta • Regency Technologies  
Public Services • Sierra Family Foundation  
Waste Aid Systems • Waste Connections  
Waste Management

# Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

## 2018 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT DIVERTS 26 TONS OF HHW

At Pasco County Utilities' annual HHW collection event, Pasco County residents can bring HHW and electronics to a convenient drive-through location and have county staff unload their cars.

At the 2018 event, held Dec. 1, Pasco County staff unloaded 515 vehicles, collecting 26.32 tons of HHW and 21,726 pounds of electronics in just six hours.

**21,726** pounds of electronics    **18,850** pounds of latex paint

**8,388** pounds of household chemicals    **306** pounds of mercury-containing bulbs

**275** gallons of used automotive fluids

**608** pounds of lead-acid batteries    **300** pounds of household batteries



Household Hazardous Waste, or HHW, refers to products that are toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive. Common examples of HHW include paints and stains, pesticides, fertilizer, cleaning products, automotive fluids and pool chemicals.

These products can harm human health, wildlife and the environment if they are disposed of improperly. HHW should never be poured down household or storm

drains, poured on the ground, buried or put in the trash.

Pasco County residents can drop off HHW at the county's two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.

For more information about Pasco County's HHW programs, call Pasco County Utilities at 813-929-2755, ext. 6890 or visit [pascocountyfl.net/183/Household-Hazardous-Waste](http://pascocountyfl.net/183/Household-Hazardous-Waste).

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTERS

#### RESOURCE RECOVERY CLASS III LANDFILL

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

#### EAST PASCO TRANSFER STATION

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

## Going Beyond the Text Paying attention to garbage

In general, Americans need to pay closer attention to what we toss in recycling bins. You have learned a lot about trash and what can and cannot be recycled in Pasco County. Now read the Front Page Talking Points article "Americans need to pay closer attention to what we toss in recycling bins" on the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education website. After reading the article, watch the video and then complete the action points using the *Tampa Bay Times* as your resource. Share what you have learned with your family and classmates.

### INNOVATIVE REUSE PROGRAM FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Pasco County is the first adopter in Florida of Smarter Sorting, an innovative technology that enables reuse of household hazardous waste previously bound for disposal. Smarter Sorting reduces the cost for disposal and allows for better material management. Currently, 33 percent of HHW previously sent for disposal is now reused.

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



# Bright ideas: What to do with used light bulbs

## LED, INCANDESCENT AND HALOGEN BULBS

LED, incandescent and halogen bulbs contain no hazardous materials, and can be placed in the trash. Any metals are recovered during the incineration process and recycled. Bulbs should never be placed in curbside recycling.

## FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain mercury. Mercury is hazardous to human health and the environment, and removing it from the solid waste stream is critical. Never put fluorescent tubes or CFLs in your household trash or curbside recycling.

Pasco County recycles fluorescent lamps. Bring mercury-containing lamps to a recycling center to be disposed of safely. For more information, call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6894.

Some retailers may offer their residential customers fluorescent bulb recycling. Check your local store.

In 2017, Pasco County recycled 18,652 pounds of mercury-containing lamps.

# 8

 reasons to switch to LED lighting

## LED BULBS:

1. Last much longer than the alternatives
2. Are significantly more durable
3. Better control your lighting
4. Save money
5. Reduce your carbon footprint
6. Produce light, not heat and noise
7. Are better for your indoor paint, artwork and photographs
8. Are reliable



# Battery recycling

## SCHOOL HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING CONTEST

To encourage students and school employees to recycle their household batteries, Pasco County Utilities and Pasco County Schools have partnered to co-sponsor the annual Household Battery Recycling contest. In 2017-2018, 5,145 pounds of batteries was recycled by Pasco County schools.

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 school district's recycling efforts.

## 2017-2018 HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING CONTEST WINNERS

**Top high school:**  
Wiregrass Ranch High  
164 pounds

**Top middle school:**  
R.B. Stewart Middle  
405 pounds

**Top elementary school:**  
Gulf Trace Elementary  
315 pounds

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans throw away more than 3 billion batteries each year. That's about 180,000 tons of batteries, of which more than 86,000 tons is single-use alkaline batteries. Placed end to end, these dead alkaline batteries alone would circle the world at least six times.

Household battery recycling continues to be one of Pasco County Utilities' most successful programs. In 2018, Pasco County residents recycled 46.82 tons of batteries, including 44,499 pounds of lead-acid batteries and 49,140 pounds of household batteries.

Removing batteries from the solid waste stream is critical to protecting the environment. Batteries contain heavy metals and chemicals that can be released when landfilled or incinerated.

Battery recycling containers are located throughout the county at libraries, at county facilities and in participating communities.

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



# Pasco County electronic equipment recycling program

The world will generate 55 million tons of electronic waste this year. If we could repair or repurpose that technology, it would reduce some of the most toxic and expensive waste in the system. It is estimated that up to 75 percent of old electronics remains in homes because people don't know what to do with it.

So, what should you do with your end-of-life electronics?

