

Weathering the Storms

Local government employees throughout the State who have worked non-stop to manage the debris left in the wake of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne deserve our gratitude and applause for their efforts. Never before in Florida's history have four major hurricanes struck the State in the same season.

Although the dust has not yet settled - or more accurately, the storm debris has not yet all been collected, processed, or disposed - we wanted to provide a snapshot of how some communities are dealing with these mountains of storm debris.

Many communities report grinding vegetative debris for mulch. Some plan to make the mulch available to the public for free, sell it to agricultural facilities, land apply it, use it as landfill cover, or mix it with sludge to produce compost. Because FEMA is requesting speedy disposal, many communities are using air curtain incinerators to burn it. Collier County sent its vegetative debris to Okeelanta for fuel in a sugar mill, and Sumter County set some larger logs aside for the sawmill.

Some C&D debris is being recycled, especially aluminum and scrap metal. In some of the hardest hit counties, small private operations have sprung up offering to remove aluminum siding and broken pool cages at no cost to homeowners. In Charlotte County, it was reported that at least one family was self-hauling and marketing scrap metal from their destroyed trailer in hopes of raising enough money to move north.

The data is still being collected, but statewide estimates of storm debris range from FEMA's estimate of 40 million cubic yards to DEP's estimate of 75 million cubic yards. Whatever the final tally, this was certainly a hurricane season that will not be soon forgotten, and hopefully one that we can look back on and learn from.



Join the RFT Listserve!

Want to communicate directly with your RFT colleagues? Get their feedback on an important technical question or solid waste issue? Then join the RFT Listserve! Just go to www.recyclefloridatoday.org, link to the members only Mailing List, and follow the instructions.

The Listserve is monitored to avoid extraneous or personal e-mails. The more RFT members that sign up, the more useful and informative the Listserve will become. So tap into the best expertise on waste reduction and recycling in the State of Florida - RFT members!



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Clayton Sembler 850-875-4651
CDS Manufacturing, Inc.
- Organic**
Monica Ozores-Hampton 941-658-3400
University of Florida - SWFREC

RecycleFlorida Today, Inc.
P.O. Box 15889
Tallahassee, FL 32317
877-867-4RFT (4738) toll free
Fax: 850/386-4321
Email: rft@recyclefloridatoday.org
www.recyclefloridatoday.org

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Letter from the Chair



Dave Baker

For more than a decade, Recycle Florida Today, Inc. has tried to serve as a voice for the recycling community in Florida—sometimes through it’s many networking opportunities and at other times communicating the organization’s message in Tallahassee. Both are critically important and the voice of an active statewide organization does make a difference.

RFT has a lobbying presence in Tallahassee but the grassroots support of the organization is still an important part of the equation. A lobbyist is simply an information merchant on our behalf. When individual members call or write their legislators, this increases the effectiveness of the lobbying effort. As we approach another legislative session, I would encourage members to write to your legislator, not so much to lobby, but to communicate your concerns, issues and challenges as a member of the recycling community. This type of information is helpful to a legislator as they deliberate bills that come before them. You’ll find that most lawmakers appreciate a little guidance from constituents so they can better represent their district.

And while I’m addressing “calls to action,” your Board of Directors can use your help in reaching out to new members and sponsors in the coming months. The past few years have been difficult for many recycling associations across the country, but RFT can still be counted as a strong, vibrant organization. There has been belt-tightening to keep the budget in check and there has been an aggressive fund-raising effort. But more work is needed to keep RFT on a path of growth and relevance into the future. With your help, we’ll continue to pursue ways of broadening our outreach and welcoming others to join our mission.

RFT Member In The News

Bill Hinkley Receives SWANA Honorary Member Award

During WASTECON 2004, SWANA bestowed upon Bill Hinkley its Honorary Member Award. Bill, Chief of DEP’s Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, was nominated by Gina Hawkins, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Gainesville and Communications Committee Chair for the Sunshine Chapter of SWANA, for continually seeking innovative solutions to solid and hazardous waste management challenges.



Bill Hinkley

Bill began his career at DEP in 1974 as a field biologist and was the primary staff person involved in drafting Florida’s 1988 Solid Waste Management Act. He was promoted to his current position in 1991.

Dave Baker, who has known Bill since the mid 80s, had high praise for his commitment and dedication. Baker commented that “although Bill is too young to be a legend, he is at the very least, the Dean of innovative waste management practices in Florida. His insight and ability to spot industry trends has earned him respect nationally.”

