



Reduce Re Use Cycle News

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Think

Local Action

Regional Impact

Coastal Clean Up Crews

If you believe that Earth Day should be EVERY day, join Reef Relief , T.R.A.S.H.E.D. in the Keys, and Key West High School Environmental Club on Saturday, May 21,st from 10 am to 1pm for a community clean-up around the shores of Key West and Stock Island. All participants will gather at Hurricane Hole Marina, Stock Island; a get-together for volunteers will follow.

An Earth Day clean up was also led by Michael Basham, T.R.A.S.H.E.D. founder and County Environmental Coordinator. His team filled a four cubic yard dumpster in just a few hours. Clean up leaders remind everyone, "There's plenty more out there waiting for us!" As always, much of the litter collected includes tons of plastic items that will never decompose. An estimated 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed by plastic marine litter every year around the world. For more information about the cleanup, contact Reef Relief at 305 294 3100.

Helping Keep Patients and Our Planet Healthy



Mariners Baptist Hospital in Tavernier celebrated Earth Day by hosting its second annual event to educate employees about sustainability efforts in the workplace and our community. All staff were presented with personal beverage containers (to reduce waste) and local "green advocates" shared lots of information and free samples. Everyone left with a reusable GLEE shopping bag filled with items to promote sustainable lifestyles at home and work.

This is the only major medical facility in the Keys to be Green Business certified by GLEE. Established in 2009, GLEE's comprehensive program assists with recycling and waste reduction efforts in addition to water and energy conservation. The hospital's success started with strong regional leadership at the top and gained strength with employee teamwork and community support. According to Eric Wenke, assistant vice president of corporate development for Baptist Hospitals, member facilities began by focusing on single stream recycling in all main public areas.

In most of their facilities, recycling has doubled with more than 100 tons per month diverted from landfills or incinerators. Waste reduction (less packaging, reuse of materials, etc.) is their second focus area with an additional 70-100 tons per month reduction in the actual amount of waste generated. At Mariners Hospital in Tavernier, the monthly recycling averages over 1,200 lbs per month for a healthy savings in the annual trash bills.

DON'T YOUR TO TEACH TRASH SWIM

HOW LONG DOES TRASH LAST?

PAPER BAG ONE MONTH	BALLOON LATEX = 6 MONTHS MYLAR = FOREVER	APPLE CORE 2 MONTHS
LEATHER SANDAL 40-50 YEARS	CIGARETTE BUTT FOREVER	STYROFOAM CUP FOREVER
MONOFILAMENT LINE AND PLASTIC LURE FOREVER	ALUMINUM CAN 200-500 YEARS	TIN CAN 80-100 YEARS
MYLAR CANDY WRAPPER FOREVER	PLASTIC JUG FOREVER	DISPOSABLE DIAPER FOREVER
		GLASS BOTTLE FOREVER

**Angela Castonguay, 1st Grade Teacher,
Sigsbee Charter School**

Sigsbee Charter School's First Grade has been building a Ban the Bag initiative. We began by studying local reef ecosystems and the partnerships plants and animals form. This study led us to advocacy. Because our students understand the fragile nature of our local ecosystem they understand the importance to conserve it and inspire others to join in the effort. Their letter to the community requests everyone's support:

Fellow Community Member,

The first grade of Sigsbee Charter School has been studying the interdependencies of marine life. There are many examples of symbiotic relationships on our coral reef. Our study of these unique reef partnerships has inspired us to look more thoughtfully at how our community can preserve the coral reef just off our shores. As part of our investigations, we've learned how harmful plastic debris can be to our fragile marine ecosystems. Some of the smallest members of Key West, Sigsbee Charter School first graders, are now working to make an enormous impact. We are building a Ban the Bag campaign. Our goal is to purchase, screen print, and distribute over 300 reusable bags to Key West's local businesses in hopes of inspiring them to stop using plastic bags.

We have already secured donations to purchase a screen printing machine, created a logo to print onto bags & shirts and partnered with GLEE to help advertise our service learning project. Now we need your help. Please consider using our bags for customer purchases. We would like to give you 50 bags to give away for free!

