



Pasco Recycling

2•0•2•5



Recycling@MyPasco.net • 727-847-2411

Facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling



Calendar of events 2025-2026

April 2025

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park
April 26, 2025

June 2025

World Oceans Day
June 8, 2025

September 2025

Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup
Sept. 20, 2025

November 2025

America Recycles Day
Nov. 15, 2025

January 2026

Florida Arbor Day
Jan. 17, 2026

March 2026

Great American Cleanup
March 7, 2026

All dates subject to change.

Visit KeepPascoBeautiful.org or
call 727-847-8123, ext. 7720 for
updates.

What can I recycle curbside in Pasco County?



Plastic bottles
and jars



Aluminum cans
and metal food
cans



Mixed paper,
newspaper and
junk mail



Corrugated
cardboard and
thin cardboard

• **Recyclables should be clean, dry and rinsed free of food and liquid residue.**

What NOT to recycle curbside in Pasco County:



Styrofoam™



Milk and juice
cartons



Glass



Plastic bags



Hoses, wires
or tarps



Anything bigger
than a litterbox



Anything smaller
than your fist

Going beyond the text:

Wishcycling and Upcycling

“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.

Instead of wishcycling, try upcycling! Upcycling is taking something that would typically be thrown away or recycled and instead transforming it into something more valuable. Examples of upcycling include clothing and purses

made from candy or chip wrappers, rugs made from fabric scraps, and flower vases or pencil holders made from empty glass or plastic food containers. In small groups, brainstorm non-recyclable items that you think are commonly

“wishcycled.” You can use the articles, advertisements and cartoons in the Tampa Bay Times for ideas. Next, brainstorm ideas for how each item could instead be upcycled for reuse. For each item, write down:

1. Why the item is not

recyclable curbside in Pasco County.

2. What new purpose the upcycled item will serve.
3. How you’re going to improve or modify it to serve its new purpose.
4. What supplies will be needed to complete the

transformation.

As a class, share your ideas.

What idea(s) are the most creative?
What idea(s) are the most practical?
What idea(s) do you think could be sold?



Avoid “wishcycling”

When in doubt, leave it out

Placing items in your curbside recycling that you hope are recyclable – but actually aren’t – causes more harm than good.

Non-recyclable items can contaminate clean recyclables, damage the sorting equipment and potentially injure staff.

If you are not sure if an item is recyclable, don’t place it in your recycling.

When in doubt, leave it out!



Curbside trash and recycling collection in Pasco County

In Pasco County, curbside trash and recycling collection services are provided by licensed independent haulers. Residents must 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 with at least once-per-week recycling service.* If you already have curbside trash service and would like to start recycling, call your trash hauler to request a recycling bin.

Coastal Waste & Recycling

888-522-5794

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

800-255-7172

WM.com

*Some restrictions may apply.

Pasco County Recycling Drop-Off Locations



Don't have curbside recycling service? Pasco County residents can drop off recycling at these drop-off sites.

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)

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill
Mon.-Sat., 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

727-861-3053

(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

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.-4:30 p.m.

352-521-0500

(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

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)

Self-hauling

Pasco County residents can bring items to the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility or the East Pasco Transfer Station. Proof of Pasco County residency is required.

Items accepted at County Resource Recovery facilities:

- Up to 8 bags of trash per day (no charge)
- Furniture (\$97.64 per ton or \$4.88 for every 100 pounds)
- Construction debris (\$97.64 per ton or \$4.88 for every 100 pounds)
- Yard waste (\$97.64 per ton or \$4.88 for every 100 pounds)
- Mixed loads (\$97.64 per ton or \$4.88 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)

All prices are subject to change. Visit MyPasco.net and search 'trash' for the latest information.



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:**
9 a.m. to noon. Limit 3 boxes/bags per person.
- **Fox Tales Florida Rescue & Sanctuary**
- **Household Hazardous Waste collection:**
Lightbulbs, batteries, oil, gas and paint. Call 727-847-8123 for more information.
- **Florida Skunk Rescue**
- **Ladybug release**
- **DunnDee Farms**
- **Children's crafts and educational displays**
- **Upcycle vendors**
- **Florida native plant sale**
- **And much more!**



This event is a partnership between Keep Pasco Beautiful, Reworld, Tampa Bay Water, Pasco County Environmental Compliance, Pasco County Recycling, Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources, UF/IFAS Pasco County Cooperative Extension, and Pasco County Department of Public Works.

