

**PASCO COUNTY
RECYCLING AND
EDUCATION**

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Show your Pasco pride and participate in the annual International Coastal Cleanup! Every year, volunteers in Pasco pick up trash from beaches, lakes, rivers, and inland areas. Information gathered during the cleanup is used by the Ocean Conservancy to create an annual index of the problem of marine debris.

For information about how to volunteer, call the Keep Pasco Beautiful coordinator, Kristen King at 727-856-7252 or you can email kking@pascocountyfl.net



Recycling Update

JULY 2018

Pilot Study - The Basics

What is it?

On May 1, 2018, the County began a study of once-a-week recycling collection service which included providing recycling carts. The study is to determine if offering this service will increase household participation and recycling tonnage and by how much. The results will help the Board of County Commissioners decide the direction of Pasco's residential, curbside recycling program.

Why conduct a study?

The study came as a result of a citizen survey in 2017 that showed 84% of the respondents would recycle once-a-week if offered the opportunity. The County wants to see how strongly this bears out.

Why do we need this?

Before a major change, it is necessary to understand how that change will affect the customer, the collector and the County. Also, there are costs associated with any change and we need to know what those costs are going to be before making recommendations to the board.

Is this happening in my neighborhood?

There are only two neighborhoods involved in the study at this time. No other neighborhoods will be added. Once the study is complete, all data will be reviewed, and County staff will make recommendations to the County Commissioners. If the commissioners expand the program, it most likely would be rolled out one neighborhood at a time. It is too early to speculate what neighborhoods would receive updated service first.

What are the Pilot Neighborhoods?

There is a neighborhood in West Pasco called Gulf Harbors and another neighborhood in Wesley Chapel called Stagecoach. There are 1,500 households in the study.

Recycle **ONLY** the following in the County's Residential Recycling Program:

- Aluminum Cans
- Metal Food Cans
- Paper & Cardboard
- Plastic Bottles, Jars, and Small Containers with codes #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.
- Clear, Green, and Brown Glass Bottles and Jars

**Keep it
Clean & Dry**

When will the study end?

October 31, 2018.

Once the study is completed, what is the next step?

The recycling team will collect the data, put it into a presentation, and present to the Board of County Commissioners during a Solid Waste workshop.

Pilot Study - The How

In order to measure a change in recycling, we first had to know where we started. So, in April 2018, we gathered baseline data for our test areas. Once the study is over, we'll be able to see how many more people participate, and how much they recycle.

We also had to make sure our pilot areas were diverse. Our two neighborhoods have a wide range of age groups, average incomes, household sizes, and educational levels. Participants received notice by mail a few days before carts were distributed. A few people have moved in or out of our test areas, so there's been a little shuffling around.

Each rolling cart has a picture of recyclable material hot-stamped into the top, to help residents remember the basics. Keeping non-recycling out of the carts has been a high priority, because contamination can ruin an entire load of recycling.

**When in Doubt
Throw it Out**



Please recycle **ONLY** listed materials in our County Residential Recycling Program. Anything else can do more harm than good.

Keep Pasco Beautiful Awards

Keep Pasco Beautiful has had an amazing year thus far. It started in January 2018 when it received the **National America Recycles Day Program Award** from Keep America Beautiful for the success of the Pasco Upcycle & Art Festival.

Keep Pasco Beautiful nominated Covanta Pasco for the **Keep Florida Beautiful Outstanding Business State Award**. Covanta Pasco won the award based on its commitment and dedication to the mission of Keep Pasco Beautiful.

In June, Keep Pasco Beautiful received **Outstanding Non-Profit** from the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce for their efforts done in the local community.

In a combined effort with Covanta Pasco and Pasco County Utilities Environmental Services, Keep Pasco Beautiful was also honored with the **Innovative Partnerships Award** for its Earth Day Celebration by the Florida Chapter of the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA).

The success of the organization can be attributed to the support of the volunteers and community who believe in its mission to improve Pasco County by engaging the community in sustainable efforts to reduce litter, promote waste reduction, and encourage beautification.

To get involved, call Kristen King at 727-856-7252. For more information, please visit www.KeepPascoBeautiful.org/