



Crafts



Upcycle Michael and friends



Native plant sale



Spin for the environment



Sheriff's Mounted Posse



Nate the Acorn with native plants



Nate recycling plastic

PASCO RECYCLING 2017 MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY



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.

Since the mid-1970s, NIE has provided schools with class sets of the daily newspaper plus award-winning original curriculum supplements, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources at no cost to schools, teachers or families. Each year, more than 5 million newspapers and electronic licenses are provided to Tampa Bay teachers and students free of charge thanks to our generous individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are correlated to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com.

Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE).

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Florida Standards

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

Language Arts: LAFS.4-12.L.1.1; LAFS.4-12.L.1.2; LAFS.4-12.L.2.3; LAFS.4-12.L.3.4; LAFS.4-12.L.3.5; LAFS.4-12.L.3.6; LAFS.4-12.RI.1.1; LAFS.4-12.RI.1.2; LAFS.4-12.RI.1.3; LAFS.4-12.RI.2.4; LAFS.4-12.RI.2.5; LAFS.4-12.RI.2.6; LAFS.4-12.RI.3.7; LAFS.4-12.RST.3.7; LAFS.4-12.SL.1.1; LAFS.4-12.SL.1.2; LAFS.4-12.SL.1.3; LAFS.4-12.SL.2.4; LAFS.4-12.SL.2.5; LAFS.4-12.SL.2.6; LAFS.4-12.W.1.1; LAFS.4-12.W.1.2; LAFS.4-12.W.2.4; LAFS.4-12.W.2.5; LAFS.4-12.W.2.6; LAFS.4-12.W.3.7

Science: SC.8.N.4.1; SC.8.N.4.2; SC.E.6.6; SC.E.7.7; SCL.17.3; SCL.17.12; SCL.17.13; SCL.17.14; SCL.17.15; SCL.17.16; SCL.17.17; SCL.17.20; SC.N.4.1; SC.N.4.2



PASCO RECYCLING Calendar of Events 2017-2018

MARCH 2017

Great American Cleanup
March 11, 2017

APRIL 2017

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park
April 22, 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

Coastal Cleanup
September 16, 2017

NOVEMBER 2017

America Recycles Day
November 15, 2017

UPCYCLE Festival
November 18, 2017

DECEMBER 2017

Christmas tree recycling
December 26, 2017 –
January 14, 2018

Pasco Art of Recycling Scholarship applications are accepted beginning December 2017.

Contact the Pasco Education Foundation at
727-774-2705 or

info@pascoeducationfoundation.org for details.

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2018

Pasco Art of Recycling Contest
for high school students.

MARCH 2018

Great American Cleanup
March TBD, 2018

All dates subject to change. Visit pascocountyfl.net
and pasco.k12.fl.us for updated information.



**GOING
BEYOND
THE TEXT:**

Caring about the environment

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.

Security, identity theft and shredding

"I haven't heard about Dumpster diving since I was dancing to disco!"

That's what an office manager for a large legal practice said to Cam Caudle, owner of Shred360, after hearing an explanation of how using an office shredder still leaves her practice at risk of identity theft. Many businesses hang on to that office shredder despite the costs and risks.

What are the risks? First, there's commercially available software that reconstructs shredded documents. It's real, it really works, and it's being used today by law enforcement agencies, security companies, investigators and government agencies.

However, it's also being used by people who want to get their hands on sensitive information and use that information to wreak havoc on you, your customers or your company.



Second, disco may be dead, but Dumpster diving is real – and it's alive and well in 2017. It's easy to forget about physical paper data breaches because we hear so much about electronic breaches. But physical breaches are extremely common, especially for small- to medium-sized companies as

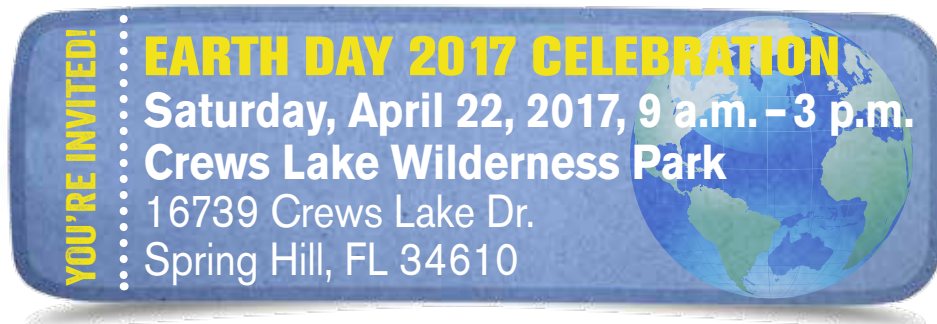
well as individuals, who often believe data protection measures are only for the big guys.

Dumpster diving combined with sophisticated analytical software creates tremendous potential for identity theft. Businesses that don't handle private information correctly can face fines of as much as \$1.5 million as well as enormous negative publicity.

Protect yourself

For Pasco County's last three Earth Day celebrations, Shred360 has offered free shredding service to individuals. Shred360 is a certified on-site shredding services company that specializes in protecting employees, customers, companies and reputations.

Individuals can bring up to five boxes or bags for shredding at Earth Day 2017 (please, no commercial entities).



MAKE
EVERY DAY
EARTH
DAY



Join us @ Earth Day 2017

What better place to recycle than at an Earth Day celebration? Come to Crews Lake Wilderness Park on April 22, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is located off Shady Hills Road, just south of the Suncoast Parkway and north of State Road 52 in Spring Hill.

