

2026 Pasco Recycling



Recycling@MyPasco.net • 727-857-2780



Calendar of events 2026-2027

April 2026

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park

April 25, 2026

June 2026

World Oceans Day

June 8, 2026

September 2026

Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup

Sept. 19, 2026

January 2027

Florida Arbor Day

Jan. 15, 2027

March 2027

Great American Cleanup

March 6, 2027

All dates subject to change.

Please email
info@KeepPascoBeautiful.org
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: Student activity

A good way to build reading and learning skills is to create a Know, Wonder and Learn (KWL) chart before you begin learning new things. While you are reading or learning new things, ask yourself questions. First, ask what

you already **Know** about the subject. Then, ask what you **Wonder** or want to know about the subject. Then after you read, you can ask what you have **Learned** about the subject.

Practice this KWL

technique for this Newspaper in Education publication. Before reading, write down what you know and what you wonder about this topic. Share this information with your classmates. Your teacher can create a

KWL chart for the whole class. After you read each article, jot down what you have learned. What was the most surprising thing you learned? How will you change your behaviors based on the information you have read? Discuss this

with your class.

As an extension activity, look in the Tampa Bay Times to find an article that relates to this topic. Share the main points of the article with your class.

Florida Standards: ELA.412.

EE.6.1; ELA.412.V.1.1;
ELA.412.C.1.3;
ELA.412.C.1.4;
ELA.412.C.2.1;
ELA.412.C.3.1;
ELA.412.F.1.3;
ELA.412.F.1.4;
ELA.412.R.2.4;
ELA.412.EE.4.1;
ELA.412.EE.6.1



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, though the purchase of a recycling cart may be required by some haulers. Recycling service is once-a-week. If you already have curbside trash service and would like to start recycling, call your trash hauler for more information.

Coastal Waste & Recycling
888-522-5794
CoastalWasteInc.com

Republic Services
727-868-2566
RepublicServices.com

Waste Management of Pasco
800-255-7172
WM.com

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

Waste Aid Systems
813-996-1457 or
727-842-9309
WasteAidSystems.com

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

Some restrictions may apply.

Pasco County Recycling Drop-Off Locations



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

Recycling items accepted at all 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)

Holiday Area Recycling

Anclote Gulf Park
2305 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday
Tues. - Sat., 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(recycling only)

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!



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 additional items to the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility or the East Pasco Transfer Station. Proof of residency is required.

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill
Mon.-Sat., 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053 (also accepts construction debris)

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)

Additional Items:

- Up to 8 bags of trash per day (no charge)
- Furniture (\$104.03 per ton or \$5.20 for every 100 pounds)
- Construction debris (West Pasco location only) (\$104.03 per ton or \$5.20 for every 100 pounds)
- Yard waste (\$104.03 per ton or \$5.20 for every 100 pounds)
- Mixed loads (\$104.03 per ton or \$5.20 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.



HAPPY EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 25, 2026 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Crews Lake Wilderness Park
 16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill

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**
- **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!**

“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/2026CompostingRegistration

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/2026RainBarrelRegistration



This is a Reworld event in partnership with Pasco County Recycling and Keep Pasco Beautiful.

Going beyond the text: Student activity



Globally, Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22. Earthday.org notes that this is day “unites a global community of more than 1 billion people taking action for our planet.” From the first Earth Day celebration 56 years ago to today, much has changed in the world.

The importance of protecting the health of our planet and its inhabitants has not waned. In many ways, protecting our environment is even more critical today.

Read through the Tampa Bay Times to find articles focusing on the environment. You can look

at the daily newspaper over a brief period of time, or you can search for past articles in the e-newspaper archives. Make a list of the environmental issues you find. Think about ways humans can turn a negative issue into a positive one. Next, you need to convince

others to make a positive impact on Earth Day and every day. You can do this by writing a letter to the editor of the Tampa Bay Times about a local environmental issue.