Statewide News

Don't Forget to Post Your Events on Florida Earth 911

Meryl Klein, Director of Outreach, Earth 911

Earth 911 would like to remind you that it is easy to get the word out and post America Recycles Day, other Fall recycling/HHW events, and Christmas tree recycling events on Florida Earth 911 in two easy ways:

Use the Earth 911 User Interface (UI) to Post Recycling/HHW-Related Events in the Earth 911 Locator Sections

Simply use your password to access the Earth 911 UI, <http://www.earth911.org/dataentry/login.asp>, as you would to post your other programs; however, fill out the "Event Start and End Date" info just underneath the "Location Notes." Your events will appear two business days after you enter them through the UI and will let residents know the start/end dates along with all other event details. Events posted through the UI will show up for residents in the "Reuse and Recycling Services" or "Household Hazardous Waste" listings depending on the type of materials handled. Event postings will remain on Florida Earth 911 until the "End Date" you designate.

Use the Earth 911 Special Events Form to Post Non-Recycling/HHW Events such as ARD in the Florida Earth 911 Programs and Events Area

Simply fill out this online form, <http://earth911.org/local/peform.asp> (link near the top of the Florida Earth 911 Program and Events page), completely. Program and Event postings will remain on the Earth 911 system until the "End Date" you designate.

Statewide Electronics Survey

Colleen Puglisi, Seminole County

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently released the results of two electronics surveys conducted by Kessler Consulting Inc. in partnership with Seminole County. The first survey focused on electronics purchasing, handling, and disposal practices of Florida households. The second focused on donation of electronics, how donation centers handled this equipment, and the disposal practices utilized for broken or obsolete electronics.

Florida households possess approximately 22.9 million televisions and computer monitors with cathode ray tubes (CRTs), containing an estimated 129 million pounds of lead. In the past year, 21% of respondents removed a television from their household and 16% removed a computer. The adjacent figure indicates how these households handled these discards. No respondents reported recycling their television or computer.

The majority (58%) of responding households were not aware of CRT lead content and the potential hazard to the environment; however, there was a 5% increase in awareness since a previous survey conducted in 2000. The survey also noted resistance to being charged a fee to recycle CRTs.

Although 90% of donation and thrift stores responding to the survey accept electronic equipment, 46% stated that the disposal of non-repairable equipment is an economic burden for them.

It will be up to us, Florida's solid waste professionals,

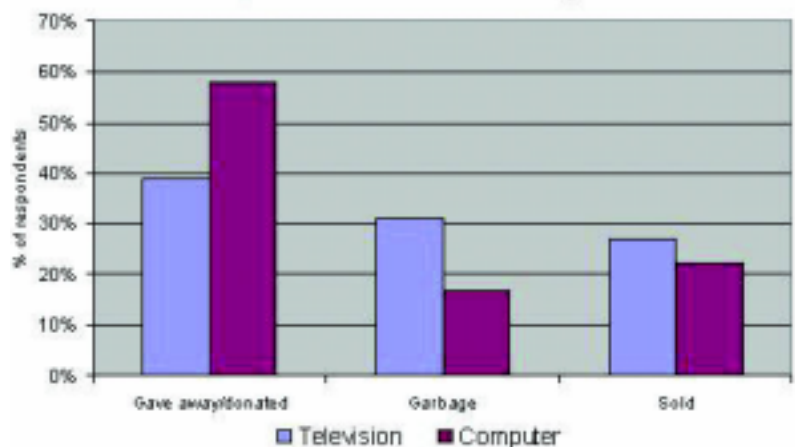
to organize recovery programs in order to divert as many CRTs from our landfills as possible. These surveys help us better understand the handling of electronics in order to develop more effective E-cycling educational programs and to better utilize donation centers as part of Florida's electronics recycling infrastructure.

Copies of the two survey reports are available at:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/electronics/default.htm>



Handling Discarded TVs & Computers



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RFT would like to acknowledge and thank our 2004 Sponsors.

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CDS Manufacturing, Inc.
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Florida Automotive Trades Association

City and County Connection

City of Tallahassee Pilots Split-Cart Commercial Recycling Program

Anja DeLoach, Recycling & Special Services Coordinator, City of Tallahassee

Through a DEP Innovative Grant to Leon County, the City of Tallahassee recently concluded a pilot project that used split-carts for commercial recycling. The pilot program, coordinated and managed by Kessler Consulting, Inc., focused on two business routes. Each of the roughly 57 participating businesses received a 110-gallon split-cart, deskside bins, and educational materials.