BRING US YOUR:

- **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.
- **Medicines:** expired and unused medications, plus sharps.
- **Personal documents for shredding:** identity-sensitive documents for secure on-site shredding. You can watch as they are destroyed. Limit five 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 • Water Ventures Learning Lab
- Children's crafts and educational displays
- Recycling information
- Upcycle vendors • Suncoast Trails Earth Day ride
- Adoptable pets • Rick's Raptor Rescue

Join us for a fun, educational day in the park. For more information, contact Lottie Kelley at lkelly@covanta.com or 727-856-2917, ext. 201.

COVANTA





In the business of recycling

In Pasco County, every high school has an On-the-Job Training (OJT) program. These programs are designed to prepare students with disabilities for success in life after they leave the school system. Student, families, educators and community service providers all collaborate to prepare students

for a successful transition to life after school. The planning process helps to ensure that students participate in making decisions related to education, health, employment, social interactions and daily living needs.

Job placement and transition specialists identify job placement sites, place participants at job sites and monitor students' progress. But sometimes they have the opportunity to create that job site

right at high schools.

Wesley Chapel High School's OJT program has done just that, with the added bonus of the job being recycling. This amazing group of OJT students has turned their school recycling program into a business. This has taught the students not just the responsibility of running a business, but also has given them a passion for their environment and the planet.

The students are divided into sections based on abilities, and take it upon themselves to gather recyclable materials from classrooms and common areas and deliver them to the appropriate holding area for school district distribution material handlers to pick up the following day.

Because of these students, Wesley Chapel High School's recycling rate is higher than that of any other Pasco County high school.

Earth Patrol is making a comeback!

The Earth Patrol program was created more than a decade ago by the Pasco County School Board as a collaboration between the Energy and the Recycling offices. This program was designed to assist schools with conservation efforts through student involvement. Earth Patrol is a voluntary program promoted as a teaching tool for students.

Over the last few years, more schools have begun to participate in this environmentally focused program in order to reduce their solid waste and increase their recycling rates. One of those ways is through the Earth Patrol program.

Students who participate in the Earth Patrol program become a strong enabling force in helping their schools discover how to develop successful recycling, water conservation and energy management programs. Students perform a variety of weekly activities, such as:

- collecting recyclables from classrooms and other locations
- creating commercials and announcements to encourage conservation

- monitoring water conservation efforts
- planting and maintaining gardens
- promoting litter prevention
- visiting classrooms to monitor for computers, lights and appliances left on
- looking for recyclables in the waste can and trash in recycling containers
- participating in environmental meetings

The participation of teachers and staff is also essential to the Earth Patrol program. Teachers and staff members provide challenges to students, reinforce how their positive actions make a difference at their school and teach them how to serve as role models for their peers.

The corporate sponsor of the Earth Patrol program is Covanta. Covanta recently purchased new Earth Patrol vests for students participating in the program.

For more information on the Earth Patrol program, including how to start one at your school, visit www.pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle/info/patrol.



Earth Patrol

Earth Patrol was developed to assist with conservation efforts at schools. Earth Patrol's success relies on its participants: teachers, students, parents, administrators and community members. Conservation programs are important throughout Pasco County. Read all the information on these pages about Earth Patrol and then go to www.pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle/info/patrol to learn more. Write down important points you have read or seen at your school. Now it is your job to help encourage your peers, families, friends and neighbors to participate in the Pasco County Schools Earth Patrol program. In a small group, create a song, short play or video to highlight the information you have learned and encourage others to participate. Perform your piece for your class.

How to Make COMPOST

1

Choose a place

Ideal compost area is a dry, shady spot near a water source, with dimensions of 3x3x3 feet.

2

Add the ingredients

The ingredients are those rich in carbon (brown materials) and those rich in nitrogen (green materials). Make sure large materials are chopped or shredded.

3

Add water as needed

Make sure the pile stays moist, but not too wet (it should feel like a damp sponge).

4

Keep things moving

Turn your compost mixture to add air to the mix. This helps speed up the composting process.

5

Wait a while

When the compost no longer gives off heat and becomes dry, brown and crumbly, it's fully cooked and ready to be fed to the garden.

What's next? Composting!

Pasco County schools are beginning to compost at the school level. Composting is the next step in reducing solid waste output. By diverting some of our food waste and creating rich, dark, good-for-your-garden soil, we can reduce our trash.

Several Pasco County elementary school classes have built or bought worm composting bins. Teachers use the bins as teaching tools and hands-on learning activities that show students that you are never too young to make a difference.

Multiple Pasco County middle and high schools have tumbler composting bins. Tumblers are bigger than worm bins and take a little less time to compost. In many schools, the tumblers are used in conjunction with Exceptional Student Education (ESE) or On-the-Job Training (OJT) classes. These students learn the difference between organic materials and man-made materials, as well as the value of recycling food waste to create a nutrient-rich soil for their gardens.



What is composting?

Composting is the biological decomposition of organic waste, such as food or plant material. Composting is easy, reduces food and yard waste, and creates excellent, free organic fertilizer.

Visit the Pasco County Extension Service website at pasco.ifas.ufl.edu for more information about composting.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension

Pasco County Schools will soon open the doors of their new Surplus Store to the general public. The store will sell surplus furniture and equipment that is no longer used in district schools.