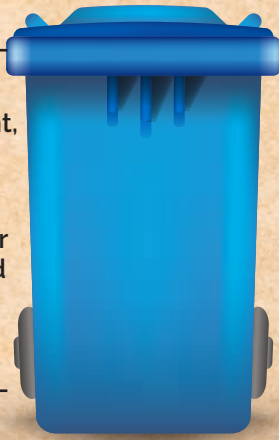
A letter to the editor is a way for people to share their opinions on current

events and issues with the Times editorial board and readership. Use plain language that most people will understand and keep the letter brief. A letter to the editor should be 300 words or less. You can submit your letter to the Tampa Bay Times and/or your school

newspaper.
Florida Standards: ELA.412.EE.1.1; ELA.412.EE.4.1; ELA.412.EE.5.1; ELA.412.EE.6.1; ELA.412.F.2.1; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.V.1.1

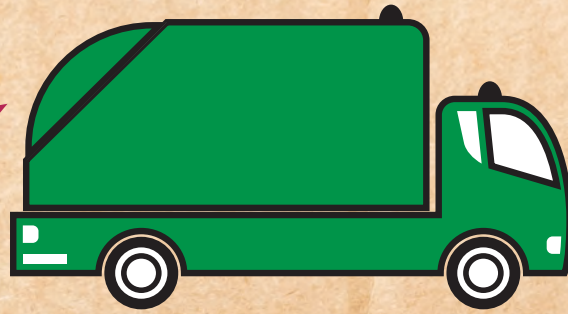
1

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 Pasco 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?



Made with recycled content

7

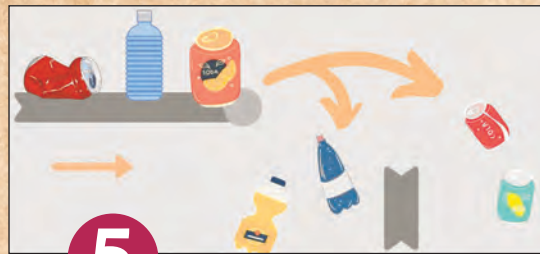
The final and most important part of the recycling process is YOU! For recycling to work, products that use recycled materials need to find homes on our shelves, not only in our recycling bin.

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 non-magnetic metals.

6

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



Household Hazardous Waste

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) includes everyday products with ingredients that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive. These items, such as paints, cleaners, aerosols, oils, lithium batteries and pesticides, require careful handling and disposal to avoid harm to people and the environment.

Never pour HHW down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or toss it in the trash. Even if it seems harmless, **improper disposal can contaminate water, soil and air — and harm people and wildlife.**



Guide to safely packaging and transporting your HHW:

- **Do not put items in a trash bag.**
- Keep chemicals capped and in their original containers with original labels.
- Pack waste containers carefully in a box or plastic bin to prevent spillage during transport.
- Keep containers upright.
- Be cautious with containers that are brittle or have cracked.
- If a chemical spills, use an absorbent to clean it up.
- Do not allow multiple chemicals to mix together.
- Place containers in the trunk or away from passengers.
- Do not commingle your HHW with your household trash.
- 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 dispose of HHW?

Residents can bring their household hazardous waste to either of Pasco County's two HHW Collection Centers, located at the **West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility** or and **the East Pasco Transfer Station**. There may be a fee depending on the quantity and type of waste. Upon arrival, customers unload their own materials (bring gloves!), which are then either recycled or sent to a permitted hazardous waste facility for proper treatment.

HHWAZARDOUS 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.



**For more information
on household hazardous
waste disposal,
contact Pasco County
Environmental Compliance
at 727-847-8123, ext. 2046
or visit [bit.ly/Household
ChemicalDisposal](http://bit.ly/HouseholdChemicalDisposal).**

Going beyond the text: **Student activity**



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 even deadly. Read the information on these pages about Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Then, research HHW on the website of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at 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. Create a campaign encouraging Pasco County residents to reduce their use of harmful products and to dispose of their HHW safely.

First, write down your ideas. Then create a two-part campaign. Using the advertisements in the Tampa Bay Times as models, create a full-page advertisement. Remember to design your ad keeping in mind purpose, audience and visual appeal. See if you can use the three rhetorical appeals – logos, ethos and pathos – for the argument you are focusing on in the campaign.

For the second part of the campaign, create a video or commercial to enhance the points made in your print advertisement. The video should be between 30 seconds and 120 seconds in length. Share your campaign with your class.

Florida Standards: HE.412.CH.1.1; ELA.412.EE.1.1; ELA.412.EE.2.1; ELA.412.EE.3.1; ELA.412.EE.4.1; ELA.412.EE.5.1; ELA.412.EE.6.1; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; SC.412.CC.2.1



Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Program



Household Hazardous Waste diversion and disposal is critical.

