



Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for March 15, 2023

Overview and Attendance

The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting was held virtually via Zoom at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Logan Martin of Coastal Waste & Recycling and Madison Avery of Coca-Cola Beverages Florida introduced themselves as new attendees.

Attendance:

Cameron Macleish, 360 Eats; Kyle Riefler, City of Belleair Beach; Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater; Laura Barron, City of Dunedin; Deanna Doss, City of Gulfport; Ashlee Painter, City of Oldsmar; Chris Wade, City of Pinellas Park; Andrew Butterfield, City of St. Pete Beach; Jack Crooks, City of St. Petersburg; Joe Vitale, City of St. Petersburg; Tatum Flowers, City of Tampa; Marco Villagomez, City of Tarpon Springs; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Logan Martin, Coastal Waste & Recycling; Madison Avery, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida; Chris Perry, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Suzanne Boroff, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Danny Gallagher, Hillsborough County; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Lael Giebel, KnowBe4; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Nicole Dufva, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; Larry Dalla Betta, Recycling Services of Florida; Samira Bosquilla, Researcher; Wilfred Homes, and Town of Belleair.

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste recorded the meeting notes.

Call to Order

Savannah Bennett, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Review of January 11, 2023 PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

Presentation

Cameron Macleish, CEO & Founder of 360 Eats

- The [presentation recording can be viewed on SharePoint](#). Please request access or email elemay@pinellas.gov if you cannot access the recording.
- Cameron shared how dumpster diving turned he and his mother into food waste chefs on national TV. Wanting to make more of a difference, Cameron took to creating meals made from surplus and wasted foods. Today, 360 Eats provides free meals to those in need utilizing ingredients that would have otherwise been wasted.



- Visit <https://www.360eats.org/volunteer> to volunteer and <https://www.360eats.org/donate-funds> to donate.
- Cameron can be reached by email at info@360eats.org.

Updates

State Updates

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

- Karen Moore shared that the 2022 Solid Waste Management Reports are due to the state by April 1. They will be published on the Florida DEP website by July 1.
- Chris Perry announced that the high school curriculum for Guardians of the Environment is now available online at <https://floridadeprecycle.org/>. Middle School curriculum is coming soon, and Kindergarten through 2nd grade curriculum is also available online.
- Chris shared that [Food Waste Prevention Week](#) is April 10-14, 2023. The DEP is working with the [Florida Food Recovery Coalition](#) to promote events by posting on their website and amplifying food waste prevention resources on social media.

Regional Updates

Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay shared that the Department of Solid Waste (DSW) is working on creating a webpage on how recycling works in Pinellas County. A table that includes the recyclable material haulers and processors for each municipality will be added and DSW will contact the municipalities to verify the information.
- DSW created a webpage dedicated [to Why Recycling Is Important](#). If you have any additional reasons why recycling is important, please reach out to recycle@pinellas.gov.
- The Request for Proposals for Countywide Recyclable Materials Processing and Marketing closed on February 7, 2023. No proposals were received with the reasoning that there was no guaranteed recyclable material tonnage.
- DSW is available to assist municipalities with education and outreach and can join your commission meetings to provide support for recycling programs. Email recycle@pinellas.gov for more information.
- DSW is working on the Solid Waste Management Report, which is due to the Florida Department of Environment by April 1, 2023. Municipalities: please provide your recycling data for 2022 as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Ashley Wyland shared that there is a communication plan underway for changes to the Household Hazardous Waste Center, formerly known as HEC3. The changes are planned to begin June 1, 2023, and the communication plan will be shared with you. **Additional details are included at the end of the meeting notes.**



- DSW will be reviewing municipal solid waste and recycling webpages and reaching out to municipalities to provide updated information and links. Ashley reminded the group that the [Where Does It Go? Search Tool](#) can be embedded on municipal websites free of charge.
- The Recycle Across America label designs are approved and a printing contract is in place. If you are interested in the labels, contact recycle@pinellas.gov. Reminder that you can use the Municipal Recycling Grant funds to cover the cost of the labels.
- Jasmine Scott shared that the Municipal Recycling Grant final allocations, reimbursement request packets, and instructions have been sent out to municipalities for FY23. Reimbursement requests are due September 15, 2023.

City of Tampa

- Tatum Flowers shared that the City of Tampa ran into some issues with a project they were pursuing with a USDA composting grant. They are reworking the project to create a voucher system to help residents collect biogas.
- The City of Tampa is supporting Food Waste Prevention Week by posting tips on social media.
- The City is undergoing a commercial recycling audit to gather data to help improve commercial recycling and decrease contamination.
- Tatum shared [a video that the City did in partnership with Hillsborough County](#). The purpose of this is to show that although collection of recyclables is different if you're serviced by the City rather than the County, tanglers (i.e., plastic bags) shouldn't ever go in a recycling bin and that they should check with their provider to learn what recyclables belong in the recycling bin.