The Surplus Store will give the community the opportunity to purchase surplus items at great prices, help create a better turnover of district assets and free up storage space in district buildings. All money generated from the store will be returned to the general fund.

The store will accept cash only and will not offer delivery. All items will be "as-is" with no guarantees, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The store is slated to open by spring 2017.

For more information, contact Pasco County Schools recycling coordinator Salinda Strandberg at 727-774-2380 or sstrandb@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Pasco County Schools Surplus Store



Pasco County wants to recycle 35% of residential and commercial waste by 2030.

Your trash is not landfilled...



Trash is picked up by trash haulers.



Garbage is converted to electricity at Covanta Energy's Pasco County Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility. A total of 1,050 tons of garbage per day is processed in Pasco County to produce energy.

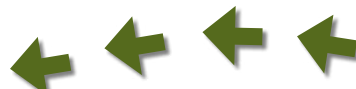
Incineration produces energy. This energy is sold to Duke Energy and provides enough power for 23,000 homes per year.



Reclaimed (reused) water from the wastewater treatment plant is used in the WTE facility's cooling tower.



Nonprocessable materials (construction and demolition debris) go into a landfill. Remaining ash can be landfilled or used in roadbeds.



Metal is removed from ash by a magnet. Aluminum also is removed from ash.

Metal is sent to the scrap metal dealer for recycling. Aluminum is sent to market.



PASCO RECYCLES!

If you are receiving twice-a-week trash pickup at the curb, then you already have recycling service. You just have to use it.

Your trash hauler is obligated to provide you at least twice-a-month recycling service. They also can give you a sticker and your recycling schedule. See Page 7 for your trash hauler's contact information.

In Pasco County, we recycle the following items at the curb:

- Aluminum cans
- Metal food cans
- Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars
- Mixed paper
- Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard
- Plastic bottles and small containers (such as yogurt cups, butter tubs or ketchup bottles) coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7

Paper and cardboard now included in curbside recycling

As of summer 2016, Pasco County residents can include mixed paper and cardboard in your curbside recycling bin.

No plastic bags in the recycling stream

Never put plastic grocery, retail or trash bags in your recycling container.

Plastic bags become tangled in recycling machinery, which can damage the equipment and bring operations to a halt. The bags must be removed from the recycling stream by hand,

which is expensive, difficult and potentially dangerous.

Plastic bags can be reused and recycled at most grocery stores or upcycled into many useful and decorative items.



unless we exceed the capacity of our plant



Pasco County is growing again. More people create more trash. Pasco is projected to have 485,000 people by the year 2030. In 2016, we began to exceed the capacity of our Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant. We have too much garbage.

If we continue this way, “The Facility will require an expansion to begin by 2022,” said Flip Mellinger, assistant county administra-

tor for utilities. “The cost of that expansion, which includes adding a fourth incinerator, is projected to be approximately \$190 million not counting inflation, which the citizens of Pasco County will have to pay for through increased fees.”

The WTE expansion is inevitable. However, the longer Pasco County is able to hold off on 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 WTE expansion is to get more Pasco County residents to take part in curbside recycling, which all county-licensed haulers provide. Every Pasco County resident who starts recycling will play an important role in deferring the WTE expansion.

What’s left in your trash?

Right now, only 27 percent of Pasco County households eligible for curbside recycling actually participate, reducing the volume of trash going to the WTE facility by less than 2 percent.

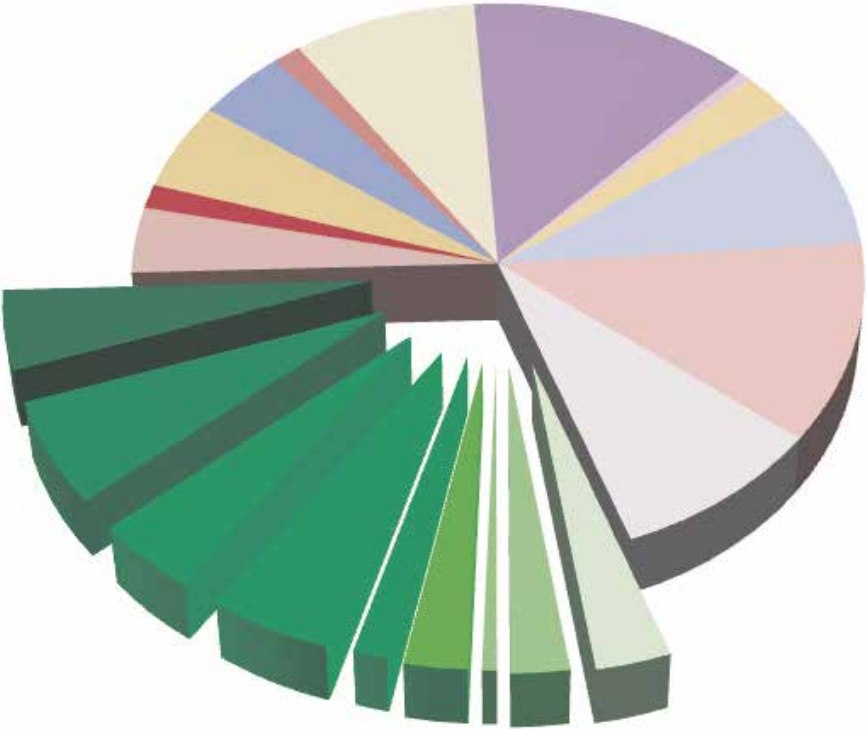
This pie chart shows how much further we can go.

