

PASCO COUNTY RECYCLING AND EDUCATION

727-856-4539

rgdobbs@pascocountyfl.net

On September 17th, volunteers participated in the Coastal Cleanup, which means cleaner waterways and streets for our citizens. Over 1,300 volunteers picked up more than 25 tons, or 50,000 pounds of trash.

This represents a 15 percent increase from the results of last year's cleanup. To all our dedicated volunteers:

Thank You!

Recycling Update

OCTOBER 2016

Recyclonomics Part 3

The costs of Solid Waste and Recycling are usually hidden and forgotten behind regular pickups in the early-morning hours. To many Pasco residents, the questions of "how much", "to who", and "why" are less than obvious.

Costs of Solid Waste are broken up into a few different places. A \$62.00 charge appears on annual property tax bills, and is known as the Solid Waste Assessment. This money goes towards the operation and maintenance of our Solid Waste facilities, including the Waste-to-Energy plant, the West Pasco Resource Recovery site, and the East Pasco Transfer Station. The Household Hazardous Waste Program, and the Recycling Program are also supported by this fee.

The assessment also allows Pasco County residents to use the Citizen's Drop Off for regular household waste, certain types of

hazardous waste, and recycling free of charge (or at a nominal cost). Special items like propane tanks, televisions, or tires may cost extra due to processing costs and special handling.

Pasco's trash collection is not franchised. That means licensed trash haulers compete in a free market. However, the maximum price a hauler can charge a resident for curbside service is fixed by county ordinance. The cost of trash and recycling collection is paid to the private trash hauler, not to the county. If you don't know who services you, look around for a bill or ask your Home Owner's Association.

Finally, residents with municipal waste far exceeding that of a normal household pay a minimal TIP fee when disposing of trash. It comes to \$56.70 per ton, or more commonly, \$2.84 per 100 lbs.



The Recycling and Education office of Pasco County partnered with the Resource Services/Recycling Department of Pasco County's School Board to bring waste reduction, conservation, and recycling information to the popular PLACE program for the second straight year. We visited 43 schools and spoke to over 2,000 students!

Now With Paper

Pasco County's curbside recycling effort has expanded to include newspaper, cardboard, and other mixed paper at the curb for recycling. The change took place June 23rd and licensed private haulers now accept the materials in your curbside recycling.

"We hope to reduce the amount of paper and cardboard in our trash stream and shift



it over to our recycling stream," said Jennifer Seney, Recycling Supervisor. "It will help our recycling rate and extend the timeframe for adding a fourth burner to our Waste-to-Energy, saving taxpayers money in the long run."

Paper and cardboard can be put in the same container with other recyclables; there's no need to

separate materials. Call your trash hauler for your recycling schedule and a recycling sticker. The county has recycling stickers, as well.

Examples of mixed paper include: newspaper, inserts, junk mail, office paper, paper bags, wrapping paper, magazines, and soft-cover books. Examples of cardboard include: shipping containers (flattened), cereal boxes, pasta boxes, shoeboxes, shirt inserts, and cardboard tubes.

Though it's only been three months since paper and cardboard have been added to curbside recycling, the future looks bright. This July, recycling tonnage jumped 16.1% from last July.

What Happens To Your Recycling

Many Pasco residents are surprised to hear that paper and cardboard products can go in the same container as all their regular recycling. How can this single stream of mixed recyclables be separated into one material or another? The process is complicated.

First, contamination and large, bulky items are removed by hand. Then, agitation is used to remove glass shards and small items such as bottle caps. Huge machines then "fluff" the stream, using air and more agitation to separate fiber (paper and cardboard) from everything else. A magnet pulls away any material that contains iron, mostly steel cans.

Usually, an air classifier will use a fan to

push lighter goods like aluminum and plastic to a higher conveyer belt while allowing glass to fall to a lower conveyer.

An eddy current separator pushes aluminum out of the stream using an induction (reverse) magnet. Finally, an optical sorter uses infrared to separate different grades of plastic based on the spectrum of light they reflect. This way, more valuable plastic like #1 or #2 can be identified.

Gone are the days where separate bins for paper, plastic, and cans lined the streets; today, single-stream recycling is the norm, allowing curbside recycling to be as convenient as possible.

Outstanding Communications

Keep Pasco Beautiful efforts on education and awareness through social media were recognized by Keep Florida Beautiful at their annual state conference on June 9th. The organization was awarded the Outstanding Communication Award for the Keep Pasco Beautiful Facebook page.

The page had been around for quite some time, but was underutilized. As of April 1, 2015, there were only 131 fans. One of the main objectives for Keep

Pasco Beautiful for the 2015-16 fiscal year was to increase awareness through its Facebook page about its events, environmental issues within community, and waste reduction through simple behavior changes and upcycle projects. The endeavor was a success with the number of fans reaching 3,986 as of September 1st, 2016.

To follow Keep Pasco Beautiful on Facebook go to www.facebook.com/KeepPascoBeautiful



Keep Pasco Beautiful's popular mascot Upcycle Michael and his award

Upcycle Festival



The second annual Pasco Upcycle Festival event will be held on Saturday, November 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Sims Park, located at 6431 Bank Street in New Port Richey. This event is a partnership between Keep Pasco Beautiful and Pasco County.

The purpose of the Pasco Upcycle Festival is to reduce waste by changing peoples' perceptions of what can be salvaged into not only something useful, but often times a work of art.

Come and enjoy upcycle crafts, farmers market and environmentally-friendly vendors. This year we have also added a pet adoption component, so keep an eye out for animal rescue groups and pet-themed vendors.

We are always looking for vendors. Attendance is estimated to reach 2,500. For more information on the event, e-mail info@keepascobeachbeautiful.org or call (727) 856-7252.