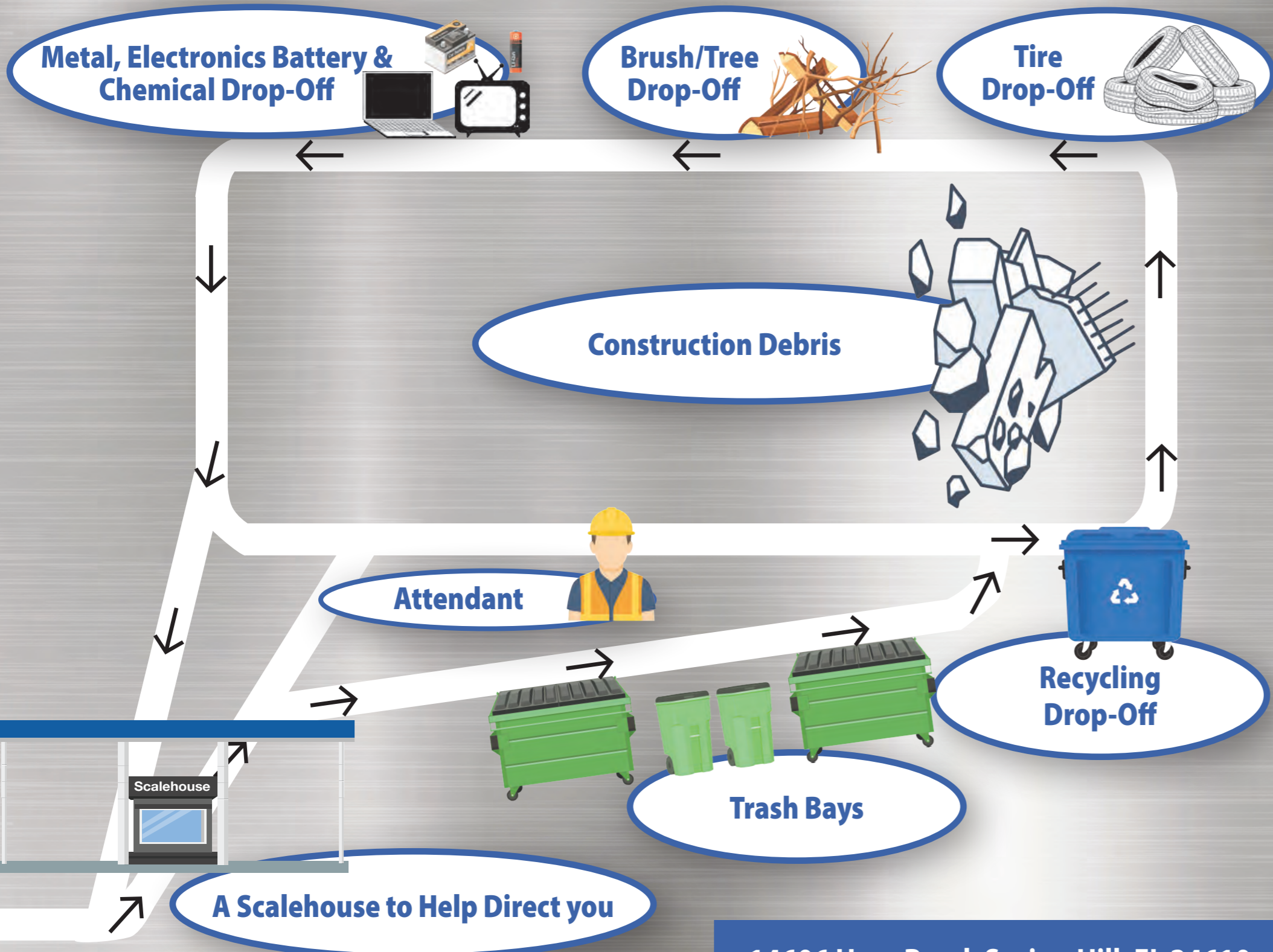
The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center partners with a local Habitat for Humanity ReStore to give usable household chemicals a second life.

When residents bring in chemical products that are still in good condition and more than half full, these items can be diverted from disposal and donated for reuse. This allows household hazardous waste that was previously bound for disposal to be used for its original purpose and helps support local community projects.