The green slices are recyclable materials that end up in the trash can instead of the recycling bin. Office papers, corrugated cardboard, newspapers, glass containers, aluminum and metal food cans,

and plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded #1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 all can be put in curbside recycling.

In 2015, Pasco County’s WTE facility processed approximately 343,000 tons of trash. If people recycled everything they could, as much as 102,900 tons could be removed from the trash!

Residential curbside recycling can’t do it all, but it can make a dent. You just need to do it.



- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Glass Containers | ■ Corrugated Containers | ■ Nonrigid Plastic Film |
| ■ Metal Cans | ■ Newspaper | ■ Other Nonrecyclable Paper |
| ■ Other Narrow-neck Plastics | ■ Textiles | ■ Aseptic Containers |
| ■ PET Containers | ■ Scrap Metals | ■ Special Wastes |
| ■ HDPE Containers | ■ C&D Debris & Wood | ■ Other Garbage, Grit, Etc. |
| ■ Other Recyclable Paper | ■ All Other Plastics | ■ Food Waste |
| ■ Office Paper | ■ Styrofoam | ■ Yard Waste |

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.

For your trash and recycling pickup schedule, contact your hauler:

All Haul Waste • 727-847-2420 • allhaulwaste.com

County Sanitation • 888-522-5794
countysanitationservice.com

J.D. Parker & Sons • 727-845-1024

Progressive (east) • 352-583-4204
progressivewaste.com/pasco-east

Progressive (west/central) • 727-849-3333 or
727-847-9100 • progressivewaste.com/pasco-west

Republic
727-868-2566 • republicservices.com

Waste Aid • 813-996-1457 or 727-842-9309
wasteaidsystems.com

Waste Management of Pasco • 813-621-3053 or
800-255-7172 • wm.com



**GOING
BEYOND
THE TEXT:**

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Define the words “reduce,” “reuse” and “recycle” on a piece of paper. With another student, look through the *Tampa Bay Times* for words, photos and advertisements depicting household items. Cut out the words and images and put them into one of these three categories: reduce, reuse or recycle. Design a poster promoting the three R’s in your school. Use some of the images and words you found in the newspaper for ideas for your poster. Share what you have learned with your class.



Combining art, recycling

2017 Art of Recycling winners

1. **First Place (\$500):** *Leaping From Industrialization*, Kylie Rice, Ridgewood High School
2. **Second Place (\$300):** *Free to a Clean Ocean*, Julianne Wilkinson, Gulf High School
3. **Third Place (\$200):** *A Book Blooms*, Sydney Bennett, Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School
4. **People's Choice (\$100):** *Looking On the Other Side*, Nainshari Ortiz, Anclote High School
5. **Commissioner's Choice (\$100):** *Captured*, Taylor Moore, Pasco High School
6. **Covanta Award (\$100):** *Anti-Freeze Kitten*, Kaylin Murphy, J.W. Mitchell High School
7. **Best Artistic Expression (\$100):** *Dreaming of a Better World*, Breanna Gates, Ridgewood High School
8. **Best Use of Printed Material (\$100):** *Life is Ruff When You Don't Recycle*, Jessica Skrelunas, Anclote High School
9. **Most Innovative (\$100):** *Looking on the Other Side*, Nainshari Ortiz, Anclote High School
10. **Art of Recycling Committee Award (\$100):** *Bleaching the Blue*, Katie Shelley, Sunlake High School
11. **Best Use of Aluminum (\$100):** *Recycling Iron Man*, Brinkley Simpson, Sunlake High School
12. **Best Use of Materials (\$100):** *Cappy The Turtle*, Eleni Athanasoulis, Genesis Preparatory School



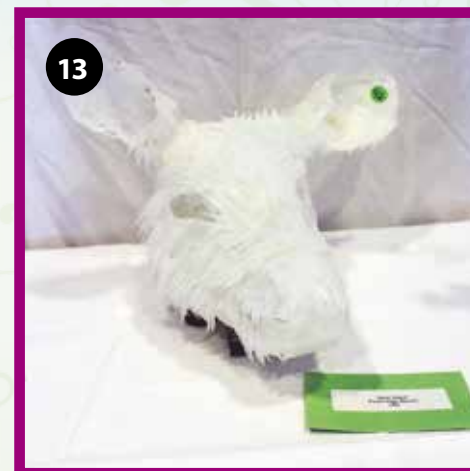
**GOING
BEYOND
THE TEXT:**

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



Recycling and creativity



Upcycle Michael visits the Art of Recycling exhibit

Upcycle Michael, the waste reduction ambassador for Keep Pasco Beautiful, holds up his favorite 2017 Art of Recycling artwork. **Upcycle Michael's** focus is to show ways that people can reuse and upcycle items before those items end up in the trash.



13. **Best Use of Plastic (\$100):** *Deer Head*, Sarah Oliva, Pasco High School
14. **Pasco Arts Council Special Merit Award (\$100):** *Aluminum Joker*, Darian Proper, Anclote High School
15. **Best Environmental Concept (\$100):** *The Dying Bees*, Madison Kaylor, Pasco High School

The Pasco Art of Recycling Contest is an annual high school art competition promoting art and recycling through the use of recycled materials. It offers \$2,200 in prize money to winning students.