HAPPY EARTH DAY



Saturday, April 26, 2025
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Crews Lake Wilderness Park

16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill
KeepPascoBeautiful.org/earth-day

"COMPOST HAPPENS" WORKSHOP WITH COMPOST BIN (\$35) **• 10-11 a.m.**

This workshop will explore the benefits and basic "how-tos" for composting in the home landscape. Paying participants will receive one (1) GEOBIN brand compost bin (246 gallon capacity). Limit one compost bin per household, and only one compost bin per paying ticket. Open to Pasco residents only. Seating is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required to receive a bin.

Interested in receiving composting information only (no bin)? Join us at 10 a.m. at Pavilion #1 in Crews Lake Park. No registration or payment required.

Register in advance at
bit.ly/2025CompostingRegistration

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. Participants will learn how to build, install and use their rain barrel. Limit one rain barrel per household. Open to Pasco County residents only. Seating is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required to receive a barrel.

Interested in receiving rain barrel information only (no barrel)? Join us at 11 a.m. at Pavilion #1 in Crews Lake Park. No registration or pre-payment required.

Register in advance at
bit.ly/2025RainBarrelRegistration

For more information, contact Lottie Kelley at Reworld at 727-856-2917, ext. 201, or LKelley@reworldwaste.com.

Keeping Pasco Beautiful...



The mission of **Keep Pasco Beautiful (KPB)** is to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction and encourage beautification.

KPB's four focal areas are litter prevention, waste reduction, sustainable practices, beautification and community greening.

To learn more about KPB events, partnership opportunities or volunteer opportunities, visit KeepPascoBeautiful.org or email Info@KeepPascoBeautiful.org.

KPB outreach and educational programs include:

VolunTEEN

VolunTEEN is for students in middle and high school who are interested in making a positive impact on the environment. VolunTEENs can jump into multiple hands-on volunteer opportunities throughout the year, such as litter cleanups, invasive plant removal and other educational activities, all across Pasco County.

Fishing line education & recovery

Fish, birds and other marine life can easily ingest discarded fishing lines or become entangled, causing starvation, amputation and death. KPB maintains fishing line collection tubes at multiple locations around Pasco County to ensure that fishing line is disposed of safely. Find a map of collection-tube sites at KeepPascoBeautiful.org.

KEEP WATERWAYS
TANGLE-FREE

PLEASE DISPOSE OF
FISHING LINE HERE

FISHING LINE
ONLY

Going beyond the text: Litter laws



What happens to those who litter or abandon trash in Pasco County?

With a team, read Florida Statute 403.413, the "Florida Litter Law," at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0403/Sections/0403.413.html. Next, research Pasco County laws on litter and illegal dumping at library.municode.com/fl/pasco_county.

In your opinion, are the existing laws on litter and illegal dumping too lenient? Too harsh? If you were in charge, how would you change these rules?

A letter to the editor of a newspaper is a letter addressed to the editor and meant for publication in the paper. It is a way for individuals to share their opinions on current events and issues. Using the letters to the editor in the Tampa Bay Times or at tampabay.com/opinion/letters as models, write a letter to the editor urging your local officials to adopt one of your changes. Your letter should include: An introductory statement; one or two facts or examples to support that point; and a concluding call to action.

Adapted from: "Make Your Own Marine Debris Laws," *The Educator's Guide to Marine Debris: Southeast and Gulf of Mexico*, Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence Southeast (COSEE SE)

Florida Standards: SS.K.CG.1.1; SS.7.CG.3.10; ELA.312.EE.1.1; ELA.312.EE.2.1; ELA.312.EE.3.1; ELA.312.EE.4.1; ELA.312.EE.5.1; ELA.312.EE.6.1; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.5; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3

World Oceans Day 2024

On June 8, 2024, 82 volunteers picked up 860 pounds of trash and prevented it from entering our waters.

world
oceans
day

8 Jun

World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on June 8. Every year, KPB conducts a World Oceans Day outreach campaign to educate the community on the importance of proper disposal of trash to help minimize pollution in our waters.

