

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

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No, we don't take . . .

Keurig cups, juice cartons, milk cartons, straws, Styrofoam, aluminum siding, children's toys, oily pizza boxes, paper plates, paper towels, clothes hangers, plastic bags, hubcaps, ceramic dishware, staplers, pots, pans, laundry baskets, shelves, storage tubs, air tanks of any kind, balloons, wire, hoses, kiddie pools, rope, garbage cans, Christmas lights, kitchen utensils or appliances, coolers, lawn ornaments, wood of any kind, cell phones, furniture, clothing . . .



Recycling Update

JANUARY 2017

Recyclonomics Part 4

Once recycling comes to our transfer station, it is taken to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), where the mixture of recycling is separated, baled, and sold to remanufacturers for use.

MRF's come in two general varieties: traditional and mixed-waste. Traditional MRF's take in recyclables exclusively. They operate on a mixed-recycling-in, separated-recycling-out strategy.

In contrast, mixed-waste MRF's take in regular garbage that contains recyclable materials. By using different machines and techniques, these so-called "dirty" MRF's attempt to separate garbage from recycling before working to isolate one recyclable material from another.

The tradeoffs between the two systems are dramatic. In mixed-waste MRF's, the amount of recycling material can be higher than in a traditional model. However, the quality of recycled material tends to be poor. Once water bottles

and soda cans are coated with food waste or oily residue, getting clean material is almost impossible. As a result, even though mixed-waste MRF's may produce more recyclable material, the end product is difficult to sell.

In Pasco, curbside recycling goes to a traditional MRF. This means a few things for county residents.

First, if someone does not choose to recycle in a separate container from their trash, then they are not recycling. This may seem obvious, but if a resident is accustomed to a 'dirty' MRF system, they might expect someone else to pull out recyclables. In fact, any recyclables in the trash stay as trash.

Second, we need to keep it clean. Contaminated recycling material loses its value. Putting dirty, soiled recyclables out to the curb is harmful to the recycling process. To recycle right, throw away soiled paper products, and be sure to rinse out any containers, jars, or bottles before putting them in your recycling container.



VS.

We Need Your Help!

Help us reduce our trash and recycle more. If you are an informed citizen, you probably already know that in Pasco, we burn our trash in a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant to generate electricity. But, our county has grown to where our trash volume is over the capacity of our WTE incinerator. A fourth burner is needed. It will cost 190 million dollars.

The expansion of the WTE is unavoidable with Pasco's population

growth. However, the longer the addition of a burner can be delayed, the more County budgets can accrue funds and the larger our tax base becomes.

Of the approximately 350,000 tons incinerated, some 40 % (140,000 tons) could be recycled. Today, only 27% of our residents participate in curbside recycling. In 2015, we only recycled 4,200 tons.

We can do so much more. Take your recyclables out of the trash.

Our recyclables are processed in the most environmentally effective manner possible. Materials are sold to market; they are never burned, or combined with household garbage.

Please join your neighbors in making Pasco County a leader in recycling.

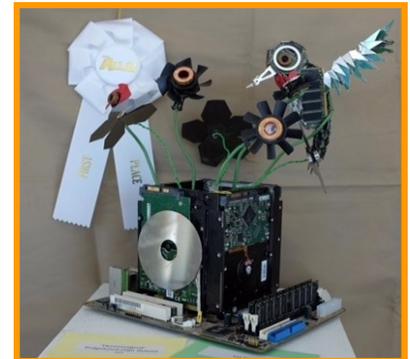
Thousands of Pasco residents came to the 2nd annual Upcycle Festival on Saturday, November 12th. Over 80 vendors amazed visitors with upcycled wares, while bluegrass and country musicians thrilled ears. This event proves that reuse and upcycling gives new, creative, and beautiful life to materials many people think of as trash!

Art of Recycling (Jan 30th - Feb 28th)

Now in its 21st year, the Art of Recycling is a wildly popular student art exhibit featuring pieces made from used materials. High school students from all across the county are eligible to participate. Winners in over a dozen categories win cash prizes, and two graduating seniors receive a scholarship for college.

All art in this exhibit has an environmental theme. Entries can include paintings, prints, ceramics, sculptures, architecture, or even wearable art. All pieces go on display at the West Pasco Government Center during the month of February.

Cast your vote for the People's Choice award Monday January 30th through noon on Thursday February 2nd.



1st Place in 2016

Myths and Mistakes

- MISTAKE:** "Throw dirty cardboard and paper into your recycling." Contamination can be a major problem with paper products. When paper fiber products are recycled, they are ground up with water. When oil from pizza or food waste gets into the stream, it works about as well as . . . oil and water.
- MYTH:** "Pasco doesn't recycle glossy paper." In fact, Pasco's recycling program accepts glossy paper of all kinds, including magazines, catalogs, wrapping paper, and junk mail.
- MYTH:** "Glass is glass. It's all recyclable." Not all glass is created equal. Window glass, light bulbs, glass tabletops, glass cookware, and mirror glass are NOT suitable for our recycling program. They are made with different chemicals than the clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars we DO take.
- MISTAKE:** "Recycling is smelly." Recycling (excluding paper products) should always be given a quick rinse before being put out to recycle. It'll keep your container smell-free and cut down on contamination.
- MYTH:** "Don't bother to ask." We at Pasco's Recycling and Education department are happy to answer any recycling questions you may have. Don't hesitate to call or send us an email. Be a smart recycler!

Greeting Cards

The effort, love, and happy greetings offered inside holiday cards aren't easy to toss into the recycling bin. Why not give greeting cards new life and prolong their enjoyment? Here are a few ideas for reusing holiday wishes, past and future (Hello Valentine's Day!)

- Gift Tags:** Cut fun shapes into gift cards and create your own, personalized tags that are far prettier and greener than the self-stick variety.
- Holiday Pictures:** Frame unique or meaningful cards and make them a part of your holiday décor.
- Garlands:** Display your favorite cards by stringing them together and hanging them from your mantle.
- Collage:** Scrapbook old cards along with memorable photos to add a little extra punch to your memories.



- Postcard:** Just snip off the back of any greeting card, and you have yourself a cute, thrifty postcard.
- Art Journaling:** Turn old cards into a mixed-media resource for your next art journal.