Students who enter artwork into the contest may be eligible to apply for two \$750 Art of Recycling Scholarships. Students should see their guidance counselor for more information.

Each February, all Art of Recycling artwork is exhibited at the West Pasco Government Center in New Port Richey. An exhibition of winning artwork follows at the Pasco County Schools district office in Land O'Lakes.

The Pasco Art of Recycling Contest and exhibit is a cooperative project of Pasco County Schools, Pasco County Recycling and Education, Keep Pasco Beautiful and the Pasco Arts Council.

2017 Art of Recycling sponsors:

Commissioner Mike Moore	• Republic Services
County Recycling	• Sierra Family Foundation
Covanta Pasco	• Simpson Farms
Fine Arts of the Suncoast	• Waste Aid Systems
Pasco Arts Council	• Waste Connections
Regency Technologies	• Waste Management

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.

Collection event diverts 27 tons of hazardous waste

On December 2, 2016, Pasco County hosted a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. In just six hours, residents diverted 54,066 pounds (27 tons) of hazardous materials from the waste stream:

- 567 vehicles
- 13,266 pounds of latex paint
- 8,211 pounds of household chemicals
- 115 lead-acid batteries
- 450 pounds of household batteries
- 33 20-pound propane tanks
- 275 gallons of motor oil, antifreeze and gasoline
- 250 mercury-containing bulbs
- 23,667 pounds of electronics



Battery Recycling



Many homeowners don't know that they should recycle batteries. Batteries contain heavy metals that can release harmful chemicals when disposed of in landfills or incinerated. Pasco County Utilities runs a battery recycling program with collection buckets in government buildings and libraries throughout the county.

For more information about Pasco County's battery recycling program, contact the Household Hazardous Waste department at 813-929-2755, ext. 6890.

Household Battery Recycling Contest

Pasco County Schools partners with Pasco County to cosponsor the Household Battery Recycling Contest from July 1 to June 30 each year.

All participating schools receive certificates of appreciation. The top 10 schools receive monetary awards generated from the school district's recycling efforts.

For more information about district recycling programs, visit www.pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle or contact recycling coordinator Salinda Strandberg at 813-794-2380 or ssstrandb@pasco.k12.fl.us.

2015-2016 Household Battery Recycling Contest winners

West Zephyrhills Elementary School - 1,499 pounds

Richey Elementary School - 564 pounds

James Irvin Educational Center - 455 pounds

Deer Park Elementary School - 436 pounds

Odessa Elementary School - 436 pounds

Lake Myrtle Elementary School - 421 pounds

Mitty P. Locke Elementary School - 406 pounds

Charles S. Rushe Middle School - 325 pounds

Sand Pine Elementary School - 309 pounds

Pasco Elementary School - 305 pounds

BRIGHT IDEAS: Proper disposal and recycling of light bulbs



➤ Incandescent and halogen bulbs can be placed in your household trash

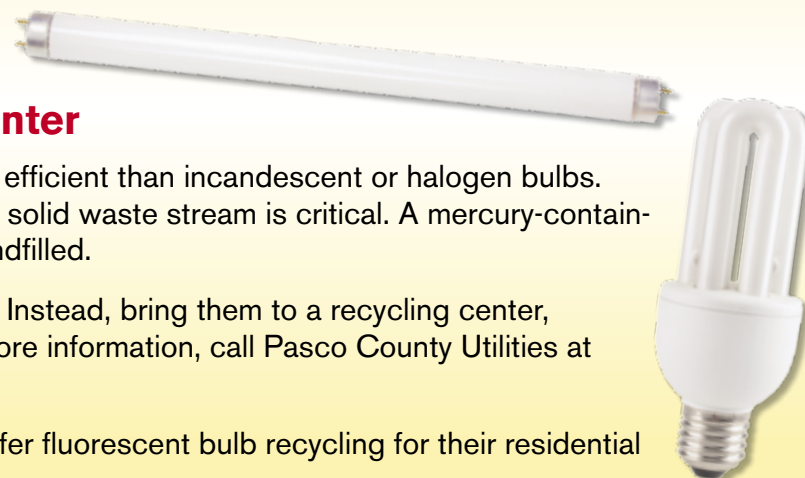
When we imagine a light bulb, most of us think of an incandescent bulb. These are glass bulbs that contain a thin metal filament. Halogen bulbs, a more efficient version of incandescent bulbs, consume 10 to 20 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. However, almost all the energy of both these bulbs is transferred into heat, which is inefficient and costly.

➤ Fluorescent bulbs must be recycled at a recycling center

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and fluorescent tubes can be 75 percent more efficient than incandescent or halogen bulbs. But fluorescent bulbs use mercury. Mercury is hazardous, and removing it from the solid waste stream is critical. A mercury-containing bulb, designated by the symbol (Hg), should never be broken, incinerated or landfilled.

Never put fluorescent tubes or CFLs in your household trash or curbside recycling. Instead, bring them to a recycling center, where they can be handled safely. Pasco County recycles fluorescent bulbs. For more information, call Pasco County Utilities at 813-929-2755, ext. 6890.

Some retailers, such as Batteries Plus Bulbs, The Home Depot and Lowe's, may offer fluorescent bulb recycling for their residential customers. Check with your local store.



PASCO COUNTY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RECYCLING PROGRAM

It's estimated that up to 75 percent of old electronics remain in homes because people don't know what to do with them.

