



Reduce Re Use Recycle

Think

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Earth Day Should Be Every Day!

It's important to remember that Earth Day has been observed for forty years, but we still need to care for the Earth every day! It is certainly discouraging to see the sad images of the 70's being repeated as a massive oil spill threatens the Keys. However, we need to remember that our every day efforts are what really created change way back then— and continue to do so today!

What have we accomplished in forty years?

- 1970** - Formation of the EPA and the Clean Air Act
- 1972 -1972** Ban on DDT, Clean Water Acts
- 1976** - Resource Conservation /Toxic Substances Acts
- 1976 -1978** PCB and CFC bans
- 1980** - Superfund to cleanup hazardous waste sites
- 1988** - Ban ocean dumping of sewage/ industrial wastes
- 1990s** -Promotion of pollution prevention, environmental education, energy efficiency and recycling

2000-The next Century ?... It's up to US!



Although progress has been made, the work that remains to be done seems endless. Caring for the Earth is a lifelong job and **everyone needs to help**. One very significant and easy way you can help the Earth is by Recycling - so pitch in Monroe! **Practice the 4Rs and celebrate Earth Day Every Day!**

Keys Cleanup Efforts



Monroe County teamed up with T.R.A.S.H.E.D. in the Keys, Reef Relief, GLEE, local businesses, and volunteers to sponsor community-wide Spring clean-ups during April. Call Mike Basham at 305 434-0058 to get involved in the Key West/Stock Island area.

With the threat of an oil spill reaching the Keys, cleanup is also needed in many mangrove areas. Contact Maya Totman with Wildlife Rescue of the Florida Keys at 305 304-5326 to volunteer.



April Special Collection Events

Monroe County celebrated Earth Month by sponsoring special weekend collections of household hazardous materials (HHW) and electronic waste (E-waste) at four sites. Thanks to everyone who came!

Countywide HHW Total : 19,160 pounds

Monroe County Public Works, Marathon—12,860 pounds
Bernstein Park, Stock Island—3,840 pounds;
Key Largo Recycling Center—1,420 pounds
Cudjoe Key Transfer Station—1,400 pounds

The products collected included **lots** of paint, cleaners, solvents, pesticides, batteries, and waste oil. Clean Harbors manages Monroe County's HHW; the firm (www.cleanharbors.com) has numerous waste-specific disposal facilities nationwide.



Countywide e-waste Total—21,820 pounds

Bernstein Park, Stock Island—7,080 pounds
Key Largo—6,880 pounds
Monroe County Public Works, Marathon—4,400 pounds
Cudjoe Key Transfer Station—3,460 pounds

E-waste may contain hazardous materials like lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PVC, and flame retardants. It also contains valuable recyclables like aluminum, copper, and brass, and special alloys. All e-waste will be shipped to Intercon Solutions (www.interconrecycling.com) where the electronics will be completely and securely de-manufactured and recycled - no reselling, no landfilling and no incineration !

You can also dispose of these special materials at the County Transfer Stations/ Recycling Center. Locations and hours can be found in the online [Monroe County recycling brochure](#).

Going Green from Start to Finish : Monroe Business Recycling Leaders

Lots of new local enterprises are taking the concept of creating "green" businesses to new limits. That includes using energy efficient appliances and lighting, Earth-friendly products, maximizing recycling and composting activities. Monroe County applauds all local businesses who are helping to create a sustainable community in the FL Keys!



Footprints-Your Green Living Store on US 1 in Stock Island carries a huge array of eco-friendly cleaning products, compostable serveware, composters, rain barrels and much, much more—even a growing reuse department. Owner Michael Basham is founder of T.R.A.S.H.E.D in the Keys, a leader in ongoing local clean-up efforts.

Dove Creek Lodge on Seaside Avenue in Key Largo is among the growing number of resorts that go "green" from cleaning products and linen to water supplies and specially designed recycling bins. They are in high demand as an increasing number of tourists seek out establishments that embrace the 4Rs by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.



At the **Wharf Bar and Grill** on US 1 in Summerland Key, owner Melody Reger and staff rotate the massive Earth Tub composter that handles all the food and yard waste plus all the compostable serveware that is used at this very busy restaurant and fish market. They even carry organic produce and beverages!

