



Reduce Re Use Cycle News

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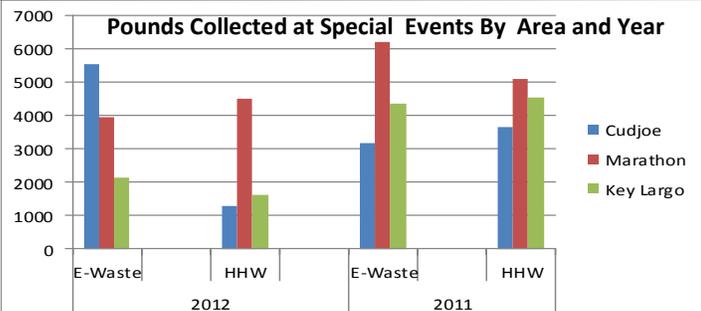
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Local Action with Global Impact

Monroe County just completed another successful round of our annual Saturday collection events for electronics recycling and household hazardous waste disposal. The special dates complement the bi-monthly schedule at County Transfer Stations and the Key Largo Recycling Center. Although some of the event totals are somewhat lower this year, the data suggests that residents are utilizing drop-off opportunities during the week. Daily drop-off for electronics recycling is now allowed from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday, at the Cudjoe and Long Key Transfer Stations. Here's what we collected:



Monroe County recycled 45,000 pounds of e-waste in 2011 !

Electronics recycling is getting lots of attention lately with legislation proposed or enacted on numerous fronts. Currently, 25 states enacted e-waste laws in 2011 with landfilling/incineration banned in 18 of them; 23 states have included "producer responsibility" provisions that force manufacturers to bear some of the associated costs. Florida currently has no specific bans or regulations for electronics disposal.

The US Congress also plans to consider electronic waste export bans in 2012. HR 2284, the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act addresses concerns that exports are commonly sent to developing countries with lax environmental and safety laws.



Once abroad, impoverished workers— frequently children, often harvest the e-waste's precious metals under unsafe conditions. Workers and the environment are often exposed to toxic materials; residual waste is often burned releasing even more toxins. Some also suggest that exports take needed jobs and resources out of our nation.

[Follow the E-Waste Trail to see where it often ends up and what happens to your old electronics....](#)



Monroe County is already addressing some of these concerns by selecting one of the most qualified electronics recycling companies in the nation; Intercon Recycling Solutions completely de-manufactures the electronics so recycled materials can be re-used in the United States.



Many feel that such a ban on exports would help, but it is a contentious issue even among the large scrap recyclers that export many discarded electronics overseas. This is a 4R issue that won't go away and needs our serious attention.

Let your elected representatives hear your thoughts on this very important issue !

Key West Botanical Garden Middle School Science Fair Helps Promote Recycling, Sustainability and Reuse of Resources

Once again, we were pleased to see how many students used recycled materials to create their projects. Contributing to local efforts that support sustainable use of natural resources was also very evident in their presentations. Centennial Bank and First State Bank provided generous awards to the top entries! We hope these students will help lead future 4R efforts.



Monroe County Recycling Visits High Schools Too !

While many of our presentations are in elementary grades, we also offer unique programs for middle and high school students that are also meant to stimulate an interest in new technologies being utilized and the “green jobs” that are rapidly being created. Students in Alyssa Cerkleski’s classes at Key West High School can tell you all about the many ways that chemistry, earth science, and health care are related to recycling, sustainability, and the 4Rs!

We even visited Holly Bell’s culinary arts classrooms to stress the importance of recycling in the workplace, alternative packaging options, food waste composting options and potential disposal savings generated by recycling.

All presentations are customized for each audience. **Arrange a program for your school by contacting Recycling Coordinator Colleen Murphy at (305) 289 6037. We also visit civic, homeowner, and business organizations.**

Please indicate Y= YES or N=NO and fill in any answers where requested. Thanks for your feedback!