During the six-month pilot, over 12,000 pounds of recyclable materials were recovered and an average setout rate (i.e., the percentage of carts placed curbside on any given collection day) of 40-47% was achieved. Although this pilot targeted commingled containers and high-grade white office paper, it was clear from

a post-pilot survey that customers would strongly prefer a program that accepts all types of paper, similar to the City's residential recycling program.

This pilot study demonstrated that commercial recycling is feasible for small and medium-sized businesses in Tallahassee. Businesses are willing to participate, and employees are willing to separate office paper and commingled containers, however greater participation would be needed to ensure success. The City is in the process of evaluating whether it is economically feasible to offer this program to all small and medium-sized businesses in the City as an alternative to the existing mixed office paper program.



City of Deerfield Beach Installs 'Butt Bags' at the Beach

Cheryl Miller, Recycling Specialist, City of Deerfield Beach

The City of Deerfield Beach is taking a proactive step in reducing litter at the beach. On October 4th, three Naples-based Butt Bag System dispensers were installed along the northern area of the mile-long stretch of beachfront. This will provide a comparison to the southern stretch, where the Butt Bag dispensers are yet to be installed. The City expects the Butt Bag System to reduce litter and raise awareness, which will lead to a change in people's behaviors and actions.

Although the primary goal of the system is to encourage smokers to take a bag from the dispenser while accessing the beach, many beachgoers take a bag to put their garbage in. The convenience keeps the beach cleaner, and raises awareness of the amount of garbage that beachgoers generate. The Ocean Conservancy data shows that 35% of all litter left on beaches is cigarette butts. Smoking debris collected on Florida beaches included:

- Cigar tips - 14,520
- Cigarette lighters - 4,410
- Cigarette butts and filters - 301,244
- Smoking related packaging - 11,291

When leaving, beachgoers can deposit butt bags, and any culled out recyclables, into convenient in-ground storage containers also located along the access to the beach.

The cost to the City was \$375 for each dispenser, and each butt bag costs eight cents. The City plans on adding more dispensers in the future, as well as adding the Deerfield Beach logo to the printing on the bags.

Tires to Turf Project

by Janet Ty-Go, Recycling Coordinator, Collier County Solid Waste Management Dept.

The Collier County Solid Waste Management Department awarded FDEP Waste Tire Grant monies in the amount of \$30,000.00 to the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department for their proposal to promote waste tire recycling. Approximately 7,000 Florida waste tires were reduced to crumb rubber and embedded in about 58,000 square feet of turf on Soccer Field #1 at Vineyards Community Park.

The application of Turf Solutions' patented process for rubberizing natural grass sports fields improves traction in all weather conditions, aids in field drainage and requires the use of less water to maintain. Applying crumb rubber into the soccer field is an innovative project and is being introduced for the first time in the State of Florida, according to Ted Bernhardt of Turf Solutions - Southeast.

The cushioning effect from the crumb rubber is expected to reduce the risks of surface-related player injury as well as protect the grass, allowing it to grow better with less maintenance.

The Vineyards Community Park Soccer Complex is the most heavily used soccer complex in Collier County. It is the home playing area for Naples Optimist Soccer, which coordinates about 2,000 youth players in various leagues each year. The Waste Tire Grant Project on Soccer Field #1 was completed on September 9, 2004.

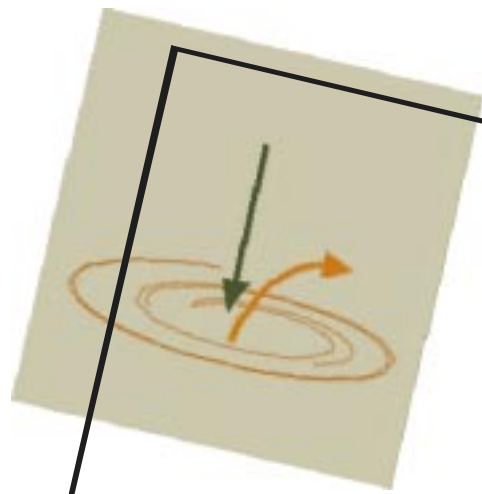


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Organics News

FORCE: Composting Resources Available

by *Shane Barrett, Kessler Consulting, Inc.*

The Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) has some exciting new organics outreach and education services available. FORCE recently initiated a quarterly E-newsletter that contains updates on organics research, training workshops, grants, and other information related to organics recycling. The FORCE website (www.floridaforce.org) currently contains a bibliography of more than 250 organics-related articles with web links to the articles where available. The website also contains an organized list of Florida Statutes and regulations pertaining to organics and composting. By Thanksgiving a technology database of more than 200 organics and composting-related vendors and equipment will be available on the website. The information gathered during development of the technology database will also be available in an Organics Library to be located at the FORCE office in Sumter County.

