



# Reduce Re Use News Cycle

TO CONTACT US

COLLEEN MURPHY  
RECYCLING COORDINATOR  
(305)289-6037  
MURPHY-COLLEEN@MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV

ROSA WASHINGTON  
SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR  
(305)292-4432  
WASHINGTON-ROSA@MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV

Think

## Rethinking Disposal of Problematic Products

Many of us are using the new energy efficient light bulbs called **CFLs- compact fluorescent lamps**. The innovative design uses 1/5 to 1/3 less power and has a life cycle that is 8 – 15 times that of the traditional light bulb.

Unfortunately, like all fluorescent bulbs, CFLs contain very small amounts of potentially toxic mercury. [should be brought to Transfer Stations or Center during regular hours for household hazardous waste \(HHW\) collection or at special Saturday events.](#)



fluorescent bulbs, CFLs amounts of potentially [All fluorescent bulbs the Monroe County the Key Largo Recycling](#)

Carefully remove and install them only at the bulb's base; consider using a drop cloth to minimize clean-up damage if one breaks or falls. Wear disposable gloves and shoes to protect yourself from potential cuts. Seal them in a plastic bag and transport carefully to the closest disposal site.

**If you have a broken CFL (or fluorescent) bulb:**

- ◆ Evacuate the room; don't step on broken glass.
- ◆ Ventilate the room—*MINIMUM* of 15 minutes (EPA).
- ◆ **DO NOT** use a vacuum cleaner; use protective gloves, and a broom or brush to sweep up debris.
- ◆ Empty dustpan debris into a plastic bag and seal.
- ◆ Take to a local HHW disposal site.
- ◆ Cuts from broken CFLs require medical attention!

**Pharmaceutical discards also require special disposal: NEVER flush them down the toilet or sink, throw them in the sea or anyplace outdoors.** Wastewater treatment facilities and on-site sewage systems will not remove them; they will end up in the ocean or other freshwater sources where they can affect wildlife, food supply and humans.

**Monroe County Sheriff's office accepts prescription drugs and other medications at:**

- \* Plantation Key Substation, Monday-Friday 8 -5 or 305-853-3211 for pick-up.
- \* Murray Nelson Govt. Center, Key Largo, Wednesdays 8-5 or 305-853-3211 for pick-up.
- \* Marathon Substation, Monday-Friday 8-5 or 305-289-2430 for pick-up.
- \* Freeman Substation, Cudjoe Key, Monday –Friday, 8 to 5 or 305-745-3184 for pick-up.

## On the Road.....To "ZERO WASTE"

San Francisco public bus promotes composting.



78% recycling rate for 2011; goal of zero waste by 2020

A new report from the World Bank, "[What a Waste: A Global Review of Solid Waste Management](#)," predicts municipal solid waste will increase from 1.43 billion tons per year now to 2.42 billion tons per year in 2025. The organization states, "Disposal costs are expected to nearly double, from \$205 billion to \$375 billion annually.

No wonder many communities and businesses are now taking the concept of "Zero Waste" so seriously! In the US, San Francisco leads the effort with a 78% landfill diversion rate. **Recycling and composting have been mandatory for businesses and residents since 2009. Residents pay according to how much trash they produce (PAYT); recycling and composting are free.** One standard 32 gallon trash container costs \$27.55 per month. Curbside collection is also provided for organic materials and household hazardous waste. **A million tons of organic waste has been diverted since they began collections in 2001.**

**There are many ways to pursue a zero waste goal.** With dwindling landfill space, Vermont recently established a novel way to increase recycling and composting rates above the current 36%. **A new state law will phase in a mandatory prohibition of recyclable and compostable materials in Vermont landfills.**

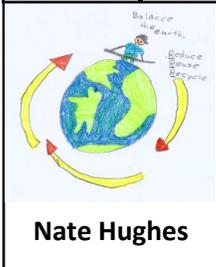
Since waste is a global problem, creative approaches to Zero Waste are being implemented around the globe. Check out the top innovations in "[On the Road to Zero Waste: Successes and Lessons from Around the World.](#)" The detailed report was prepared by GAIA, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.