Computers, cellphones and other electronics contain both useful and hazardous materials. Materials such as plastics, nonprecious metals (steel, aluminum and copper), wood, glass and precious metals can be recycled. However, lead, cadmium, chromium and mercury should not be landfilled or incinerated because they are dangerous to human health and the environment.

Old televisions and computer monitors are the most problematic. The basic unit of each is called a cathode ray tube (CRT) and it contains lead. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has estimated that 6,738 pounds of lead enters Florida's solid waste stream annually. Almost half of that – 42 percent – is attributed to CRT televisions and monitors.

CRTs can be de-manufactured. Pasco County was the first county in the state of Florida, and one of a handful in the nation, to implement a de-manufacturing program. However, much of the United States lacks the infrastructure that would make the process economically rewarding.



Therefore, the program is costly and challenging. Revenues offset only a small portion of costs.

An average CRT can cost Pasco County \$36 or more to recycle. Because of this, Pasco charges a small fee of \$5 for TVs under 36 inches and \$10 for TVs 36 inches and greater. There are also small charges for computer monitors, computer towers and laptops.

In 2016, Pasco County diverted 1,067,473 pounds (534 tons) of electronics from the solid waste stream through their recycling program, at a cost of \$320,279.33.



**GOING
BEYOND
THE TEXT:**

Strive to be waste free

Did you know that a person creates an average of 4.5 pounds of trash per day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency? If you multiply that amount by the number of students in your classroom and then in your school... that is a lot of trash! By reducing the number of items in your lunch that must be thrown out, or by only using those that can be eaten, reused, recycled or composted, you can make a difference in your environment and the environment of the future. Go to this website: tbim.es/18zi. Using the information and examples, create your own waste-free and healthy lunch menus for one week. Make sure to pack only what you can eat, reuse, recycle or compost. Using the advertisements in the *Tampa Bay Times* as a model, create an advertisement for your waste-free lunch week. Share your menus and ad with your class.



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
- Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars
- Newspaper, mixed paper, office paper, phone books
- Flattened corrugated cardboard

Anclote Gulf Park

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

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, FL 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
352-521-0500 (also accepts used cooking oils, scrap metal and electronics)

Embassy Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant

9560 Crabtree Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34654
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (also accepts used cooking oils)

Senior Services Center

6801 Wisteria Loop, Land O'Lakes, FL 34638
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (can vary)
813-929-1200

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
727-861-3053
(also accepts used cooking oils, scrap metal and electronics)

Electronics, bulbs, chemicals and more

Only at the following drop-off locations

Resource Recovery Class III Landfill

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

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

For more information about Pasco County's HHW programs, call Pasco County Utilities at 813-929-2755, ext. 6890.

Put the F.O.G. into the C.O.R.E.



Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) are byproducts of food preparation, meat cutting and cooking. F.O.G. can be found in meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, sauces and dairy products.

When F.O.G. items are poured down drains or garbage disposals, they build up in our

pipes and sewers. Eventually, they can back up into sinks, tubs and toilets. These backups pose serious health and environmental problems and can be very costly to fix.

Pasco County participates in a statewide program called the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort (C.O.R.E.). In 2015, the Pasco County C.O.R.E. program recycled 2,610 gallons of used cooking oils.

The C.O.R.E program accepts cooking oils such as vegetable, corn, peanut, olive and soybean oil and fats and grease such as lard, butter, shortening and bacon grease.

Simply pour your used cooking fats, oil and grease while still warm into a container that you can freeze. The fats, oils and grease can be mixed in a single container. Store the container in the freezer to keep the grease solid, and pull it out whenever you have F.O.G. to dispose of. When the container gets full, drop it off for recycling at one of the county's four cooking oil recycling locations. Noncooking oils such as motor oil, fuels, antifreeze and chemicals are not accepted by the C.O.R.E. program and should never be mixed with cooking oils. For more information about C.O.R.E. in Pasco County, call 813-929-2755, ext. 6896.

Helpful hints to minimize F.O.G. in our environment

- Never pour cooking oils, fats or grease down the drain or into garbage disposals.
- Remove excess food material from utensils, knives and cutting boards and discard in the trash.
- Pots and pans with heavy grease buildup and items with food residue should be wiped with a paper towel before being placed in the dishwasher.
- Minimize the use of excess cooking oils and grease when cooking or frying.

Recycle your used cooking oil for free:

East Pasco Transfer Station

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

Embassy Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant

9560 Crabtree Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34654
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pasco County Facilities

7220 Osteen Road, New Port Richey, FL 34653
24/7 drop-off

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Zephyrhills City Maintenance Yard

39421 South Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Pasco County household used sharps exchange program



Sharps are medical instruments such as needles, IV tubing with needles, scalpel blades, razor blades, lancets, glass tubes, syringes and diabetic testing supplies.

Safe disposal of sharps is important. Sharps can harm people, pets and wildlife and can damage public sewers and pump stations. Placing hypodermic needles and other sharps down the toilet or in household trash also puts disposal workers at risk.

You can help by disposing of your sharps properly. Visit one of the sponsor exchange sites listed at pascocountyfl.net and ask for an approved sharps container (search for "sharps"). Follow the directions on the container. There is no cost to participate in the program.

For additional information, visit pascocountyutilities.com or call 813-929-2755, ext. 6896.

