



# Reduce Reuse Recycle News

TO CONTACT US

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

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

*Think*

## Local Recycling Updates

## Our "Green Community" in Action

### Now Accepting New Items !

- \* Plastic Caps and Lids -no need to toss!
- \* Gabletop (aseptic) Milk and Juice Cartons
- \* Clean Aluminum Foil

### **SPECIAL ALERT!**

Have you seen  
this BUG ?



Cotton seed bugs, a threat to commercial cotton crops, have recently been found in Key West and Stock Island. The bug also feeds on hibiscus, okra, and a native wild cotton that grows in the Keys. **If found** on your plants, you should **remove the affected plant and double-bag the material before placing in the trash; DO NOT place in your compost!** This will prevent the bugs from being spread between the Keys and the Wheelabrator Waste-to-Energy Plant in Pompano where Monroe County trash is incinerated. For more information, visit the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) site or contact UF Extension Agent, Kim Gabel, at 292 4501.

### Recycling for Fun and Profit\$ !

There are lots of ways to recycle items that are not accepted curbside; some are great for fund-raising and special competitions. Check it out:

- \* [Recycle Cell Phones and print cartridges](#)
- \* [Everything above plus other electronics](#)
- \* [Recycle candy, juice, & other packaging](#)

### Donate Old Computers to Kids

[Computers Are My Life](#) refurbishes your discards for distribution to disadvantaged children in Jamaica and Bahama Village. Mike Mongo offers a great way to help a needy child.

### Keys REUSE Launches Web Site

Environmental activist, Michael Welber, recently created a great way to **reduce waste** by launching a web site for people who have items they want to donate to non-profits. According to Welber, "The response has been great. We currently have 21 groups using the site— schools, conservation groups, social service organizations and arts programs."

#### **"Don't throw it away – Give it away!"**

Donate your used items to people who really need them. There's probably a non-profit group in the Keys that can put your discards to good use. Take a look at the "Items" page on this site. Select one of the acronyms listed next to each item to find out which group needs it. **What do they need?**

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| * Appliances         | * Cleaning products   |
| * Art supplies       | * Medical supplies    |
| * Boating needs      | * Musical instruments |
| * Children's gear    | * Office equipment    |
| * Food items         | * Pet needs           |
| * Furniture          | * School supplies     |
| * Gardening supplies | * Tools               |

*Donate and Conserve  
in the Florida Keys*

Why not visit [KeysReuse.com](#) today to see **what you have to donate?** Just call or send the non-profit group an email to arrange delivery. **Everyone wins!** You dispose of clutter, the non-profit gets something it really needs, and we all keep these things from heading to the incinerator or sitting in a dump for hundreds of years!

## 4 R Schools in the News

### Letting it Rot and Watching it Grow!



[Take a tour](#) with Key Largo School fourth grade teacher Jan Mulvihill, who proved that composting and gardening can be a great educational experience. Her students use a hands-on approach to learn about resource recovery by managing the project. The outdoor classroom lets them observe, experiment, and apply their academic skills.

Three different types of low-tech composters are used to turn food and landscape waste into “black gold” for their thriving garden. The compost is used to grow herbs, vegetables, and native plants that they share with the community at special events to promote eco-friendly landscaping.



Let's see more composting and gardening projects at local schools this coming year! UF Extension Service and Monroe County Recycling staff will be available to help get projects started. With encouragement from students, we hope parents may start composting at home too!

### Art, Music, and Video Competition Winners

Recycling and “Green Living” advocates recently reviewed entries in the Monroe County School “4R” Competition. Decisions were based on the message, artistic presentation, and potential application for promotion of recycling, waste reduction, reuse, composting and energy saving activities.

#### Entries included:

- \* **A twenty-student visual arts group project,**
- \* **270 posters or 3D presentation, and**
- \* **14 multi-media presentations created by 117 students.**

All students received Certificates of Appreciation from Monroe County Recycling Department. Businesses and organizations also contributed over 500 awards for students and their chaperones- everything from reusable shopping bags to iPod Shuffles and passes for eco-friendly excursions.

**“Most Outstanding”** Group project: “Protect Our Coral Reef” Poinciana Elementary, Deb Jackson’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### Top Individual Art entries (all from Sugarloaf ES)



#### Top “Media” entries (video, songs, and slideshows)

Eco Man Sugarloaf MS: Josh Brazelton and Cody Dominiak

Mother Earth Coral Shores HS: Ray Vaughn, William Harrelson, Alexa Frink, Chrissy Cockrell

Mean Green Recycling Machine Horace O’Bryant MS: Naomi Vega, Vincent Cheng, Jason Hoeffler, Tasha Hitchcock, Anna McDonald-Vernon, Mario Suarez, Donte Thompson, Chandler Barnett, Justin Varela, Jacob Smith, Joshua Morales

Sixto Lima and the Recycling Rangers Poinciana ES

Recycle Rap, Plantation Key School, Ms Gagliardini’s G4 Music

The 4Rs, Plantation Key School, Storm Dixon, Mallory Dye

[Visit our online Gallery!](#) (only art with returned consent forms)

## Getting Greener Every Day : Monroe Business Recycling Leaders

### Thanks To Local Business Sponsors !

### Get GLEE Green Business Certified !

On behalf of our local students and a clean Florida Keys, Monroe County Recycling Department thanks all of these businesses and Organizations for supporting our School "4R" Arts / Media Competition and community Clean Ups.