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|----|-----|
| 1. Approximately what percentage of your household waste is being recycled? | | | | | % |
| 2. Would you prefer larger bins on wheels for recycling? | | | | | Y N |
| 3. How much would you be willing to pay per year for larger bins? (circle) | \$ 0 | \$10 | \$20 | \$ | |
| 4. Would you prefer more days for recycling collections and less for trash? | | | | | Y N |
| 5. Would you support a "pay-as-you throw" system that charges by volume placed curbside, with lower or no fees for recycling and much higher fees for trash? | | | | | Y N |
| 6. Would you support mandatory recycling for residents? | | | | | Y N |
| 7. Would you support mandatory recycling for businesses and special events? | | | | | Y N |
| 8. Have you utilized the special collection events for electronics recycling and hazardous household waste disposal? | | | | | Y N |
| 9. Have you ever used the drop-off sites (Cudjoe and Long Key Transfer Stations and Key Largo Recycling Center) for electronics recycling and hazardous household waste disposal during posted times? | | | | | Y N |
| 10. Have you ever used the drop-off sites (Cudjoe and Long Key Transfer Stations and Key Largo Recycling Center) for recyclable items that are also collected curbside for residents? | | | | | Y N |
| 11. Does the business you work with ever use the drop-off sites for recyclables (Cudjoe and Long Key Transfer Stations and Key Largo Recycling Center) ? | | | | | Y N |
| 12. Do you currently compost at home? | | | | | Y N |
| 13. Would you compost food and yard waste at home if the County provided a plastic composter? | | | | | Y N |
| 14. Would you separate food and yard waste at home if the County provided curbside collection with composting operations at transfer stations or other appropriate sites? | | | | | Y N |
| 15. Would you support municipal composting of all commercial food and yard waste? | | | | | Y N |
| 16. Would you like to participate in a Master Recycler Program similar to the Master Gardener program offered by the County Agricultural Extension Service? | | | | | Y N |
| 17. Do you think teachers need a resource reuse center where businesses or residents could donate materials for classroom projects and other school-related uses? | | | | | Y N |
| 18. Have you visited our Recycling table at special events like GLEE Expos? | | | | | Y N |
| 19. What additional materials would you like to see added to the list of accepted recyclables (please indicate priority)? : | | | | | |
| 20. Please include any suggestions or comments that you would like to share: | | | | | |

Address (include Key)

e-mail (optional)

Once you have printed and completed this form, it may be scanned and sent to murphy-colleen@monroecounty-fl.gov or mail to Colleen Murphy, 10600 Aviation Blvd, Marathon, FL 33050. Please call (305) 289-6037 if you have questions.

Keys to Successful Business Recycling

As businesses in the Keys look for ways to “green” their public image, recycling questions still limit local progress. While major corporations like auto industries have embraced the European model of recycling efficiency with “zero waste” efforts in full swing, Keys enterprises are slowly coming on board. According to most recent official FL DEP estimates, participation in recycling at businesses was estimated at around 14% compared to single family residences with 60% participating. **Successful firms indicate that leadership at the top is the most important factor.** When staff understand that it is a required part of the job, recycling does get done! **Proper practices = business recycling success:**

- ◆ **Monitor the trash and recycling.** If trash containers are not full, decrease size or collections; increase recycling bins.
- ◆ **Take time to educate you staff; ask for materials from MC Recycling.** Information is available in Creole and Spanish.
- ◆ **Make it easy–** place interior recycling containers next to all trash cans.
- ◆ **No sorting is required; everything can be mixed together but separating cardboard can save lots of space and fees.**
- ◆ **Provide plenty of signs that tell everyone what is accepted– and what is not allowed in the bins.**
- ◆ **DO NOT place plastic bags or plastic film in the recycling bins provided by your haulers or at the drop-off sites.**
- ◆ **Don’t include shredded paper- neither bagged nor loose.** It is causing sorting and baling problems at the plant.
- ◆ **If outside space is limited, work with neighboring businesses to share bins and expenses.**
- ◆ **Only include paperback books or remove hardback covers and remove paper from binders; staples and tape are OK.**
- ◆ **All cans and tins are accepted, but no other scrap metal items; arrange for separate collection of larger metal items.**
- ◆ **Consider supporting local production of bio-diesel with local collection of waste vegetable oil.**
- ◆ **Acceptable plastics are rigid containers/packaging marked with the recycling triangle and numbers 1-7; NO Styrofoam at this time but you can recycle packaging at most shipping companies (FedEx, UPS, etc).**
- ◆ **If you have a LOT of recyclables, consider a compactor (e.g. MC Sheriff Office and Key West Airport) to save \$\$\$.**
- ◆ **If you have lots of food and landscape waste, consider commercial composters (see below).**
- ◆ **Call (305) 289-6037, if you would like a site visit or a staff presentation!**

Composting Partners Bring Big Benefits to Businesses



With organic waste often approaching 50% of commercial disposal needs, institutional composting has finally proven its value in Florida. Our Key Largo School cafeteria composting partners from the South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) helped develop a project at Broken Sound Club in Boca Raton that demonstrated new technologies that work even for large-scale projects. Food waste from four restaurants and landscape waste from two golf courses are combined in a 48 cubic yard composter that will produce 7 to 9 cubic yards of compost per day. The five day composting cycle heats the material to around 155 degrees F before it is removed for cooling and curing for a few weeks. The compost is then applied to the golf courses with very positive results. Significant savings from reduced waste disposal costs and less use of fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and water are anticipated. SDSWCD has also done successful pilot projects for the Homestead Air Base and Baptist Hospitals of Florida; both are planning permanent projects and many other South Florida businesses, institutions, and municipalities are exploring a variety of composting options for the future.