Less Trash = More Cash

If your business still does not recycle on a regular basis, chances are that you are losing money. Schools, local governments and businesses that have improved their recycling efforts report that the more you recycle, the less it costs to dispose of your solid waste. **If your business has expanded its recycling or green-living initiatives, please let us know so we can share your story to encourage others in our community !**

Reuter's Single Stream Recycling Facility



A van full of Monroe County officials, staff, and local activists recently made a trip to [visit the materials recycling facility \(MRF\)](#) where our recyclables are processed.

Seeing is Believing—Recycling is Serious Business!

- \$10 million facility opened in 1995
- Located in Pembroke Pines (near Ft Lauderdale)
- Operated by Waste Management, Inc.
- 100,000 square foot facility on 35 acres
- Largest single-stream recycling facility in SE U.S.
- 115 employees; 5-10% contamination rate
- Over 240 tons of unsorted recyclables processed /year
- 800 to 1000 tons of recyclables processed per day!
- Processing cost \$65-75 per ton

It's a dense maze of conveyor belts and sorting equipment with lots of workers lining the many sorting areas. Despite all the high tech equipment, human intervention is still critical. **Plastic bags are one of the big "No No's!" because they clog belts and cause equipment problems; plant managers declare support for banning them!** Workers at the plant work two- 10 hour shifts to monitor the entire process and ensure the highest quality of end-product.



Selling the materials can be challenging. Just like corn, oil, or gold, recyclables are "commodities." Their value fluctuates with global supply and demand and by the shipping distance to mills where they will be reprocessed into new products. Last year, plant managers were faced with million-dollar monthly losses as global demand plummeted with the worldwide economic recession. Occasionally, value drops so low that alternative uses must be employed. Fortunately, new uses and reclamation processes are constantly being researched, developed, and improved..

Utilizing the numerous abundant reuse resources in the Florida Keys is one of the most obvious ways to reduce the amount of waste you toss in the trash and it may also curb the constant urge to purchase something **new**. Resale shops are also a great way to \$ave money, resources, and help local organizations. This list is a good starting point and we will always welcome additions for positing on the Monroe County Solid Waste Department website. Share your abandoned “booty” by taking it to one of the Keys’ reuse resources—so today’s trash may become someone’s treasure tomorrow!

All Keys

www.KeysReuse.com

Upper Keys

Salvation Army Thrift Store

100109 Overseas Hwy

Key Largo

305 451-2882

White Rhino Consignments

103200 Overseas Highway

Key Largo

305 453-0065

Ashleigh's Attic

99314 Overseas Hwy

Key Largo

305 451-2332

Keys Castaways

99090 Overseas Hwy

Key Largo

305 451-1116

Consignment Shop at Ocean Reef

98900 Overseas Hwy

Key Largo

305 360-5878

Pink Junqtique

98275 Overseas Highway

Key Largo

305 853-2620

Habitat for Humanity Home Store

98970 Overseas Hwy

Key Largo

305 453-0050

Upper Keys (cont)

Ms Cellaneous

82751 Overseas Highway,

Islamorada

305 517-9990

Keys WeeCycle (kids clothing)

info@keyswecycle

Islamorada

305 394-1987 / 394-3539

Middle Keys (to Marathon)

Salvation Army Thrift Store

2835 Overseas Hwy

Marathon

305 743-0054

Purrfect Thrift

3580 Overseas Hwy

Marathon

305 896-0932

Byar's Used Furniture

2777 Overseas Hwy

Marathon

743-6506

Lower Keys

Salvation Army Thrift Store

30944 Overseas Hwy

Big Pine Key

305 872-7032

Habitat for Humanity Restore

30320 Overseas Hwy

Big Pine Key

305 872-2883

Lower Keys (cont)

Salvation Army Thrift Store

24822 Overseas Hwy

Summerland Key

305 745-3327

Out of the Blue Consignments

29842 Overseas Hwy

Big Pine Key

305 872-8864

Good Food Free Box

MM 30.2 Overseas Hwy

Big Pine Key

305 872-3945

Tickled Pink Boutique

24580 Overseas Hwy

Summerland Key

305 744-4405

Key West Area

Salvation Army Thrift Store

1924 Flagler

Key West

305 294-6505

Second Hand Sam's

5341 5th Ave

Stock Island

305 294-2944

Dress for Less Consignments

1120 White St

Key West

305 296-5269



Habitat for Humanity's ReStore has everything including kitchen sinks! One of the few reuse stores that accepts and resells construction and renovation materials, it also has a huge collection of furniture and appliances. Upstairs, Coconut Closet has a wonderful selection of new (close-out) and used apparel. Donations and purchases help to support programs that provide housing assistance for Monroe County Residents. They are right next to the popular Big Pine Flea Market.