Household Hazardous Waste

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

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

Products such as paints, cleaners, aerosols, oils, lithium batteries and pesticides contain potentially hazardous ingredients and require special care when you dispose of them.

HHW should never be poured down the drain, in the toilet, on the ground or into storm sewers, put in your household trash or your curbside recycling. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Guide to safely packaging and transporting your HHW:

- Keep chemicals capped, and in their original containers with original labels.
- **Do not pack your items in a plastic bag or trash bag.**
- Pack waste carefully in a box or plastic bin to prevent spillage during transport.
- Be cautious with containers that are brittle or cracked.
- If a chemical spills, use an absorbent wipe to clean it up.
- Do not allow chemicals to mix together.
- Place containers in the trunk or away from passengers.
- Empty containers can be thrown away with household trash.

HHW Items Accepted:

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



HHW Items NOT Accepted:

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



How do I get rid of my HHW?

Pasco County manages and operates two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers where residents can drop off their HHW. Hazardous waste brought to the centers by County residents is either recycled or sent out to a permitted hazardous waste management facility for treatment. There may be a fee depending on the quantity and type of waste.

HHW collection centers



East Pasco Transfer Station

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

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

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



Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Program

Household Hazardous Waste diversion and disposal is critical.

The Pasco County Household Hazardous Waste Center has a partnership with the local **Habitat for Humanity** and donates any household hazardous waste that is still in good condition and usable.

This now allows the household hazardous waste 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.



For more information on household hazardous waste disposal, contact Pasco County Environmental Compliance at 727-847-8123, ext. 2046 or visit bit.ly/HouseholdChemicalDisposal.

Going beyond the text:
Danger under your sink



Many of the everyday products we use in our homes are potentially harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment, and improper disposal of these items can be dangerous and deadly. Research HHW on the website of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw). Next, research products that are safer for human health and the environment on the EPA's Safer Choice website (epa.gov/saferchoice).

Design a Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign encouraging Pasco County residents to reduce their use of the most harmful products and to dispose of their HHW safely. PSAs are advertisements that try to "sell" a behavior or idea, instead of selling a specific product.

Your campaign should include print advertisements in newspapers, digital ads, and social media posts.

Florida Standards: HE.312.CH.1.1; ELA.312.EE.1.1; ELA.312.EE.2.1; ELA.312.EE.3.1; ELA.312.EE.4.1; ELA.312.EE.5.1; ELA.312.EE.6.1; ELA.312.C.1.5; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.C.5.1; ELA.312.F.1.3

Make a difference **TODAY** by dropping off used batteries

Together, we can **reduce waste, conserve resources**
and **protect our planet** for future generations.

Most batteries contain **valuable materials** like lithium, cobalt and nickel – resources in high demand that are difficult to replace.

However, most batteries **ALSO** contain **toxic materials** such as cadmium, lead or sulfuric acid.

When thrown **in the TRASH**, these batteries end up in landfills or incinerators, releasing harmful pollutants into the environment. **By throwing them away, we risk human health and environmental damage.** It also wastes precious metals and natural resources that require energy to mine and manufacture.

Drop me off!
Don't throw
me away!

Batteries are accepted at the **West Pasco Class III Landfill** and the **East Pasco Transfer Station**.
Locations listed on pages 6-7.

Pasco County Resource Recovery has public drop-off locations with recycling containers for **batteries** located at every county library as well as various recreation centers and county offices.

Going beyond the text:
Rechargeable battery disposal



Lithium-ion batteries are used in many of the devices we use every day. While these batteries play an important role in our everyday lives, they also pose serious fire risks, particularly to trash and recycling facilities. Why? Because lithium-ion battery fires burn faster and hotter than normal fires, and consumers are often unsure about how to safely and sustainably dispose of them, according to Waste Today magazine.