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

Pasco County was the first county in Florida and one of a handful of counties in the nation to implement an electronic equipment demanufacturing program. Despite the cost of demanufacturing, closing the recycling loop of computers and electronic equipment remains feasible but challenging. Florida, like the rest of the country, lacks the demanufacturing infrastructure that can make the process economically rewarding. Revenues derived from selling materials recovered can offset only a very small portion of the costs associated with the equipment collection, transportation and demanufacturing.

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

In 2018, Pasco County diverted 943,287 pounds of electronics from the solid waste stream through its recycling program.

Pasco County residents can drop off their unwanted electronic equipment at the West Pasco Recycling Center or the East Pasco Transfer Station.

For more information, visit [pascocountyfl.net](http://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.



## 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
- Newspaper, mixed paper, office paper and phone books
- Flattened corrugated cardboard

### ANCLOTE GULF PARK

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

### EAST PASCO TRANSFER STATION

9626 Handcart Road  
Dade City, Fla. 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, Fla. 34654  
Wednesday – Saturday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
(also accepts used cooking oils)

### SENIOR SERVICES CENTER

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

### WEST PASCO RECYCLING CENTER

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



The household used sharps recycling program provides Pasco County residents with a means to dispose of their sharps (such as needles, syringes and diabetic testing supplies) in a safe manner and prevent sharps from entering the sanitary sewer or solid waste stream. If not safely disposed of, sharps can harm people, pets and wildlife, and can damage public

sewers and pump stations. Proper disposal keeps sanitation workers safe and keeps sharps out of the environment.

To participate, go to one of the participating locations and obtain a red sharps container.

Once the container is filled, seal and return it to the same location to receive a new one.

# Household used sharps recycling program



## Going Beyond the Text Electronic waste

The world will generate 55 million tons of electronic waste this year. If we could repair or repurpose that technology, it would reduce some of the most toxic and expensive waste in the system. So, what should you do with your end-of-life electronics? Use the information on these pages to learn how you can dispose of these items in Pasco County. Next, do some research to find other ways to repurpose the technology you no longer want or need. With your friends, come up with a plan or business focused on repurposing or repairing unneeded technology. Create a promotional campaign for this plan. Using the advertisements and advertorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as examples, create a promotional campaign for your new plan or business.

## Sharps recycling locations

### FLORIDA HOSPITAL OF ZEPHYRHILLS

Outpatient Desk  
7050 Gall Blvd.  
Zephyrhills, Fla. 33541  
6 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F

### FLORIDA HOSPITAL OF DADE CITY

Information Desk  
13100 Fort King Road  
Dade City, Fla. 33525  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m., M-F

### FLORIDA MEDICAL OF WESLEY CHAPEL

Main Entrance Concierge Desk  
2600 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.  
Wesley Chapel, Fla. 33544  
Sharps drop-off only

### TRINITY MEDICAL CENTER

Emergency Room  
9330 S.R. 54  
Trinity, Fla. 34654

### MORTON PLANT NORTH BAY

Medical Arts Building  
Laboratory  
6600 Madison St.  
New Port Richey, Fla. 34652

### SUNCOAST EYE CENTER

Surgery Center  
14003 Lakeshore Blvd.  
Hudson, Fla. 34667  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BAYONET POINT

Emergency Room  
14100 Fivay Road  
Hudson, Fla. 34667

### PASCO EYE INSTITUTE

Front Desk  
5347 Main St., S-100  
New Port Richey, Fla. 34652  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m., M-Th  
8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. F

Pasco County Health  
Department locations  
do not accept sharps.

# Pasco County residential

# cooking oil recycling program



When oil and grease are poured down your drain, they stick to the inside of sewer pipes and build up. This can cause blockages that back up sewage into your home or cause a sewer overflow onto neighborhood streets. Overflows can be expensive and are a health hazard. Cooking oils and grease also can cause septic system drain-field problems.

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

Pasco County's residential cooking oil recycling program began in 2007 with just two drop-off locations, and has since grown to 19 locations, including manned sites and one offering 24-hour access. Other locations are in over-55 communities, schools with culinary programs, and county parks with concession stands. Pasco County participates in the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort (C.O.R.E.) program, a statewide initiative to educate citizens and municipalities on residential cooking oil collection and recycling. In 2018, Pasco County collected nearly 3,000 gallons of used fats and oils for recycling.

Used oils are processed for use in many products, such as poultry feed, soap, biofuel and fertilizer. It is a commodity in demand. Newer uses include lubrication for construction pilings. It can be an environmentally friendly substitute for petroleum.

## TIPS

- Never pour grease down the sink.
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape food waste into the trash.
- Minimize use of your garbage disposal. It's not a trash can. A lot of small pieces can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers and clean them often.
- Pour cooled oils and fats into a jug or can and bring them to a cooking oil recycling location.

Liquids and semisolids are accepted. Residents are encouraged to recycle all used cooking oils and fats, including bacon grease. Every ounce recycled is one less down the drain.