WEST PASCO RESOURCE RECOVERY

Hays Road

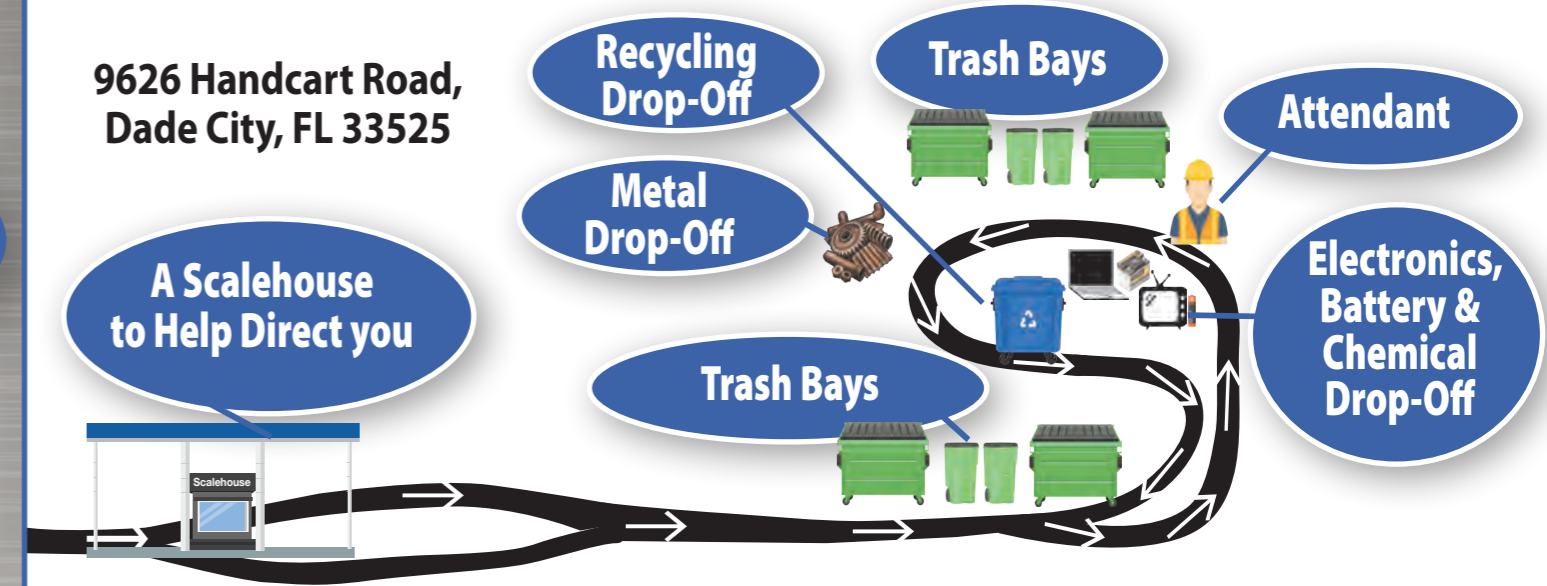
Hays Road



14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610

EAST PASCO TRANSFER STATION

9626 Handcart Road,
Dade City, FL 33525



Open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Items accepted at County Resource Recovery facilities:

- ✓ Up to 8 bags of trash per day
- ✓ Refrigerators
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Metal
- ✓ Construction debris (west pasco only)
- ✓ Computer monitor, tower or laptop
- ✓ Yard waste
- ✓ Propane tank
- ✓ Mixed loads
- ✓ Television
- ✓ Car/pickup tires
- ✓ Gasoline
- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ Antifreeze
- ✓ Fluorescent lightbulbs
- ✓ Latex and oil-based paint
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Fertilizers
- ✓ Cleaning and pool chemicals
- ✓ Cooking oil and motor oil

Some items may incur a charge. Go to MyPasco.net and search "trash" or call 727-847-2411 for information.

Don't Trash Your Batteries

Stop off at a drop-off!

Most batteries contain rare metals like lithium, cobalt and nickel, which are **precious resources we can't afford to waste.**

Batteries also contain lead, acid and lithium — **fire hazards and toxins.** Tossing them in the trash risks polluting our soil, water and air.

Recycling batteries keeps them out of landfills, **conserves rare metals, saves energy** and **protects our planet** for future generations.