A 2021 EPA report found 245 fires caused by lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries

PREVENT fires:

Dispose of rechargeable batteries correctly



Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are used in many of the devices we use today, such as **cellphones, laptops, hearing aids, watches and keyless remotes.**

When thrown away in the trash, they can cause fires during transport or at landfills – even if they were not damaged prior to disposal. The danger happens when machines crush and consolidate waste. This type of

battery can be damaged easily and, when damaged, can start fires by igniting the surrounding trash.

Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries should NEVER go in household trash or recycling bins.

If a lithium battery has been damaged and becomes swollen, it is a fire risk. Store the battery or device in a safe location until the proper disposal option is identified.



For more information about battery disposal, call Pasco County Resource Recovery, Environmental Compliance, at 727-847-8123, ext. 2046.

In 2024, Pasco County collected 23.61 TONS of household batteries and 12 TONS of lead acid batteries for recycling.



Household battery drop-off locations



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



between 2013 and 2020 at 64 waste facilities. The fires happen in transportation vehicles such as garbage trucks, at recycling facilities and at garbage disposal facilities.

Read the article "What are lithium ion batteries, and how do they catch fire? Here's what to know" in the July 24, 2023, Tampa Bay Times e-Newspaper or online at tampabay.com/news/2023/07/21/tampa-bay-lithium-ion-battery-leak-fire-explosion-risk.

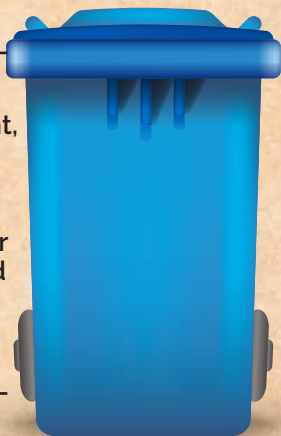
Using the articles in the Tampa Bay Times as models, write a newspaper article that

explains the importance of properly disposing of rechargeable batteries and how Pasco County residents should do so. Be sure to include the 5 Ws and H.

Florida Standards: HE.312.CH.1.1; ELA.312.EE.1.1; ELA.312.EE.2.1; ELA.312.EE.3.1; ELA.312.EE.4.1; ELA.312.EE.5.1; ELA.312.EE.6.1; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.1.5; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4

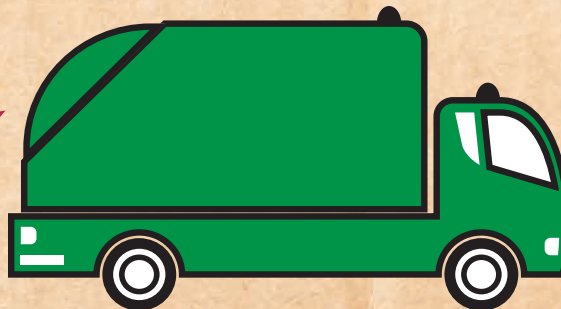
1

Pasco County has seven independent, licensed trash haulers who pick up both trash 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, pronounced "murf").



3

Your recycling is then sent to a MRF to be sorted and prepared for remanufacturing.



What happens to your recycling?



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.



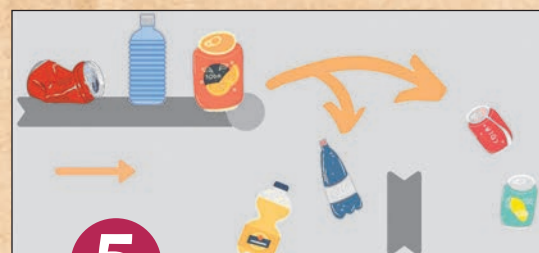
4

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



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

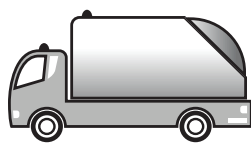
The sorted recycled materials are then shipped locally and internationally to be remanufactured into new products.



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.



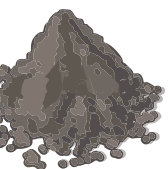
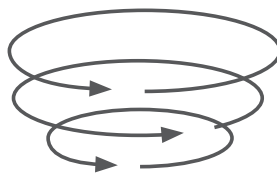
2 Trash is combusted to produce energy, which is sold to TECO. Gases produced by combustion are processed, filtered and cleaned before being safely released into the atmosphere.

