

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

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Battery Recycling

Alkaline batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V, etc.) are recycled in a specialized "room temperature," mechanical separation process where the battery components are separated into three end products.

These items are a zinc and manganese concentrate, steel, and paper, plastic and brass fractions. All of these products are put back into the market place for reuse in new products to offset the cost of the recycling process.

**These batteries are
100% recycled.**

Recycling Update

APRIL 2017

Recyclonomics Part 5

Recycling is a personal choice. By being proactive in controlling what goes into our waste stream, we save on energy and natural resources, and we help to defer the cost of a Waste-to-Energy plant expansion (Recycling Update July 2016).

But, maybe the user of a product shouldn't shoulder all the responsibility once it leaves the store shelf. A movement known as extended producer responsibility (EPR) aims to get manufacturers involved in the recycling chain.

"If you put it out there, you take it back." It's a rallying cry that has gotten manufacturers involved in the end-of-life of what they make. From taking back electronic waste to packing materials, extended producer responsibility is making waves in the global market.

EPR takes sustainability "upstream" to manufacturers rather than letting it "downstream" onto users, governments, and taxpayers. This deals with the difficulties of non-recyclable products. Also, EPR encourages sustainability in

design, since a company is incentivized to create an easily recyclable, reusable item if they are required to take it back out of the waste stream.

All over the world, EPR is changing the way we do waste. Some EPR programs fall entirely on manufacturers, while others are public-private partnerships.

Though the United States has not been a leader in EPR, the familiar bottle bill has been in American consciousness for over 40 years. In ten states, clean, used bottles get turned in to recycling facilities for a few cents. More recently, in the last decade over 20 states have enacted EPR requirements for electronic waste, and much of the European Union has reduced packing waste through EPR programs.

Ultimately, the recycling triangle of reduce-reuse-recycle is only part of the story. For recycling to work, products must not only BE recyclable, but MADE from recycled material. This is known as *closing the loop*. After all, for recycling to thrive, there must be a market for recycled goods. Until extended producer responsibility becomes the norm, make an effort to buy recycled and shop responsibly.



Earth Day

Pasco's popular celebration of Earth Day is back! Earth Day is celebrated every year on the 4th Saturday in April. This year, it's on April 22nd in Crews Lake Park at 16739 Crews Lake Dr, Spring Hill from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. All concession proceeds benefit Mary Giella Elementary School. For more event information, contact Lottie at 727-856-2917 Extension 201 or LKelley@covanta.com Events include...

- Children's crafts
- Educational displays
- Water Ventures Learning Lab
- Ladybug releases
- Croc encounters
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- HITS 106 remote broadcast (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
- Mercury Bounty
- Document Shredding by Shred 360 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
- Pill take-back program
- Native Plant Sale
- Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad Train Rides
- Suncoast Trails Earth Day Bike Ride
- UPcycle Vendors
- Rain Water Harvesting Workshop & Composting Workshop (Register by going to: <http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu> Click on upcoming events, choose April, and scroll to workshops.)

The Survey

On February 6th, Pasco County launched an online survey to ask residents about their solid waste and recycling practices. The survey ended on March 31st. Over 6,000 people participated and made their voices heard! Results are still being processed - watch this space...

Pitch the Plastic

Plastic is found in every facet of our lives. But how much of it is really necessary? How hard would it be to stop using unnecessary plastic? Try to eliminate the following for a few weeks, and see if you can shed some plastic pounds.

1. Straws - Plastic drinking straws are the ultimate in one-use, needless waste.
2. Plastic shopping bags - Not only are these wasteful, but we cannot accept them in our program. Double whammy!
3. Plastic wrap - Opt out of the wrap and into the jar. Glass jars are great

for storing leftovers. Bonus points if you re-use a cleaned jelly jar.

4. Bottled water - Reusable water bottles are a snap to clean, environmentally friendly, and easy on the wallet.
5. Plastic produce bags - You're going to wash your apples anyway; put them loose in your cart or basket.
6. Microplastics in your soap - Look at the ingredient list on your facial cleanser and watch for "polyethylene". Most of the time, this indicates tiny plastic beads that are flushed down the drain.

Going PLACES

Pasco County's Recycling and Education Department is partnering again this year with the Pasco County School Board to bring information on recycling and waste reduction to children enrolled in the PLACE program.

During the summer, many school-aged children attend Pasco Learning and Activity Centers of Enrichment (PLACE). In 2016, over 2,100 children and educators learned about recycling, water conservation, energy savings, and waste reduction. If you are the parent of a child in k-5th grade, we may see them in a few weeks!



R. Dobbs and S. Strandburg speak to students at Dr. Mary Giella Elementary

Great American Cleanup

The Great American Cleanup has been a Pasco County tradition since 1992. This year, over 500 residents on over two dozen teams took to the streets on March 11th to pick up litter. Participation increased 6% over last year's cleanup.

This event was spearheaded locally by Keep Pasco Beautiful, an affiliate of the national organization Keep America Beautiful, and the Recycling and Education Department of Pasco County. Each year, the Great American Cleanup is funded through corporate donations, and cannot

succeed without the help of Road and Bridge, Parks and Natural Resources, and Libraries.

This year, volunteers did an amazing job and picked up 28.13 tons of trash – equaling 56,260 pounds.

To get involved in future cleanups, call Kristen King, Keep Pasco Beautiful Coordinator, at 727-856-7252, or you can email her at kking@pascocountyfl.net.



Tires, Tires, and more Tires