Philippine Success Stories



Zero Waste Activists in Spain



**Nate Hughes**

Almost 150 students from District schools submitted art work to promote recycling, reuse, and other conservation initiatives in honor of Earth Day 2012. The Monroe County Recycling Department chose 36 submissions as the top entries that will be used to promote the 4 Rs. Posters of their art will be available to businesses, teachers, and organizations in the fall. Plans are also in the works to hold exhibits of their art in County buildings and other public places.



**Kate Johnson**

Unlike many competitions, the Monroe County Recycling Department provides recognition for all top student entries. Whenever possible, awards help foster environmental stewardship by providing experiences and merchandise that reinforce the importance of the Keys environment. All students listed here received special awards for their "Outstanding" poster entries. Lots more students scored raffle awards for participating in the pledge to stop using plastic bags whenever possible by switching to reusable, non-polluting alternatives.



**Makena Stockton**

**Key West High School**  
(Alyssa Cerkleksi's students)

**Josephine Grube**

**Tyler Hadas**

**Kimberly Young**

**Tyler Smith**

**Laura Schonek**

**Zachary Wilkerson**

**Madison Nasser**

**Plantation Key School**

**Manuel Castillo**

(Stacy Milchman's students)

**Alice Palay**

**Allie Beeman**

**Belle Jampol**

**Brittany Ferretti**

**Davis Dalton**

**Emily Morgan**

**Griffin Saunders**

**Jackie Knowles**

**Jase Schilleci**

**Jasmine Ramos**

**Jillian Laswell**

**Steven Key**

**Sydni Swanson**

**Taylor Ariglea**

**Toby Regneira**

**Torin Jacobsen**

**Nate Hughes**

**Kate Johnson**

**Makena Stockton**

**Autumn Conroy**

**Brian Lesko**

**Nicholas Bates**

**Eliza Schafstall**

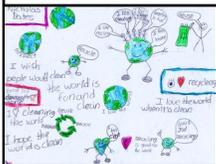
**David Jensen**



**Autumn Conroy**



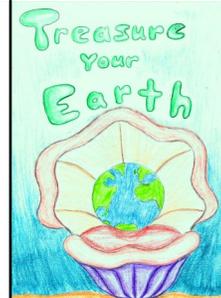
**Brian Lesko**



**Nicholas Bates**

**A Special Thanks to Participating Teachers!**

**Torrin Jacobson**



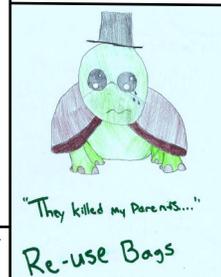
**Tyler Hadas**



**Brittany Fewetti**



**Emily Morgan**



**More 4R Views from Our Keys Schools : Our Students In Action**

Some students went beyond pledges to actually create their own reusable bags by using recycled materials in their classrooms. Key Largo School 4th grade teacher Lena Nyman shared these photos.

As efforts to eliminate the use of plastic bags gains support in our community, we hope our students will become leaders at home and at school.



At the other end of the Keys, Poincianna School students in Vicki Sawyer's 4th grade class had a blast creating ornate and musical "rain sticks" out of recycled items.

Their Recycling Rangers are always on hand to help out with recycling in the classrooms and at special events. When it comes to the 4Rs, Recycling Rangers Rock!

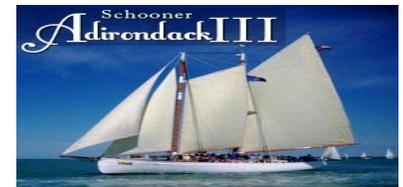
The 4 R Earth Day Competition and Reusable Bag Pledge really received a lot of award donations from local businesses and organizations. Top awards for the fantastic art submitted by students and the special raffle for those who took the pledge showed that people in our community support our students and local efforts to create a sustainable Florida Keys by practicing the 4Rs and other conservation initiatives. Monroe County, the Nature Conservancy, Keys Energy, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative and Waste Management contributed over 700 reusable bags for distribution to students and families. Businesses and organizations presented here also contributed an open water dive certification, a week at Coral Camp, lots of excursions on land and sea, delicious treats, and special eco-gear to foster environmental stewardship.

On behalf of Monroe County Recycling, teachers, and students, we thank all of you for your generous contributions!

