



*Reduce*  
**Re Use News**  
*Recycle*  
*Think*

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**Local Action**

**Global Impact**

**America Recycles Day**

The Florida Keys participated in the America Recycles Day pledge drive at the GLEE Expos and local County schools. Gerald Adams was the top school with almost 300 pledges signed. Over 500 people signed the pledge cards promising to:

- \* Find out what can be recycled in our community
- \* Lead by example in our neighborhoods by recycling
- \* Recycle batteries and other electronic waste
- \* Contact elected officials to support local recycling
- \* Tell friends that recycling helps the environment

To support local efforts, Publix, Home Depot, and Borders Books donated gift certificates that were awarded in two raffles. Teri Robinson, Big Pine Key, Heather Pobotoy, Key Largo, plus students Rachelle Biencuirre (HOB), and Juan Villalobos (Key Largo School) were the "lucky" recyclers! The pledge drive will be continued throughout the year for Monroe School District students with raffles planned throughout the school year.

**Recycling Supports Our Nation**

Here are a few reasons to recycle that you can share with patriotic friends who don't believe recycling is important:\*

- ◆ Most bauxite for aluminum is mined in Australia, China, India, Africa, and South America and 60% of iron ore is mined in China, Australia, and Brazil. Recycling aluminum and iron decreases reliance on imported ore, thereby helping to balance the trade deficit.
- ◆ 78% of all iron is recycled – saving enough energy to provide electrical power for 18 million homes a year.
- ◆ Most oil reserves are in the Middle East, Russia, and Canada. We reduce dependence on foreign oil when we recycle plastic and purchase plant-based plastics.
- ◆ Recycling ONE ton of paper saves enough energy to power the average American home for six months. Recycled paper exports to China help balance \$19.3 billion U.S. trade deficit with China (as of 4/2010).
- ◆ \$7.4 billion worth of recyclable materials were exported in 2008.
- ◆ ENERGY SAVED by using RECYCLED materials vs. VIRGIN MATERIALS = 10.2 billion gallons of gas 2008

\*Institute of Scrap Recyclers and Wikipedia

**Recycling Recognition Certificates for Keys Businesses**

Starting in January, local businesses that recycle will be able to display a recycling recognition certificate awarded by the Monroe County Recycling Department. According to Recycling Coordinator Murphy, "We hope it will encourage commercial recycling and it will let the public know which businesses are making an effort." The Tourist Development Council's Green



Marketing Survey indicated that nearly 50% of visitors are looking for eco-friendly businesses and are willing to pay more for goods and services that support sustainability efforts. The County Recycling Department encourages you to let local merchants know that 4R initiatives like recycling are appreciated. If your business recycles and you would like a Business Recycling Recognition Certificate, please contact your local service provider or Monroe County Recycling at 305.289.6037.

## Key Largo School Hosts High Tech Composter Project

South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District is teaming up with Key Largo School and Monroe County Solid Waste to demonstrate potential waste reduction by using an "in-vessel" composter. The 1000-student school is separating all food waste for the composter and using compostable food trays instead of Styrofoam during the three week pilot project. Students are even emptying milk, juice and plastic containers to maximize recycling in the cafeteria. Dr. Debra Walker, Jan Mulvihill, and VP Darren Pais lead the effort at the school along with the help of the cafeteria and custodial staff.



Students Learn How to Sort Cafeteria Waste for Composting

The student Garden Club that usually operates a home-style composting project is now learning about the latest in com-

posting technology. Special bio-degradable trays made from bamboo were used during the pilot project. Club members helped record data, chipped the trays, and loaded the composter.



The enclosed unit emits no odor and can produce finished compost in 4-7 days. The project was funded by Monroe

County to assess the potential for institutional and commercial composting in the Keys; a report summarizing the effort will be available in January. Hopefully, local schools and businesses will someday install permanent commercial composters in the Florida Keys.



South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District supplied the composter, the staff, and the technical expertise !

## Join the School Recycling Leaders

Although recycling may seem totally unrelated to regular school topics, local educators are discovering that it can reinforce learning in science, social studies, and other subjects. Because we know educators and students are all feeling the pressure to demonstrate excellence in education -with FCAT scores or other performance standards, presentations are always age-appropriate and include Sunshine State Standards so teachers can justify the time diverted from regular studies. Ask any of the teachers/schools that have recently been visited by Monroe County Recycling Coordinator, Colleen Murphy:

**Coral Shores- Kathy Ets-Hokin, Special Ed and Alyssa Rehmann, Science**

**Glynn Archer, 1<sup>st</sup> Grades**

**Key Largo School- Anne Dunn, Grades 5**

**Key West Co-op Preschool, Joyce Millelli**

**Key West High School-**

**Alyssa Cerkleski , Chemistry and Health Science: "My students think that you're super cool."**

**Holly Bell, Food Service: "The tailored for foodservice presentation for the Key West High School Culinary Arts program you did was great- very informative. I am so glad to hear that they have stepped up the amount of plastics we can recycle! Keep up the great job! "**