“Pay as You Throw” — More for Your Buck\$?

Lots of us want to see more recycling in our community, but the question is “how to make it happen?” A recent “webinar” provided some insights into a popular option called Pay As You Throw (PAYT).

What is makes PAYT different than our current plan?

- **Advantage: Financial reward for recycling / diversion efforts**
- **Drawbacks: May lead to increases in illegal dumping and increased overall trash disposal fees for some users**
- No base rate to cover all solid waste collections (Monroe residents pay one fee as part of residential property tax bills)
- Significantly higher fees for trash disposal
- No fees or reduced fees per container/bag of recyclables
- Volume of recyclables typically doubles
- Other charges often apply for special items and services

PAYT uses special prepaid bags or may offer a variety of container sizes provided by the agency / company providing recycling services.



There are dozens of variations in over 7000 programs currently operating nationwide. The city of Gainesville is a good Florida case study. Single-family residences use a curbside system for recyclables with no monthly fee for the recycling program or the yard waste-to-mulch collection. They can select from a variety of trash containers with prices ranging from \$14.50 to \$29 per month for a weekly trash collection according to preselected container sizes; prepaid bags can also be purchased for \$2.25 each. All solid waste- yard, recycling, and trash, are picked up once a week. Additional fees on both County and City property taxes help support special collections and recycling.

According to Coordinator Joanie Rolin, “Residential recycling does not totally pay for itself,” despite a nearly 40% recycling rate. Residential recycling is not mandatory because “pay as you throw” offers big incentives to recycle, however commercial recycling is mandatory. Having a landfill and recyclables processing plant nearby does help to defray the cost of residential recycling. Disposal fees for Gainesville are around \$50/ton compared to \$120 at Monroe County Transfer Stations; all Monroe County solid waste is transported to recycling or waste-to-energy facilities near Ft Lauderdale.

PAYT is just one of many options we may explore in the future, but all recycling programs still agree on one thing- EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

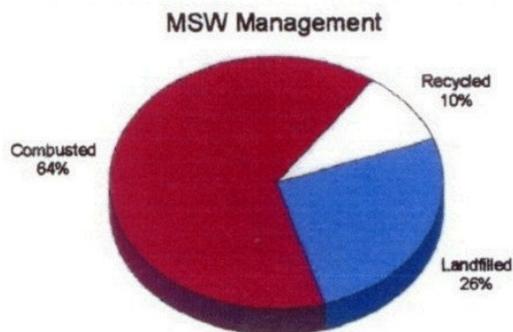
75% Recycling by 2020-FL Bill Heads to Governor



HB 7243 : What’s in it for the Keys ?

- * FL Goal: to recycle at least 75% of the municipal solid waste that would otherwise be disposed of in landfills or incineration facilities;
- * Interim Goal benchmarks e.g. 40% by 2012, 60% by 2016
- * **GOAL WILL NOT APPLY IN THE KEYS: Small counties (less than 100,000) will be exempt because we have a recycling program and education in place; specific financially distressed areas are also exempt**
- * Solid waste sent to waste-to-energy plants will be counted as renewable energy at the rate of a one ton recycling credit for one megawatt-hour of electricity produced.
- * Requires improved reporting of recycling efforts / entities
- * Establishes Recycling Business Assistance Center to help develop and expand markets for recyclable materials
- * Promotes environmentally preferable purchasing and source-reduced products, especially for the public sector
- * Provides below-market financing for companies that manufacture products from recycled materials or convert recyclable materials into raw materials.
- * Establishes a separate category for construction and demolition (C&D) debris disposal/recycling activities including requirement of liners and leachate collections systems for new disposal facilities
- * Requires new commercial and multi-family construction to provide recycling opportunities
- * Local governments are authorized (not required) to enact ordinances that require (mandate) recycling
- * Provides equally distributed grant assistance for small counties/cities for recycling, solid waste education, and litter control
- * Provides waste tire grant assistance for all counties with 25% equally distributed to small counties/cities
- * **NO special provisions to divert organic waste for mulching or composting unless used to produce alternative clean-burning fuels**

**Where Are We At Now ?
Most Recent DEP Statistics for 2008**



Monroe County recycled around 35% in 2000! Looks like it is time for us to **RETHINK** our recycling efforts.