Stop off at a drop-off!
Don't throw me away!



Batteries are also accepted at the **West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility** and the **East Pasco Transfer Station.** Additional information is listed on **page 6** and **page 11.**



Pasco County recycled 13 tons of household batteries and 60 tons of lead-acid batteries in 2025. Keep the momentum going and drop off your batteries today!



Going beyond the text: Student activity



The next time your battery runs out, don't throw it in the trash! Drop your batteries off for proper, safe disposal to prevent pollution and conserve energy and natural resources. Find a battery disposal location near you. Do some research about lithium-ion batteries on the internet, reading this publication and checking out the Hazardous Waste Management Program in Kings County video: [youtube.com/watch?v=D7td95ySam8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7td95ySam8) as well as the Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety, <https://batteryfiresafety.org/#section-1>.

AVOID THE SPARK:

Be Battery Safety Smart.

PREVENT FIRES

Never throw a lithium battery or lithium battery device in the trash or recycling bin!



Dispose of rechargeable batteries correctly!

Never crush or puncture a lithium-ion battery

Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries power many different types of electronic devices, such as cellphones, power tools, cordless vacuums, electric scooters and much more. But in the trash, they can spark fires even if they look fine. Crushing or damage makes them ignite easily, which can cause fires in garbage trucks or landfills. Li-ion batteries must be specially handled and disposed of in order to keep them out of landfills and incinerators.

Pasco County residents can drop off lithium-ion batteries at any Pasco County battery drop-off location.

If the Li-ion battery becomes damaged or swollen, it can become a fire risk. Contact the battery or device manufacturer for specific handling information. Not all batteries are removable or serviceable by the user. Heed battery and product markings regarding safety and use.



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

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
4222 Land O'Lakes Blvd., Suite 202
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 Drive, New Port Richey



Next, look for articles and images of items containing lithium-ion batteries in the Tampa Bay Times. See if you can find articles focusing on fire safety and battery safety as well.

Using the Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety infographic at https://admin.batteryfiresafety.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/Infographic_UL.pdf, create your own infographic showing the importance of proper battery disposal. Share your

infographic and what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: ELA.412.EE.1.1; ELA.412.EE.4.1; ELA.412.EE.5.1; ELA.412.EE.6.1; ELA.412.F.2.1; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.V.1.1; SC.8.ET.1.3; SC.912.ET.1.6; SC.412.CC.2.1

Pasco County Residential Cooking 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 the oil in a clean, leak-proof container and prepare it for transport.

For more information about Pasco's C.O.R.E. or FOG programs, contact FOG@MyPasco.net or 727-992-1081.

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.

I'm Not Trash Yet!

APHONE'S STORY

Hi, I'm your old phone. I had a great life helping you. But now I'm getting older. What happens next? You decide!

Upgrade time!

You put me in a drawer, forgotten and wasted!

Or, you decide to fix me!

I'm new again!

Time to move on

You donate me to someone new! Off to a new home!

End of the line?

You toss me in the trash

Bad for the planet!

Or, you take me to an e-waste center!

Parts get used again!

Your choices make a difference. It's up to you — what's my next chapter?

Recycle your e-waste

Did you know?

Less than 20% of electronics are recycled nationwide — but Pasco County is making progress. In 2025 alone, **Pasco County residents helped recycle 146 tons of electronics** by bringing them to a Pasco County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility.

Pasco County has been a pioneer in environmental responsibility.

As Florida's first county — and among the few nationwide — to establish an electronics recycling program, Pasco County has set the standard for sustainability. Despite the challenges and costs, Pasco County remains committed to keeping e-waste out of landfills and protecting the environment for generations to come.



Why recycle?

Electronics contain plastics that can last thousands of years and metals that can contaminate soil and air. Recycling electronics keeps these materials out of landfills and reduces pollution.

Keep the momentum going.

Bring your old electronics to any Pasco County HHW facility. Accepted items include cellphones, computers, monitors, towers, laptops, CRT and flatscreen TVs, and audio/video equipment.