For more information about any of these topics or to receive the FORCE E-newsletter, please email Dr. Joan Bradshaw at jbradshaw@earthlink.net.



Mark your Calendar:

HOLD THE DATE! RFT ISSUES FORUM - February 9, 2004, following the SWANA Symposium
Marriott West Palm Beach, FL. More information to follow.

January 23-26 - US Composting Council's 13th Annual Conference and Trade Show
Crowne Plaza Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas. Call 631-737-4931 or visit www.compostingcouncil.org.

February 7-12, 2005 - SWANA's Waste Reduction, Recycling & Composting Symposium
Including Compost Manager and Recycler Certification Courses. Marriott West Palm Beach, FL. Visit www.swana.org.

March 6-9, 2005 - 18th Annual Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show
Hilton Garden Inn, Pensacola Beach, FL. Call 334-277-7050 or visit www.southeastrecycling.com.

Survey Provides Insight to Commercial Recycling Habits and Preferences

Sue Ciccione, Solid Waste Coordinator, Manatee County

In Manatee County, we have had great success with our residential recycling program, but I wondered what kind of recycling activity was taking place among our 3,200 businesses. Through anecdotal evidence, I knew that quite a few businesses recycled, but we did not have an accurate number. Thanks to a survey distributed by the Manatee County Utilities Customer Service Department in April 2004, I no longer have to make assumptions.

The County, with the assistance of Kessler Consulting, Inc., sent postcard surveys to 3,268 businesses in the unincorporated area. The survey was designed to identify the recycling habits and preferences of businesses. Nearly 600 businesses responded, providing a clearer picture of commercial recycling in the County.

Despite having no mandatory commercial recycling program, nearly 40% of respondents have some kind of recycling program in place. The most popular method of recycling is through private haulers (53%), but nearly 37% use their household recycling bins or the County drop-off containers.

Of great interest to the County was why some businesses do not recycle. The majority (52%) of respondents that are not recycling cite a lack of recycling collection service, 14% stated they did not know how to recycle, 12% said there was no benefit to their business, and 9% claimed it was too difficult. Since recycling service providers are available throughout the County, the survey indicates that many businesses are lacking the proper education and information needed to start a recycling program.

The survey results will enable the County to further develop our commercial recycling program, focusing on specific educational messages, business sectors, and outreach activities.

Collier County Mandates Commercial Recycling

Denise Kirk, Waste Reduction & Recycling Manager, Collier County Solid Waste Management Department

On July 27, 2004, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Non-Residential Recycling Ordinance, making recycling mandatory for businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The ordinance requires businesses to segregate and recycle as many recyclable materials as practical. It designates paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum and ferrous metal as recyclable materials with the provision that the board may designate others (i.e. organic waste) if a collection system and market exist or delete any for the same reasons.

The ordinance will not be enforced for one year following its effective date. This first year allows time for the county to educate businesses about what they need to do to comply prior to enforcement by the Code Enforcement Board.

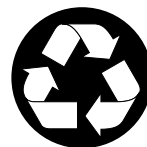
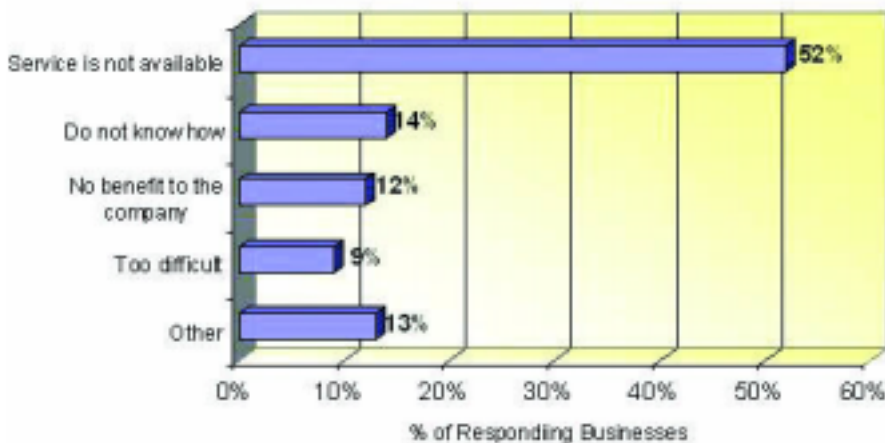
A business may either contract with a hauler or complete a certificate of self-hauling. Recycling haulers are required by the ordinance to provide quarterly reports to the county, documenting the tonnages collected for recycling by businesses in Collier County.