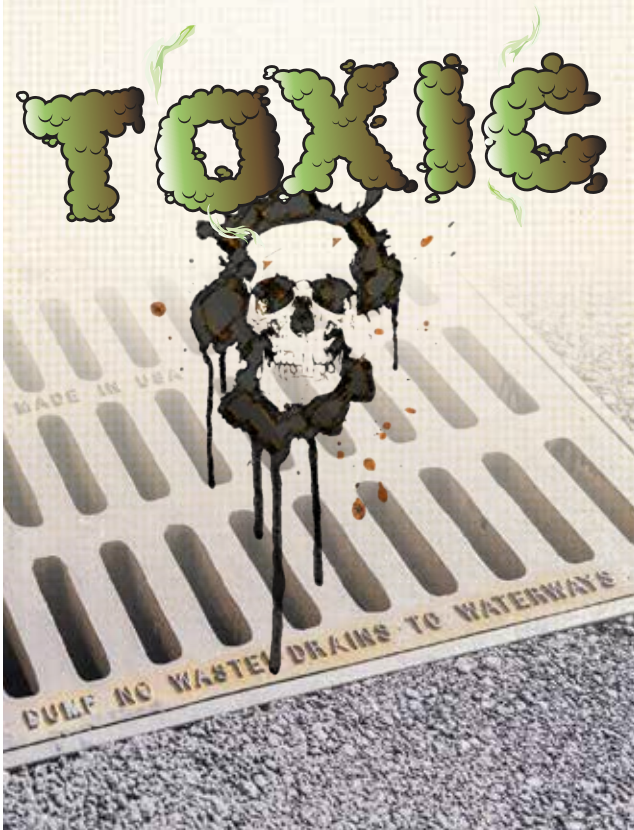


Never Down the Drain

- › Fertilizer and lawn chemicals
- › Household chemicals and cleansers
- › Motor oil and automotive fluids
- › Paint, paint thinners and removers
- › Pesticides
- › Pool chemicals
- › Solvents

Pasco County provides two hazardous waste collection center locations for conveniently and safely managing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Pasco County residents can drop off most items at no charge. Commercial entities will be charged for disposal.

For a small charge, you also can drop off propane tanks, car and truck tires, refrigerators, air conditioners and yard waste. Visit pascocountyfl.net or call Pasco County Solid Waste at 727-857-2780 for more information.



The real facts about 'flushable' wipes

The Pasco County Sanitary Sewer Collection System is a network of sewer lines, manholes, pumping stations and other structures used to collect wastewater and transport it to a treatment plant. With aging infrastructure, Pasco County is battling the problem of "ragging" – that's when baby wipes, diapers, dental floss, paper towels and other items not designed for flushing become entangled in sewer pumps.

Sewer agencies throughout the United States are dealing with the problem of flushable wipes. Toilet paper manufacturing companies market these wipe products as "flushable," but wastewater professionals have discovered that they are not safe for sewage systems.

Flushable wipes are supposed to be biodegradable and break up like normal toilet paper, but they do not. Instead, they stay firmly intact and do not disintegrate. As a result, they



cling to the interior walls of pipes and get hung up on snags inside the pipes. They also clog pumps and prevent the flow of sewage to treatment plants. Eventually, they destroy the pumps. De-ragging pumps and unclogging pipes is labor intensive and significantly increases the cost of maintaining the sewer system.

Never flush:

- › Paper towels
- › Cloth or disposable diapers
- › Flushable wipes
- › Feminine hygiene products
- › Cotton balls



Prevent water pollution

Most households contain a variety of products that contain toxic chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides, motor oil, pool chemicals, and paints and solvent. These are known as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

When these products are not disposed of properly, they can eventually end up in our waterways, causing harm to the health of wildlife and people as well as to the environment. You can help prevent and reduce water pollution and protect the environment by disposing of household products properly.

Tips:

- › Never dispose of HHW into storm drains, on the road or into bodies of water.
- › Recycle HHW when possible. See Pages 10-11 for how to recycle HHW in Pasco County.
- › When possible, use nontoxic alternatives to conventional household cleaning products. The Environmental Protection Agency's Safer

Choice program helps consumers find products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment. Visit epa.gov/saferchoice for lists of safer products.

- › Read the product label for the proper disposal of HHW.
- › Store HHW in closed, labeled containers.

For more information, visit pascocountyfl.net/stormwater or contact the Pasco County Stormwater Management Division at 727-834-3611.

Only rain down the storm drain



Only rain belongs down storm drains!
Never dispose of grass clippings, leaves, pesticides, fertilizer, paint or other waste into a storm drain.



GOING BEYOND THE TEXT:

Reducing your part of the waste stream

Another great way to reduce your contribution to the waste stream is to know what your contribution to that waste stream is. Keep a journal of everything you eat for two weeks. Keep track of all meals, snacks and drinks. How often do you eat at home? at restaurants? What kind of convenience foods do you eat? As a class, discuss how you can change some of your behaviors to lessen your impact on the waste problem. Create a public relations campaign to promote your proposed lifestyle changes. Use the ads and advertorials you see in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models to help create promotion for your campaign. Include ideas for ads and ways to get the media involved.

Whose responsibility is it to clean up litter?

Drive down any road in the United States and you will most likely see litter along the side. Pasco County is no different. There are some roads that may have trash here and there, and other roads that look like dumps.

Why isn't the county doing its job? It's the county's responsibility to pick up litter, right? It's not that simple.