- TVs, laptops, monitors and CPUs: \$5 per item
- TVs larger than 36 inches: \$10 each

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

Going beyond the text: Student activity

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection notes recycling helps preserve natural resources and save energy we would use to manufacture things from raw materials. It also helps reduce pollution as well as saves money related to the cost of discarding items by cutting down on the amount of trash people throw away. Money is also saved by manufacturers by reducing energy costs. Recycling is the one thing we as individuals can control. Our waste reduction and recycling activities can make a difference.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds students, parents and teachers they can make a difference in reducing waste at school. Check out the information posted on the EPA's "Reducing Waste: What Can You Do" webpage at epa.gov/recycle/reducing-waste-what-you-can-do. Look at the "Tips for students and schools" section.

Next, look through the advertisements, articles and photographs in the Tampa Bay Times. Make a list of all the items that you use at school (or at home). Can you reduce the

amount of waste that is produced from these items? Create an infographic showing how you and your families can reduce waste and save energy.

Florida Standards: ELA.412.EE.1.1; ELA.412.EE.4.1; ELA.412.EE.5.1; ELA.412.EE.6.1; ELA.412.F.2.1; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.V.1.1; SC.412.CC.2.1

Sharps Exchange Program

The Pasco County Sharps Exchange Program helps residents safely dispose of needles, syringes, tubes and lancets — at no cost. Through a partnership with six local medical facilities, the program provides convenient locations where residents can exchange full sharps containers for new ones, ensuring safe handling and reducing risks to the community.

When sharps aren't disposed of properly, they don't just vanish. They can puncture trash bags, injure sanitation workers, wash into waterways, or even end up on roads, creating real dangers for people and wildlife.



Going beyond the text: Student activity



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines the four rules of waste reduction:

1. Reduce by purchasing, consuming and throwing away less trash. The best way to reduce waste is by source reduction. This includes creation of the product as well as packaging.
2. Reuse by repairing, donating or selling unneeded or unwanted items. Reuse is a great option because items do not have to be reprocessed before they can be used again.
3. Recycle, which consists of a series of activities that includes collecting recyclable materials that would otherwise be considered waste. Sorting and processing recyclables into raw materials and manufacturing the raw materials into new products.
4. Buy items that are made of recycled materials.

Now that you have learned these four rules, it is important to encourage others to follow them as well. Students, adults and businesses can be part of waste reduction to protect our environment. Do some research on waste reduction using this publication, the internet and the Tampa Bay Times. Compile the information you find to write an informative newspaper article about waste reduction. Use the news articles in the Tampa Bay Times as models for your article. Be sure to focus on the who, what, why, where and how aspects of waste reduction. Add some photographs to your article as shown in the Times. Share what you have learned with your class.

Florida Standards: ELA.412.EE.1.1; ELA.412.EE.4.1; ELA.412.EE.5.1; ELA.412.EE.6.1; ELA.412.F.2.1; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.V.1.1; SC.912.L.17.14

How It Works:

- Pick up a red sharps container at one of the six participating facilities.
- Store it securely, out of reach of children and pets.
- Place used needles intact into the container — never recap or break them.
- When full, seal and return it for a free replacement.

Do's and Don'ts:

- ✓ Do use approved containers or a sturdy plastic bottle if necessary.
- ✓ Do keep containers sealed and stored safely.
- ✗ Don't throw sharps in household trash or recycling.
- ✗ Don't flush needles down toilets or drains.

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

For additional information, contact Pasco County Environmental Compliance at 727-847-2411, ext. 2046.

Sharps Exchange Program locations

Hours are subject to change:

Advent Health Zephyrhills
Hospital Main Lobby
Mon.-Fri., 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
7050 Gall Boulevard
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

HCA Florida Trinity Hospital
Emergency Room
24 Hours
9330 State Road 54,
Trinity, FL 34654

HCA Florida Bayonet Point
Emergency Room
24 Hours
14100 Fivay Road
Hudson, FL 34667

Advent Health Dade City
Main Entrance Info Desk
24 Hours
13100 Fort King Road
Dade City, FL 33525

Morton Plant North Bay
Emergency Room
24 Hours
6600 Madison Street
New Port Richey, FL 34652



Protect your family, your pets and the Earth: Dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medications 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 the 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;
ELA.312.F.2.1; ELA.312.F.2.2;
ELA.312.F.2.4; 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

About NIE

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources – a “living textbook.”

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 2024-2025, NIE provided more than 10 million digital newspaper licenses and nearly 200,000 print newspapers to Tampa Bay classrooms.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TBTNIE](https://www.facebook.com/TBTNIE).