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.

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 CO ₂ 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.

Going beyond the text: Waste reduction



Municipal solid waste, more commonly known as trash, consists of everyday items that we use and then throw away. A waste journal serves as a great way to record and analyze what we are throwing away and how it could be minimized.

Create a chart or spreadsheet with five columns.

In the first column, record the name of each item you dispose of over the next week. In the next three columns, record where the item should go (recycling, food waste or trash). In the final column, record where you actually disposed of the item. When your study period is finished, answer the following questions:

- What were the main components of your waste?
- What steps can you take to reduce your waste?
- What percentage of your waste was composed of recyclables?
- What were some of the items that could have been reused or recycled instead of thrown away?
- Why do you think you didn't recycle those items?
- What steps can you take to increase your recycling rate?

Adapted from: "Student Waste Journal," Recycling Champions Green Team Advocacy Action Kit, GrowNYC

Florida Standards: SP.312.US.9.2a; ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.312.C.1.2; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.4

Pasco County Residential Cooking il Recycling Effort (C.O.R.E.)



Fats, oils and grease (FOG) refers to all cooking oils, including frying oil and meat drippings.

These FOGs can cause problems in home plumbing, the sewage collection system and septic systems. **FOGs are one of the leading causes of sanitary sewer overflows**, which can cause raw sewage to overflow into homes, yards, streets or parks.

Since 2007, Pasco County has participated in the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort (C.O.R.E.)

program, a statewide initiative to educate the public on residential cooking oil collection and recycling.

Instead of pouring oil down the drain or tossing it in the trash, allow it to be used for biodiesel or livestock feed by bringing it to one of Pasco County's four C.O.R.E. drop-off locations.

After cooking, let the oil cool, strain out any food particles, store it in a clean, leak-proof container and prepare it for transport.

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

C.O.R.E. tips

- **Never pour grease down the sink.**
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape food waste into the trash.
- Minimize use of your garbage disposal. Small pieces of food can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers and clean them often.
- Don't mix the cooking oil with any other liquids or products
- Teach family members to follow your grease-fighting example.

C.O.R.E. 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

7220 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.

The proliferation of e-waste

60 million tons

The amount of e-waste generated globally in 2019.

That is more than 16 pounds per person.

17.4%

The amount of that e-waste that was collected for recycling.

116 tons

How much electronics Pasco County collected for recycling in 2024.

About the same weight as a BLUE WHALE!

80 million tons

By 2030, the amount of globally generated e-waste will exceed this number

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Pasco County Solid Waste

Recycle your e-waste

Did you know that as of 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that **less than 20%** of electronic waste in the U.S. is properly recycled?

E-waste is a growing problem.

Plastic components can take up to 1 million years to break down, and metals like aluminum can take anywhere from 50 to 500 years. Yet, many materials in electronic waste can be recycled or repurposed, offering a chance to reduce our environmental impact.



Pasco County has been a pioneer in environmental responsibility. As the first county in Florida – and one of the few in the nation – to launch an electronic equipment recycling program, Pasco County continues to lead the way. Despite the challenges and costs, Pasco County remains committed to keeping e-waste out of landfills and protecting our planet for future generations.

>> JOIN US in making a difference!

Visit one of our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers to recycle your electronics responsibly. **Locations are listed on pages 6-7.**

Going beyond the text: Evaluating science in the news



Reading news articles or websites about science is a great way to learn about new ideas, discoveries and research. But some sources of information are not as good as others. Before believing information from the news, you need to figure out if that information can be trusted.

Working in pairs, use the Tampa Bay Times print or e-Newspaper or tampabay.com to find an article about recycling, waste management or e-waste. Then, use the internet to find another article on the same topic. For each article, answer the following questions:

- Was the information published or updated recently?

- Is the information supported by evidence? Are there references for the evidence?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and professional?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Is the purpose of the information to teach or inform, rather than to sell, entertain or persuade?
- Is the information fact, rather than opinion or propaganda?
- Does the source's point of view seem unbiased?