First, not all roads in Pasco County are county maintained or even county owned. Some roads – such as U.S. 19 or SR 54 – are state roads. Others are private roads, which may be the responsibility of a developer, home owners association or even the people who live and own property along the road.

Second, while there are more than 3,600 lane-miles of county-maintained roads in Pasco County (one mile of a two-lane road equals two lane-miles), there is no department or program within Pasco County tasked with picking up litter on a regular basis. The Road and Bridge Division will pick up large roadside items, such as tires. While they try to pick up litter before they mow,

there is no funding to do more than that. Pasco County Jail inmates also can pick up litter, but there are costs associated with that, as well. Street cleaning is usually a municipal (city) function, and nearly 80 percent of Pasco County is unincorporated. If residents of unincorporated Pasco want a street cleaning program, it would require funding.

So, it is everyone's responsibility to prevent litter, take accountability for yourself and help your friends be accountable in order to Keep Pasco Beautiful.



Be part of the solution



The human water cycle

Everything we do in and around our homes affects our environment, including our water supply, which is an essential part of our environment. According to Barry Johnson, National Science Foundation acting assistant director for engineering, "A sustainable water supply is essential for a variety of interconnected human needs, from drinking water to electricity." Learn all about "The Human Water Cycle" in this four part series: http://nieonline.com/tbtimes/special_report.cfm. Using the editorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, write an editorial about what you have learned from this special report.

The Adopt-A-Road program tries to address the issue of litter in Pasco County.

Adopt-A-Road offers businesses, community organizations and civic groups the opportunity to adopt a one-mile section of road. Adopt-A-Road volunteers commit to removing litter along their section of road four times per year. Supplies, disposal and signage are provided.

There are approximately 60 groups throughout Pasco County. In 2016, they picked up more than 20,000 pounds of trash.

The Adopt-A-Road program is a partnership between Pasco County and Keep Pasco Beautiful, a not-for-profit environmental organization.

For more information about Adopt-A-Road, call 727-856-7252 or email kking@pascocountyfl.net.



Before you pitch it, upcycle it!

We are starting a revolution – an upcycle revolution!

Upcycling is the process of taking used or unwanted items, which many times are thrown out, and transforming them into something new of better quality or of better environmental value.

When you go to an art show, you will most likely see people upcycling items into all sorts of artwork and jewelry. Artists make rings out of spoons, pendants out of watch parts and keys, and earrings out of glass bottles. There are drums made from propane tanks, bow ties made from computer parts and yard art made from tires. People are so creative!

If you are into low-cost decorating or are crafty, you will fall in love with upcycled products. Artisans and crafters make tables from pallets, chandeliers from mason jars and ottomans from old suitcases. Whatever odds and ends you have around the house, they can be made into something fantastic. It just takes a bit of thought.

Follow Keep Pasco Beautiful on Facebook for lots of upcycling ideas and photos, or search using #love2Upcycle.

Perhaps you are super crafty and want to sell your fabulous transformations!

If so, get busy now so you have plenty to bring to the Pasco Upcycle Festival! This year's festival will be on Nov. 18, 2017, in Sims Park in New Port Richey. There will be bands, food trucks and an infinite amount of inspiration, and there are no vendor fees. The 2016 Pasco Upcycle Festival had more than 80 vendors and an attendance of approximately 3,300.

For more information about the Pasco Upcycle Festival, call 727-856-7252 or email info@keepascobebautiful.org.



Other ways to help



If you are unable to commit to adopting a road but still want to help, join others picking up trash at the annual Great American Cleanup in the spring or the Coastal Cleanup in September. Participation in these events counts toward student community service hours.

Great American Cleanup 2016

485 volunteers picked up **29 tons** of trash

Coastal Cleanup 2016

1,372 volunteers picked up **25.36 tons** of trash



Keep Pasco Beautiful

KeepPascoBeautiful.com • Twitter.com/KeepPascoBu2ful
Facebook.com/KeepPascoBeautiful

Pasco County Schools annual recycling report

For more than 22 years, Pasco County Schools has initiated numerous sustainable and cost-saving environmental programs to achieve the conservation and recycling goals of the district. They do so by educating students, employees, administrators and community partners on practices that conserve energy, reduce costs and nurture the environment.

In 2015-16, Pasco County Schools recycled:



1,735

tons of paper and cardboard, which **saved** almost **29,512 trees**

21

tons of plastic bottles, which **saved** about 353 **barrels of oil**



186

tons of metal, which **saved** enough energy to power **41,563 homes**



6

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

These numbers are pretty impressive. But we can do even better.

Reducing, reusing and recycling cuts the amount of energy used to produce new items and the amount of pollution generated as a result. They also conserve 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, visit www.pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle or contact recycling coordinator Salinda Strandberg at 727-774-2380 or sstrandb@pasco.k12.fl.us.



Close the loop

Ask for and buy recycled and upcycled products

Recyclables become new products. Recycling something is only half the formula. You must buy products made from recycled materials to create the demand for more recycling.

Products need markets in order to sell. A market is defined as activities that direct the flow of

goods and services from producers to consumers. Your demand for products made from recycled material creates the market for a product. The more you ask for it, the more products will be produced and the more we can recycle. It's up to you.



**GOING
BEYOND
THE TEXT:**

Choosing sides

Like most complicated problems, environmental issues have many sides and many possible solutions. Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* and follow the news coverage of an environmental issue that is under debate by opposing groups. Familiarize yourself with the pros and cons of each side, then write an argument paper supporting the side you believe is right.