If you would like to use our bags please contact Sigsbee Charter School at 305-294-1861, reference Ban the Bag, and ask for Amanda Gove, Jessica Beutelspacher, or Angela Castonguay or email angela.castonguay@keysschools.com.

Catch the Wave,

Sigsbee Charter School's First Grade Team



**Michael Hughes, Tech Toys Elective Class,
Key Largo School**



Students celebrated Earth Day by learning how a parabolic reflector is used to focus the Sun's energy. The result was a delicious hot dog! We used math to measure the length and diameter of the dogs to determine the minimal amount of foil, then placed them in the solar oven. Next, the oven was aimed at the Sun and moved every few minutes to compensate for the rotation of the Earth. The lesson was followed by an Earth Day art and poetry competition.

**Alyssa Cerkleski, Chemistry
Key West High School**

Campus beautification for Earth Day! My students each brought in 2 bags of cypress mulch each and to spread around trees and plants around the campus- great water conservation and natural fertilizer. Thanks to everyone, It looks so much better!

**Seana Cameron, 5th grade,
Poinciana Elementary, Key West**

My students are building and designing all the furniture for a five room, two story dollhouses made from cardboard boxes. All the materials are recycled objects and they are fantastic!

EARTH DAY 2011:Key West Montessori

We presented our first annual "Drab to Fab" Recycled Fashion Show. The school's first through third-grade students designed, planned and directed this event to spread the message: "**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**" Students created wearable art, incorporating as many recyclables as possible. Our school agrees this is an event for every Earth Day to come!



We are pleased to announce the top entries in Monroe County Recycling Department's Public Service Announcement Competition for District Schools. We hope to record and air many of these thought-provoking commentaries about recycling, waste reduction, reuse, and composting on local radio stations throughout the coming year. Fostering stewardship of the Earth is the most important goal of the contest. We wish to thank all of the teachers and students who participated and extend our congratulations to the winners.

#1 2nd period Band (ten students) Key Largo Middle School

Glenn Evans , Key West High School

#2 Kelsey Cecil Key West High School

Michaella Capas, Key West High School

#3 Sydney McPeak and Sierra Ohumundt Coral Shores High School

Summer Cleaver , Key West High School

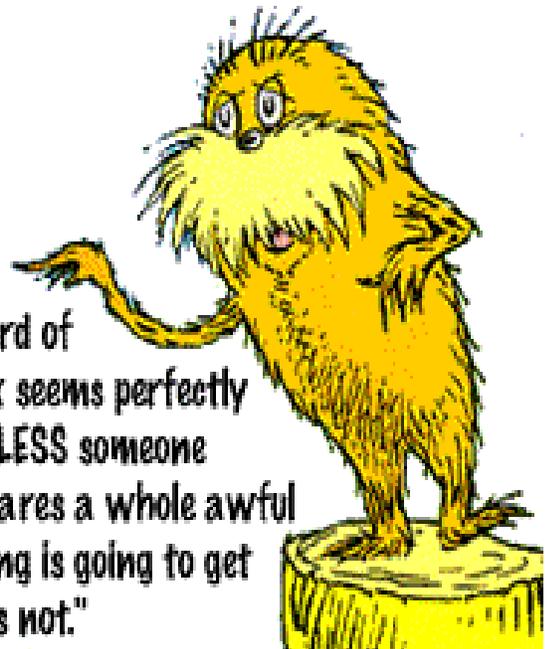
#4 Lindsey McAnally Key West High School

Cassie Weach, Key West High School

#5 Adara Beneway Key West High School

Jordan Mannix, Key West High School

"...the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. **UNLESS** someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."



Local Artists Reach Out for Recycling

Monroe County is pleased to have six custom designed recycling bins now in use at public facilities in Marathon. The creatively painted recycling bins were enhanced by members of the Artists in Paradise Gallery on Big Pine Key. The Gallery is well-known for its multi-medium art created from recycled objects and artistic enhancements of utilitarian objects like rain barrels and used furniture.