Businesses are starting to realize that local clients and tourists do go out of their way to support businesses that practice environmental conservation. Although there are a number of certification programs, we are fortunate to have a local group that provides special workshops and lots of outreach for businesses .

**Award Donations:**      **Clean Up Site Sponsors:**

- ALCOA Aluminum
- Apple Store-Miami
- Baby's Coffee
- Bayshore Nursery
- Big Pine Kayak
- Florida Bay Outfitters
- Good Food Conspiracy
- History of Diving Museum
- John Pennekamp State Park
- Keys Sanitary Services
- Lazy Dog Kayaks
- Long Key State Park
- Looe Key Reef Dive Shop
- Mangrove Mamma's Restaurant
- Mel Fisher's Turtle Museum
- Murray's Supermarket
- Nature Conservancy
- Pigeon Key Foundation
- Publix Supermarkets
- Reef Relief
- Radio Shack Key Largo
- Rainbow Reef Dive Center
- Strikezone Charters
- Summerland Ace Hardware
- T.R.A.S.H.E.D. in the Keys
- Underseas Dive Charters
- Waste Management Inc.
- Winn-Dixie Supermarket

- Blue Lagoon Motel
- Hurricane Hole Marina
- Geiger Key Marina
- Sugarloaf Lodge
- Wharf Bar and Grill
- Out of the Blue-Gallery and Gifts
- Key Largo Conch House
- Snapper's Restaurant

**Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle  
Rethink**



**Keeping  
the Keys  
Clean and Green  
For Future  
Generations**

The program is the first of its kind to address the environmental impact of small businesses in the Florida Keys. "The Green Business Program is our response to the many requests we've received over the years from those who want to green their business operations but don't know where to begin," according to GLEE President Alison Higgins. "We can help reduce waste and conserve resources, while trimming the cost of doing business."

GLEE's Green Business Certification covers three important aspects of "Green Living:"

- \* **Solid Waste Management**
- \* **Water Conservation**
- \* **Energy Conservation**



You can start by checking out the application online and then arrange to have a site visit. GLEE can help you with the solid waste audit; Keys Energy or Keys Electric Coop will help you to identify ways to save energy.

Most of the requirements allow a range of options that you select to meet the standards. You can start by attending a workshop and becoming a GLEE Green Business Member. **Start your [Green Business Partner Certification](#) today...good for your business and good for the Earth too !**



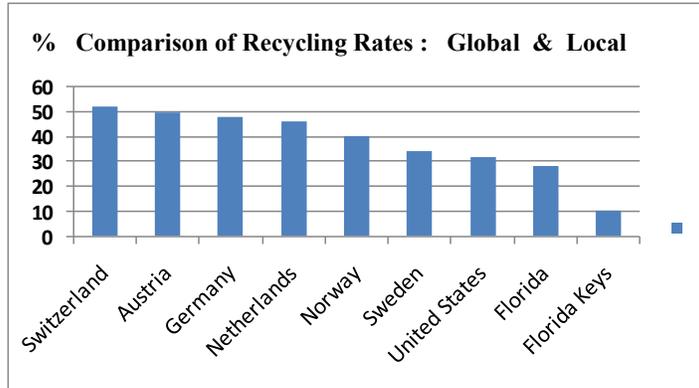
# Global Recycling Perspectives



**Many Nations and Many Ways To Recycle !**



When it comes to solid waste management, the United States is a leader when it comes to PRODUCING trash, but NOT RECYCLING! We are at the bottom of the top 7 industrialized nations:



**Recycling Bins From Around The World**



## Why has Europe been so successful?

Limited land-options and local natural directives also impact. Some do with the



mass for disposal availability of resources is part Government have a huge say it has a lot to "Green Dot."

Since 1995, "producer responsibility" has been promoted through this program. The nonprofit company Pro Europe organizes the collection and sorting of packaging bearing the trademark that represents the closed-cycle economy. The logo indicates that the manufacturer of the packaging has paid a license fee to the program. Fees minimize the use of packaging, facilitate easier recycling of Green Dot items, and fund recovery and recycling of packaging.

Aside from raising recycling rates, these are other "Green Dot" accomplishments:

- \* Over 130,000 companies participate
- \* Over 460 billion products with Green Dot
- \* Reduces resource needs for manufacturing
- \* Fees based on packaging type, weight, costs
- \* Industry incentives develop better packaging
- \* Over 20 countries use the Green Dot logo

**Next Issue : What the U.S. is doing to make "Producer Responsibility" a reality here !**