**Plantation Key School - Lucy Given, 5th Grade Science**

**Poinciana Elementary - Deborah Jackson's team of teachers and students, K,1st, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**

**Treasure Village Montessori - Hulbert Gagliardini, Grades 7 & 8**

To schedule a presentation after the holidays, call 305 289 6037 or email: [murphy-colleen@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:murphy-colleen@monroecounty-fl.gov)



Residents and businesses can learn also about the latest recycling news at many special events in our community. Monroe County Solid Waste & Recycling will be participating in the 6th Annual Key West Seafood Festival at Bayview Park , Key West, Saturday, January 15th, 2011.

*Post-Holiday Roundup*

Special **Saturday** Collections !

**Electronics (E-Waste) Recycling  
and  
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal**



**January 29th  
Marathon-County Public Works Yard  
10600 Aviation Boulevard  
9 am to 2 pm**

**February 5th  
Cudjoe Key Transfer Station  
Blimp Road at MM 21.5 Overseas Highway  
9 am to 2 pm**



**February 12th  
Key Largo Recycling Center  
300 Magnolia Street  
9 am to 2 pm**



**E-WASTE:**

- Monitors**
- Computers**
- Televisions**
- Telephones/**
- Cell and Land**
- FAX machines**
- Printers/copiers**
- DVD/VCR Players**
- Radios & Speakers**
- Discs and Cassettes**



**HHW :**

- Paints, stains, preservatives**
- Roofing compounds**
- Resins & Solvents**
- Adhesives / caulks**
- Corrosives - acids**
- Cleaning products**
- Automotive fluids**
- Waste oil—5 G Max**
- Pesticides & Fertilizers**
- Fluorescent & CFL bulbs**

***NEW- Regular Hours for HHW & E-Waste Disposal at Transfer Stations/Recycling Center***

**Cudjoe Key Transfer Station**

**HHW: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8am-4pm**

**E-Waste: Monday-Saturday 8am-4pm**

**Long Key Transfer Station:**

**HHW: 1st and 3rd Fridays 10am-2:pm**

**E-Waste: Monday-Saturday 8am-4pm**

**Key Largo — Magnolia Recycling Center**

**HHW and E-Waste:**

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays 10:am — 2pm**

## Happy Holidays from Monroe County Recycling !



**Don't Forget !**

**Always Reduce Reuse Recycle.**

**When you are shopping for holiday gifts:**

**Reuse , and save, gift wrap and special packages.**

**Buy products that are made with recycled materials .**

**Look for companies with 'sustainable' business' policies.**

**Shop at galleries and craft stores that utilize recycled materials.**

**Recycle packaging materials like Styrofoam and bubble wrap at shipping stores .**

**Consider giving items that you no longer need or use instead of purchasing new items.**

**Support companies with producer– initiated recycling options (check for producer responsibility programs).**

**Thanks 4 Recycling!**

## EcoWeek 2010 : Energizing the Keys Environment



**Marathon HS Food Service Café**



**Recycled Fashions**



**Tai Chi for All Ages**

Celebrating the local environment was a non-stop series of special events, November 1<sup>st</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> - from Key Largo to Key West. This global concept, funded in part by the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and Monroe County, provided Keys-wide activities to encourage environmental awareness and healthy living. Thirty organizations and businesses collaborated to sponsor a real variety of opportunities to learn about, and experience, many new concepts that are good for you and the environment. Organizers report that 1500 residents and 400 visitors had a chance to meet 80 'green' business and organization exhibitors at the Keys-wide gatherings.

GLEE (Green Living and Energy Education) hosted four Expos in Key Largo, Marathon, Sugarloaf Key, and Key West. Everyone had a chance to sample lots of new products and try activities that promote healthy living. Favorite aspects of EcoWeek and the GLEE Expos included the Marathon HS culinary program offerings, Tai Chi for all ages in Key Largo, great music at Sugarloaf School, the Recycled Fashion Runway in Key West, South-Dade Toyota's Prius Driving Challenge, and two Film Festivals hosted by Sanctuary Friends and Reef Relief. Monroe County Recycling provided the latest updates, passed out recycling bins, and collected pledges for the America Recycles Day raffle. It was a great opportunity to answer lots of questions from local residents and businesses.

EcoWeek organizers also enlisted sponsors to purchase recycling receptacles for public areas in the Keys. You, or your business, can still sponsor a receptacle (\$200 per bin including sponsor recognition); call 305-942-0808 or contact [info@ecoweekfloridakeys.com](mailto:info@ecoweekfloridakeys.com) . If you missed all the fun this year, put it on next year's calendar as the week-long celebration has already received TDC funding for the second annual EcoWeek extravaganza - next October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 with activities for all ages throughout the Florida Keys. See you there!