Exemptions and administrative variances due to substantial hardship are provided for. If a generator uses no more than one 96-gallon container picked up twice weekly for waste disposal, or if no recyclable material(s) are generated, or if no market/collection system exists for recyclable material(s) generated, it would be exempt.

The ordinance is posted on www.colliercountyrecycles.com.

Estimates showed that businesses accounted for 60% of the waste generated in the county and approximately 50% of it is recyclable. Collier County hopes, through this ordinance, to significantly reduce the amount of recyclable materials currently landfilled.

Why Businesses Are Not Recycling



City and County Connection (continued)

Pinellas County Hits One-Million Pound Milestone in Collecting Hazardous Household Electronics and Chemicals

Pat Freed, Public Relations Specialist, Pinellas County Utilities

Mary Braisted of St. Petersburg loaded an old computer in the trunk of her car. The PC had been sitting around for months, and Mary saw her chance to get rid of it. Marie Borges of St. Petersburg packed up her outdated, dust gathering microwave, looking forward to seeing it no more. Tom Hallis of St. Pete Beach filled boxes with unused household chemicals, pesticides, paint and electronics, determined that they would not follow him to his new home. One quick drop off delivery in the SUV, and the garage cluttering hazardous waste would be gone. All three Pinellas County residents headed for the Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection drop off.

This year, the County collected a record setting 1,000,514 pounds of unwanted hazardous electronics and chemicals from 15,948 residents. That's over 1 million pounds of hazardous materials that have been kept out of the landfill! The total pounds include items gathered from residents at the Mobile Collection events as well as those collected at the Solid Waste Facility's Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center.

Pinellas County rotates the Saturday Mobile Collection events among various locations throughout the County so that residents and businesses can safely and conveniently dispose of unwanted hazardous electronics and chemicals. The drop off service is free for residents and inexpensive for businesses.

St. Petersburg resident, Marilyn Littlejohn, dropped off her boyfriend's old PC, clearing some wasted garage space. Like many other County residents, she values the Mobile Collection service as good for both her and the environment.



Tom Hallis of St. Pete Beach watching Bob Mowry unload paint and chemicals at Pinellas County Utilities Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection event at Tyrone Blvd. Home Depot on Saturday, 10/8/04



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Want to Avoid Spending so Much Money on Disposal ?

The Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc. (SWIX), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, can help save you money. SWIX conducts waste audits as a means of assisting industry with the identification of recyclables, minimizing waste and managing disposal costs.

What is a Waste Audit?

Billions of dollars are spent each year by industry complying with solid and hazardous waste management. As a result, industry is turning to waste auditing not only as a means of environmental compliance determination but also as a business decision making tool to control costs and to increase profits.

The SWIX Waste Audit is a process of gathering data concerning a facilities operation and solid (non-hazardous) waste generation and then comparing this information to applicable industrial waste management practices.

Elements of the SWIX Waste Audit:

- Onsite Reconnaissance of areas such as:
 - Assembly Lines
 - Receiving Area
 - Lounge
 - Stock Rooms
 - Cafeteria, Kitchen & Lunch Room
 - Offices
 - Copy, Fax, and Printing
 - Shipping
- Waste Identification and Characterization:
 - Type of Waste Stream
 - Quantity of Waste Stream
 - Quality of Waste Stream
- Review of Waste Operations
- Interviewing Facility Personnel
- Reporting Findings and Recommendations

For additional information on the SWIX Waste Audit please contact Gene Jones or Ray Moreau at:

Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc. (SWIX)
Post Office Box 960
Tallahassee, FL 32302
Telephone (800) 441-7949
Fax: (850) 386-4321
Email: info@swix.ws
Web Site: www.wastexchange.org



RecycleFlorida Today, Inc.
P.O. Box 15889
Tallahassee, FL 32317
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www.recyclefloridatoday.org

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