

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

727-856-4539

rgdobbs@pascocountyfl.net

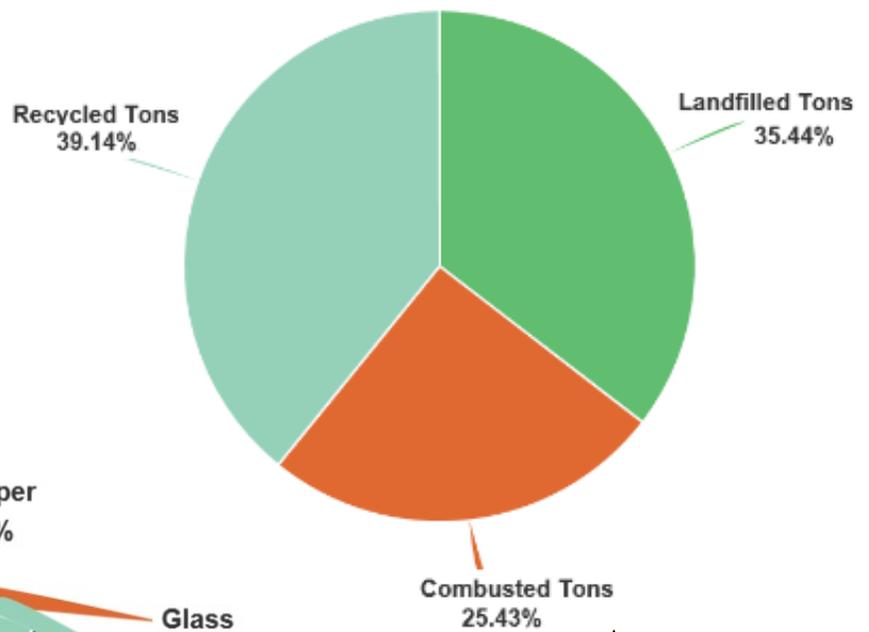
Keep an eye out for a calendar of events and Art of Recycling contest winners in the Newspaper in Education insert of the Tampa Bay Times newspaper on April 22nd