Read the articles out loud with your partner and discuss the articles as you go. As a class, discuss your responses

and questions. Did you agree on the trustworthiness of the articles? Why or why not?

Adapted from: "Evaluating Science in the News," BioInteractive

Florida Standards: ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1; ELA.K12.EE.3.; ELA.K12.EE.4.1; ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.1.5; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.C.5.1; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4; ELA.312.V.1.1



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

For more information about recycling electronics, call Pasco County Resource Recovery, Environmental Compliance at 813-847-8123, ext. 2046.

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:

Jargon



“Jargon” is defined as “special words or expressions that are used by a particular profession or group and are difficult for others to understand.” For example, the fields of law, medicine and sports are full of jargon. Environmental lessons also are filled with jargon.

While you read this publication, be sure to highlight or circle words you don’t know. Try to figure out the words’ meanings by looking for clues in the sentences around them. Write down your best guess, and then look up the words in a dictionary.

As a group activity, make a list of the words your classmates identified and see which ones stumped the class. Next, use these words for a news scavenger hunt and see if you can find these words in the Tampa Bay Times. The group that finds the most words wins the game.

Florida Standards: ELA.312.EE.1.1; ELA312.EE.2.1; ELA.312.EE.3.1; ELA.312.EE.4.1; ELA.312.EE.6.1; ELA.312.F.2.1; ELA.312.F.2.2; ELA.312.F.2.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.2; ELA.312.V.1.3

How does the program work?

- Participants can visit one of the six sponsoring facilities found on the list below to obtain a red sharps container.
- Take the new container to your home and place it out of the reach of children.
- Perform your injections as needed and then dispose of the syringes completely intact into the sharps container.
- When full, seal the container and exchange it at a participating location.

*If you do not have a red sharps container, using a two-liter soda bottle is acceptable. Please remember to replace the cap on the bottle when it is full.

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

For additional information, contact Pasco County Environmental Compliance at 727-847-8123, ext.2046.

Sharps Exchange Program locations



Advent Health Zephyrhills
Outpatient Info Desk
7050 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills
Mon. – Fri., 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Trinity Medical Center
Emergency Room
9330 S.R. 54, Trinity
24/7

Advent Health Dade City
Main Entrance Info Desk
13100 Fort King Road, Dade City
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Morton Plant North Bay
Medical Arts Building/Outreach
Laboratory, Suite 100A
6600 Madison St.
New Port Richey
Mon. – Fri., 5 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Suncoast Eye Center
Surgery Center–Back of
Building
14003 Lakeshore Blvd., Hudson
Mon. – Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Regional Medical Center
Bayonet Point**
Emergency Room
14100 Fivay Road, Hudson
24/7

Protect your family, your pets and the Earth:

Dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication properly



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 Sheriff's Office West Operations Center

7432 Little Road, New Port Richey
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Port Richey Police Department

6739 Adams St., New Port Richey
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office District 3 Office

11530 Trinity Blvd., Trinity
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office East Operations Center

36409 SR 52, Dade City
Mon.-Fri. 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.

How to properly dispose of medications

- **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.
- **DO** visit a participating take-back location or collection center for proper disposal. Pasco

County law enforcement agencies offer five take-back locations across the county. Many retail pharmacies also offer drug-take back collection via drop-off boxes inside.

- **DO** participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (takebackday.dea.gov).
- **DO** follow the guidelines below if you must dispose of medications in the trash.

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.





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 farmers' 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 727-847-8123 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.

Florida Standards:

HE.312.CH.1.1; SS.K.CG.1.1;
SS.7.CG.3.10; SP.312.US.9.2a;
ELA.K12.EE.1.1; ELA.K12.EE.2.1;
ELA.K12.EE.3.1; ELA.K12.EE.4.1;
ELA.K12.EE.5.1; ELA.K12.EE.6.1;
ELA.312.C.1.2; ELA.312.C.1.3;
ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.1.5;
ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1;
ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.C.5.1;
ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4;
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ELA.312.V.1.3

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