

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

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Hot Off the Presses – The biggest news in the recycling world probably isn't what you think. In late August, China announced a list of recycling materials that would no longer be accepted, starting in 2018. The recycling industry is alarmed; 8 types of postconsumer plastic and 1 type of scrap paper are among banned materials. This means not a single water bottle or 2-liter soda bottle would go to remanufacturers in China. How the American recycling market reacts to these changes remains to be seen. Keep an eye on this space!



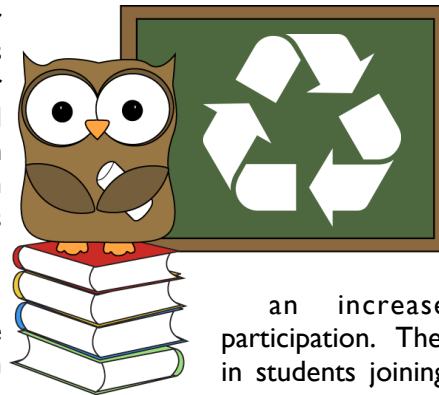
Recycling Update

OCTOBER 2017

Going PLACEs

Dozens of surveys and studies have shown a depressing contrast between the recycling rates of the 'Millennial' generation and 'Baby Boomers'. Older Americans are far more likely to recycle than their younger counterparts. This clearly points to a need for better education to instill the value of recycling in young people and help them better comprehend its economic, social, and environmental benefits.

To that end, the Recycling and Education Department of Pasco County and the Conservation and Recycling Operation Department of Pasco County Schools have collaborated for the past 3 years to bring recycling information to Pasco's youngest students. The initiative was launched in the summer of 2015 with the goal to provide interactive, exciting presentations to children enrolled in the Pasco Learning and Activity Centers of Enrichment (PLACE) program. Both organizers believed that this venue was ideal because of the age group of PLACE participants, pre-K to 5th grade.



At every location, youth groups listened to a joint presentation focused on the basics of recycling, water conservation, and energy conservation.

Since its inception, almost 6,000 children and over 300 educators have heard information about recycling and conservation! Salinda Strandberg, the School Board's Recycling Coordinator, reports

an increase in her recycling participation. There's also been an increase in students joining Earth Patrol, a student-driven environmental school group.

More important than any increase in recycling tonnage, however, were the changes in perspective that became evident immediately after the presentations. A few instances stand out. At one location, a child of no more than ten was inspired to pick up every piece of used scrap paper and put it aside for recycling. Many children declared that they would join Earth Patrol as soon as the new school year began. At one of the last schools visited, a young boy explained that he would grow up to be a scientist so that he could find a way to clean up our oceans and conserve our natural resources.

Upcycle Festival - November 18th

Many people hear waste reduction and think of the standard household recycling of aluminum cans at the curb, but the options are much broader than that. Many things can be reused to reduce the amount of waste in our environment. There is a term for the ingenious process of reinventing something with a new purpose: upcycle. 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.

As in years past, there will be numerous upcycle vendors, live music, and food trucks. This event is a partnership between Keep Pasco Beautiful and Pasco County.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th from 10a.m. to 4p.m. in Sims Park located at 6431 Bank Street in New Port Richey. Admission is free. For more information call Kristen King at (727) 856-7252 or email

info@keepascobeautiful.org

The Places You'll Go

If you've ever wondered why recycling programs in different places have different rules, you're not alone. Recycling differs from city to city, from county to county, and certainly from state to state. There is no national, standardized program. This causes a lot of confusion when people relocate; what is recyclable in one place might be forbidden in another, and recycling could be mandatory, voluntary, or not offered at all.

There are a few good reasons for diversity in recycling programs. Most importantly, the local market will dictate what materials are recyclable in a particular place. Glass is a great example of this concept. Glass is infinitely recyclable, but getting glass of high quality is difficult and its transport is expensive. But, if a glass manufacturing plant is within a county, it's likely that recycled glass will be a sought after commodity. If there are no ports of transport and no local market,

then glass will likely be expensive to recycle or even banned from the recycling program altogether. Recycling is dependent on what the local markets can bear.



Whether recycling is mandatory, voluntary, or not offered is both a financial matter and a political one. Commissioners, city managers, and others must balance the wants of their residents and the financial realities of a recycling program. Pasco County's recycling is voluntary, which gives each resident the option to recycle if they choose. The nature of Pasco's recycling program is a matter of policy and

would be determined and decided upon by the Board of County Commissioners.

Regency Library Upcycles

A replica of beloved children's book character, Fancy Nancy, made her debut at Regency Park Library this summer. The theme of this year's Summer Reading Club was "Build a Better World," and using recycled material to create something beautiful was a perfect symbol for that theme. Fancy Nancy was created using old book covers and some leftover craft supplies. This, however, was not Regency Park Library's first endeavor to spotlight the artistic use of recycled material. Previously, the library held a "Trash to Treasure" contest, inviting local schools to submit a fish themed art project of recycled material.

Roberta (Bert) Swartz, Regency's resident artist, inspired participants with a fish (Eddie Money) made of pennies, gears, colander parts, keys, and a menagerie of metal parts. In turn, the winning entry of the Trash to Treasure contest inspired Bert to create a library mascot named Ripley. The mascot is now featured on the Friends of Regency Park Library's tote bag, which sells for \$5. The proceeds help fund library programs and give people an alternative to using plastic bags when shopping.

Eddie Money



Fancy Nancy



Ripley
The Deep Thinker