Recycling Update

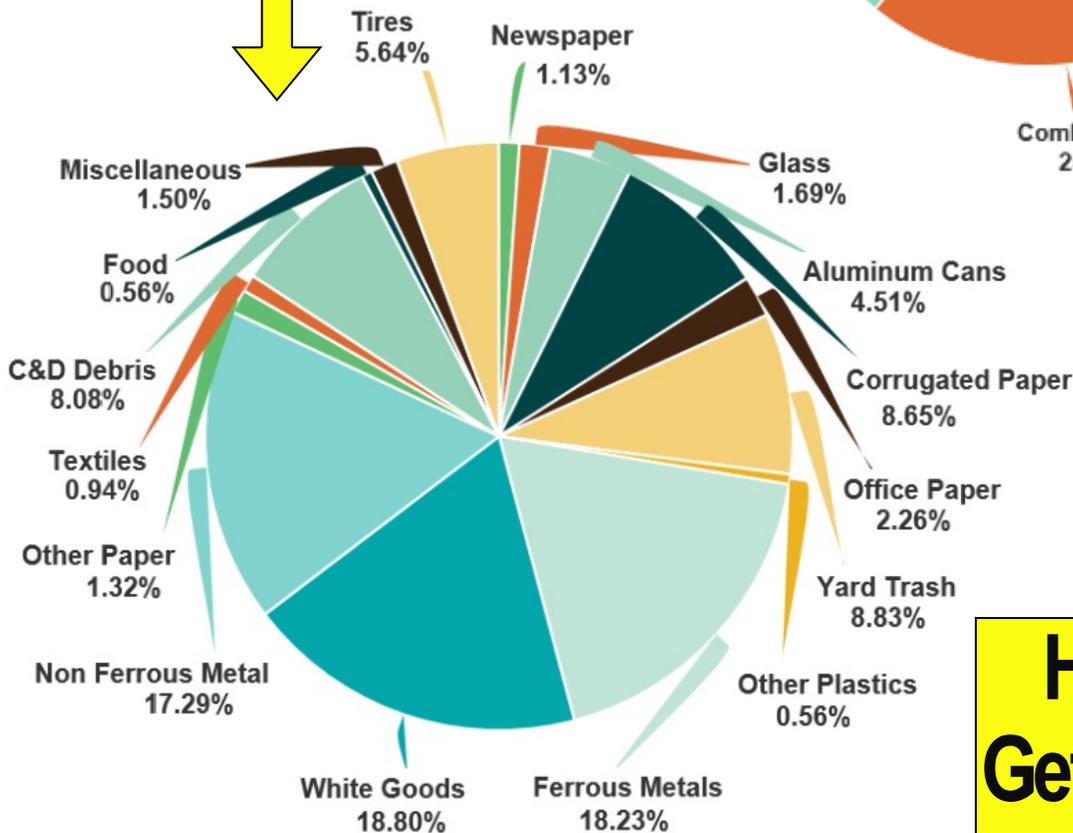
APRIL 2018

Recycling in Pasco

Every year, Florida counties must report recycling and garbage information to the state's Department of Environmental Protection. For Pasco, it's an impressive undertaking that includes information from private recycling companies, our curbside recycling program, and recycling drop-offs. As such, it requires collaboration and data gathering from many corporations, private landfills, and small businesses. Even Pasco's Waste-to-Energy plant provides necessary tonnage numbers to Pasco's Recycling and Education Department. Here's a summary of our countywide results for 2017...



What Gets Recycled



How Much Gets Recycled

Great American Cleanup

This year, the Great American Cleanup was a resounding success. Pasco County has been part of the Great American Cleanup since 1992 – empowering community members to pick up litter and debris along roadways, waterways and public spaces. This year, over 600 volunteers picked up more than 26 tons of litter. The Great American Cleanup is one of two cleanup events held annually and is a collaboration between Keep Pasco Beautiful and Pasco County Government. The mission of Keep Pasco Beautiful is to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction and encourage beautification. Remember: be #PascoProud!



Recycling Study Pilot Program

Pasco County is trying to determine if the opportunity to recycle once-a-week using a provided, lidded, wheeled cart will increase recycling participation and tonnage. To that end, the County is performing a Recycling Study in two areas of Pasco.

The results of this study will help determine the direction of the residential, curbside recycling program. Recycling is important in Pasco County because it affects the efficiency of our Waste-to-Energy plant. Our plant is at its capacity,

and adding another burner to the plant will cost upwards of \$190 million. Recycling reduces the amount of waste going to the plant.

We can't completely recycle our way out of the capacity problem, but increasing recycling will help. All recycling collected curbside is processed into new materials. Paper can become tissue; cardboard becomes another box; aluminum cans become more cans; plastics can become park benches, carpet, clothing, shoes and so forth. Recycling reduces the demand on the

natural resources. The recycling process also uses less energy and water than producing the product from the natural resource.

The study is currently collecting baseline data. Study areas were chosen based on recycling routes. Ultimately, decisions regarding changes to the recycling program will be made by the Board of County Commissioners.

Earth Day

Pasco's Earth Day is the 4th Saturday of April. This year, it's April 28th in Crews Lake Park at 16739 Crews Lake Drive from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more event information, call Lottie at 727-856-2917, extension 201. Special features include...

- Croc Encounters
- Lady bug release
- Florida native plant sale
- Rain harvesting and composting workshops (pre-register)
- Children's crafts
- Educational displays
- Water Ventures Learning Lab
- Upcycle vendors
- Adoptable Pets
- Hits-106 live broadcast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Shred sensitive documents on site with Shred 360 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., limit of 3 boxes/bags
- Recycling information
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Mercury bounty
- Medicine disposal