## Cooking il Recycling Effort

## Public cooking oil drop-off sites

### EAST PASCO TRANSFER STATION

9626 Handcart Road  
Dade City, Fla. 33525

### WEST PASCO RECYCLING CENTER

14606 Hays Road  
Spring Hill, Fla. 34610

### EMBASSY WWTP RECYCLING

**CENTER** (open Wed. - Sat.)  
9512 Crabtree Lane  
Port Richey, Fla. 34668

### PASCO COUNTY FACILITIES

7220 Osteen Road  
New Port Richey, Fla. 34653

### ZEPHYRHILLS MAINTENANCE YARD

39421 South Ave.  
Zephyrhills, Fla. 33542

### WESTPORT COMMUNITY

Sea Breeze Drive  
Port Richey, Fla. 34668

For more information about cooking oil recycling, call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6887.



# Think before you flush

## Never flush:

- Baby wipes
- Cleaning wipes
- Paper towels or cloth rags
- Cloth or disposable diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Cotton balls, swabs or Q-tips
- Dental floss
- Family-planning products
- Coffee grounds
- Cat litter
- Contact lenses
- Prescription medication

For more information, call Pasco County's Environmental Compliance department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6887.

The Pasco County Sanitary Sewer Collection System is a network of sewer lines, manholes and pumping stations. Many sewer line clogs are due to improper flushing of wipes, trash and hygiene products down the toilet. Wipes are one of the main causes of problems in the wastewater collection system. Despite their advertising, cleaning and baby wipes are not flushable and do not disintegrate like regular bathroom tissue.

Sewer clogs not only have potential health risks, but also cost money for added maintenance and repairs to sewer lines and pump stations. Somebody has to pay – so protect your home and your wallet by being kind to our sewers.

Most clogs can be avoided. Think before you flush and protect your home and family from sewer backups. Your sink and toilet aren't garbage cans – just because you can flush it, it doesn't mean you should.

## Going Beyond the Text

# Sorting sections

*The Tampa Bay Times* is chock full of information that helps keep you in the know about your community. Sometimes there may be too much information – just as when you put too much information in a drain, the result will be a clog. The best way to avoid a clog of information is to sort the information into sections. Examine how *the Times* is sorted into sections. Find an example of each of the following types of articles: news, opinion, sports, advertisement. Compare the parts of each article. How are they similar? How are they different? Can they be interchangeable in the newspaper sections? Why or why not?

# Help prevent water pollution: Clean up after your pets



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

When it rains, pet waste can flow into roads and storm drains. Eventually the waste ends up in our lakes, rivers and streams, causing water pollution. The waste also causes excess nutrients, which creates algae blooms and

decreases oxygen in the water. This condition is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste not only affects water quality, but public health, as well. Pick up after your pets!

### What you can do:

- Always clean up after your animals.
- Use bags or scoopers to pick up waste.
- Dispose of waste in pet waste containers or in the trash.

- Do not put pet waste into storm drains or on the road.
- When traveling, carry extra bags in the car to have on hand to clean up after your pet.
- Politely remind other pet owners to pick up after their pet.
- Check with your community about getting pet waste containers installed in your neighborhood.

For more information, contact Pasco County's Public Works department at 727-834-3611.

# Pasco County Schools annual recycling report

For more than 24 years, the Pasco County School District has initiated numerous sustainable and cost-saving environmental programs. In order to meet the conservation and recycling goals of the district, they focus on educating students, employees, administrators and community partners on practices that conserve energy, reduce costs and nurture the environment.



**Trinity Elementary School students make a difference**  
Trinity Elementary School's Earth Patrol collects recyclables from families in the car line every Friday. Every Monday and Wednesday, they collect recyclables from classrooms.

**In school year 2018-2019,  
Pasco County Schools recycled:**

**1,215.14 tons of paper and cardboard,  
which saved almost 30,000 trees**



**23.26 tons of plastic bottles, which  
saved roughly 48 barrels of oil**

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



**5.1 tons of batteries that won't be  
causing harm to the environment**

Reducing, reusing and recycling cuts the amount of energy used to produce new items, and the amount of pollution generated as a result. It also conserves valuable natural resources that would otherwise be used to produce new items from raw materials.

**Remember, if we all do a little it will mean a lot.**

For more information about the school district's recycling programs, visit [pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle](http://pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle) or contact Chris Williamson at 727-794-2380.

## From bag to blanket



Dr. John Long Middle School data entry operator Lorrie Sybert has come up with an innovative way to upcycle plastic grocery bags.

Since 2017, she has used the bags to make blankets for the homeless.

According to Sybert, it takes about 240 bags to make a blanket that measures about 3 feet wide by 5 feet long. First, she cuts and folds the bags to make "plarn," which she then crochets into a blanket with a carry strap. The blankets are lightweight, washable and durable.

Sybert has completed six blankets, which have been distributed to the homeless in Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma.

For more information on how to help, email [CRO@Pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:CRO@Pasco.k12.fl.us)

## Going Beyond the Text

### Every day is Earth Day

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 and family.