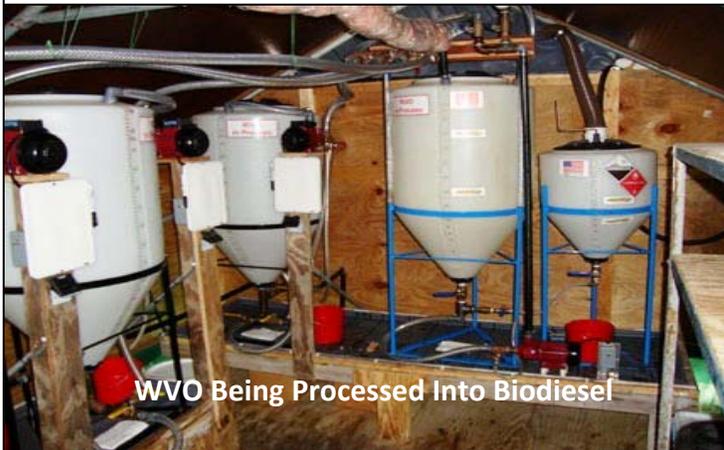
Funding for the art work was awarded through an ArtReach grant, a program of the Florida Keys Arts Council that "extends the artists typical audience by reaching out to a new population." County staff and visitors are enjoying these beautiful addition to the workplace.

Artwork included tropical scenes, fanciful creatures, and realistic wildlife scenes created by **Gale Upmal, Carol Cox, Mary Blackman, Susann D'Antonio, Nancy Henning, and Nancy Gagliardini**. We encourage you to share your thoughts about these new additions to our County recycling efforts; positive feedback may help expand the artistic recycling renditions to other County facilities. To share your comments, please email: murphy-colleen@monroecounty-fl.gov



Beyond Basic Recycling

Saving the Keys Environment ...One Drop at a Time



WVO Being Processed Into Biodiesel

Marathon Bio-Diesel is an emerging recycling business with a mission: To collect all of the waste vegetable oil (WVO) from restaurants in the Keys for conversion to a non-toxic, biodegradable, low emission fuel that will cost less at the pump.

Owners Nancy and Jeff Lillie have been developing the process over the last seven years and are pleased to now have locally produced fuel for sale. It's taken a considerable investment of time and financial resources to produce a high quality biodiesel and changing opinions is one of their biggest challenges. A decade ago, much less was known about the production and use of biodiesel causing lingering negative impressions that the Lillies hope to change with their educational outreach efforts.

Although usually sold as a blend of WVO and diesel produced from crude oil, Jeff proudly reports that he currently runs his vehicles on pure Marathon Bio-Diesel. One of his goals is to sell the product to locals with maritime and construction businesses. Lily wants to support Keys businesses as "They've been hard hit by increased fuel prices and most of them really do care about the environment."

Biodiesel production has another great by-product they also hope to market in the near future: look for their pure glycerin soap produced right here in the Keys. To learn more, visit: www.marathonbiodiesel.com



International Compost Awareness Week May 1—7

In recognition of this important part of green living, I'm sharing my "K.I.S.S. (keep it simple, Smartie) Method." Composting at home does not need to be a complicated affair. I do mine in the simplest, least expensive manner possible using two very old trash cans. When the aging containers have the bottoms falling out, they are ready for the compost corner— or transform a newer model by simply drilling some ½ inch holes around the sides and bottom.

Keep yard clippings nearby where they can shed their leaves and smaller twigs can be clipped up to add to the mix. Palm leaves are difficult to manage if you have a lot, so be realistic about how much you can process. Yard waste from the County's service areas and Key West is transported to Pompano where it is converted to electricity at the Wheelabrator incinerator. Fill the bottom of the trash can with about one foot of leaves then start to add



your kitchen waste- fruits, veggies, pasta, bread, rice, and even some paper can be added. AVOID adding any type of meat, cheese/dairy, and citrus fruits for inoffensive compost that does **not** attract wildlife (like raccoons, rats, and deer). For a gallon of kitchen waste, I add an almost full 5 gallon plastic plant pot filled with leaves and twigs. Just alternate yard and kitchen waste until the can is filled.

Between additions, cover with a secured trash can lid or anything heavy to repel wildlife. Once filled, turn the can upside down and let it "cook" for about a month. Meanwhile, you can start a second container. By the time it's filled, you can remove the first bin to start a fresh pile while that batch cools and cures for another month.

It's quick, easy, cheap, and it works. So **NO EXCUSES!**  **CM**