Please contact us at 305 289 6037 if you would like to support our school 4R competitions in the future.



John Pennecamp State Park & Concessions



Schooner Jolly Rover II



Strikezone Charters Big Pine Key



Underseas Dive Shop Big Pine Key



Wharf Bar & Grill - Aqua Rodeo



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



## Repurposing Our Lives Through Reuse

### Upcycling for Fun and Profit !

Lots of dedicated recyclers are always wondering what to do with all the materials that are not accepted in our single stream recycling facility. **One option is “up cycling:” the repurposing of discards into entirely new products.** It’s a great way to give second life to many items and a potential way to turn trash into cash. The concept is growing among internet-based companies like [TerraCycle](#) and homespun enterprises.



Saavy teachers and residents in the Keys collect traditionally non-recyclable waste (including drink pouches, chip bags, tooth brushes and many more items) for free shipment to Terracycle. Participants earn points that provide “gifts” for [TerraCycle's charity partners](#), or they can use them to make a cash donation to local schools or a chosen charity. Terracycle is even taking on the challenge of finding ways to upcycle diapers and cigarette butts! You can also purchased upcycled products.



TV upcycled to cat bed

We are lucky to have many entrepreneurs and artists in the Keys that create or sell repurposed products. This fall Monroe County Recycling plans to spotlight reuse specialists and help new entrepreneurs learn more about establishing 4R businesses at our Green Business Opportunities Expos; dates will be announced soon.

**Why not see if you can find a way to turn trash to treasure this fall?**

### BYOB Means Bring Your Own Bag !

A group of concerned residents on Big Pine Key have decided to take on plastic bag litter- even though State law (Section 403.7033, Florida Statute) prohibits municipalities from banning plastic bags or imposing fees on customers who use them! The activists hope to promote voluntary participation by area retailers and plan an education campaign that will encourage people to BYOB- Bring Your Own Bags! Once businesses on Big Pine are cooperating, they hope to expand their efforts to other areas .

Monroe County Recycling supports this grass-roots local effort and plans to work with the group to advocate reusable bags in our schools and communities. The public is invited to their next meeting: **Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm**, at the Big Pine Moose Lodge, 1585 Wilder Road.

### Repurposing Our Organic Waste

The Monroe County BOCC will view and discuss composting proposals on August 15 at the Harvey Government Center in Key Largo. The BOCC will look at options that could change the way organic waste is managed in the Keys. The public is encouraged to attend. You can also [view the Climate Change Advisory Committee presentations online](#). If repurposing organic waste, over a third of our trash, is important to you- get informed and share your views!

**Don't throw it away....**



**Give it away !**

What do all of these non-profit organizations have in common? All of them have joined [Keys Reuse](#) to find unwanted or unneeded items that have been donated by locals. **It's easy to use the site: check the “items” or “non-profit “ list to see “who needs what !”** In most cases, the organizations will even come to pick up the donations. With so many recent budget cuts, the organizations that serve our community are always in need of additional supplies to provide the services we rely on. **You can help by checking the site before you toss; some worthy group will be pleased to put your cast-offs to productive use!** Non-profit organizations can still register by contacting: [michael.welber@gmail.com](mailto:michael.welber@gmail.com)

**Check-out what they need today:**

- AIDS Help
- Bahama Village Music Program
- Domestic Abuse Shelter
- Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition
- FL Keys Children's' Shelter Inc.
- FL Keys Community Concert Band
- FL Keys History of Diving Museum
- FL Keys Outreach Coalition
- FL Keys Wild Bird Center
- FL Keys Wildlife Rescue

- Forgotten Felines
- Gerald Adams Elementary School
- Guidance Care Center
- Habitat for Humanity, KW & LK
- Heron-Peacock Supported Living
- Independence Cay
- It's Just for Kids- Key West
- Keys Helpline
- Key West Botanical Garden
- Key West Wildlife Center
- Kreative Kids Christian Academy

- Keys Community School of the Arts
- Marathon Wild Bird Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Reef Relief
- Salvation Army – Key West Corps
- Samuel's House
- Sanctuary Friends Foundation
- SeaCamp
- Sea Outreach Mission
- U.Keys Humane Society
- U.Keys Schools—Art Departments