Hillsborough county

- Danny Gallagher shared that the County's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) design-build contract is under legal review. If all goes well, a MRF will begin operations in the spring of 2026.
- The County is working with Goodwill Suncoast to divert reusable materials from the Community Collection Centers. In conversations with Goodwill Florida about additional opportunities.
 - o From 9/12/22 – 2/17/23, the Goodwill Suncoast partnership has diverted 17,540 pounds of materials from disposal. This amounts of 7,724 individual pieces from 468 donors.

Pinellas County Municipal Updates

City of Clearwater

- Savannah Bennett shared that there is a free Earth Day shredding event on April 22 at the Countryside Mall from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm for City of Clearwater residents.

City of St. Pete

- Jack Crooks shared that the [Green Thumb Fest](#) is taking place April 29-30. The City of St. Petersburg will have a tent at the event to promote sustainability and recycling.

City of Dunedin

- Laura Barron shared that the City of Dunedin just had their first zero waste event. Natalie Gass can share more details. A concern that came up was the lack of composting options.

Community Updates

Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB)

- Pat DePlasco thanked attendees of the February 2, 2023, KPB Awards Luncheon. Those who received awards included the City of Dunedin as the 2022 Outstanding City Partner and County Commissioner Charlie Justice as the Outstanding Environmental Civil Servant.
- The Great American Cleanup began on March 3 and KPB held the fifth annual Leaders Against Litter Event at Gandy Beach. State Representative Lindsay Cross attended, and 240 pounds of litter were removed from the beach's shoreline.
- There will be close to 500 events for the Great American Cleanup this year from March 1 through June 30. For those municipalities who want to do a cleanup in your community, reach out to Pat at pdeplasco@kpbcares.org. Available dates may be in late June.
- There is a pedal pub fundraiser taking place on April 2 in St. Petersburg. 3 of the pedal pub bikes are reserved for KPB. For more information on this event and others, visit <https://www.kpbcares.org/upcoming-events>.
- KPB recently returned from the Keep American Beautiful Conference in DC. KPB is heading back to DC to speak with the Ocean Conservancy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) about conservation in Florida.

Work Group Updates

Contract Work Group

- Jasmine Scott shared that the Work Group's annual meeting will be on September 13 from 10:00 to 11:00 am virtually. Jasmine will be sending out the updated [contract guidance document](#) for your approval. Will update contract guidance webpage.

Contamination Work Group

- Ashley Wyland shared that the Work Group is finalizing the survey for 9 different ads to help reduce contamination. Ashley will be interviewing people to see what initial thoughts are on the ads to see if the message about no batteries in garbage or recycling is getting through. The next meeting is May 10. [The group has added their charter on the PPR webpage.](#)

Open Discussion

Zero Waste Event Guidance

- Savannah Bennett shared that a new PPR Work Group would be created to work on creating a regional zero waste event guidance document.
- Emily LeMay shared that DSW was given permission to use the City of Cleveland's [Zero Waste Event Planning Guide](#) as a template for a Tampa Bay zero waste event guidance document.
- Emily is seeking PPR members who are interested in joining the Work Group to help develop this document. It is important that we have regional representation from various backgrounds. Contact elemay@pinellas.gov if interested. Volunteers are needed to assist with taking meeting

notes, researching zero waste event guidance, and developing a regional guide that will be placed on the PPR webpage.

- Tatum Flowers shared that the City of Tampa is working on zero waste event guidance.
- The City of Clearwater has some [guidance for sustainable events on their website](#).
- If you have a similar guide or know of others, please share with elemay@pinellas.gov.

Food Waste Prevention Week

- Jasmine Scott shared that there are a handful of webinars on the [Food Waste Prevention Week website](#) and that DSW is supporting Food Waste Prevention Week by promoting the Where Does It Go? Search Tool and sharing social media posts.

Announcements

- The application for the Voting Membership seats for Non-Governmental Advocacy Organization related to Recycling and the Environment, Private Sector Recycling Processing Representative, and Private Sector Recycling Collection Representative will be shared prior to the May meeting.
- PPR is still looking for Vice Chair. Vice Chair supports the Chair in preparing for meeting and attending meetings. Vice Chair may be directed to take meeting notes. Time commitment may vary but expect about 2-3 hours every other month (meeting prep + meeting itself + meeting follow-up).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 1:00 – 2:30 pm in person at a location to be determined within Pinellas County.

(See next page)

Pinellas County's Household Hazardous Waste Center Changes

The HHW Center, Swap Shop, and Household Chemical Collection event operating days are changing as of June 1, 2023. For more information, see below or visit the Household Chemical Collection webpage: [Pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection](https://pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection)

HHW Center and Swap Shop:

- The facility formerly known as the “Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center (HEC3)” is being renamed the “Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center” or “HHW Center” to better reflect the items accepted (i.e., household chemicals).
- The HHW Center’s operating days will change from “Monday through Saturday” to “Tuesday through Friday, and the first and third Saturday of each month”. For example, during the month of June, the HHW Center will be open on Saturday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 17th and will be closed on Mondays and on Saturday, June 10th and Saturday, June 24th.
 - No change in the operating hours: 7:00am to 5:00pm.
- The Swap Shop’s operating days will change from “Monday through Saturday” to “Tuesday through Friday, and the first and third Saturday of each month.” For example, during the month of June, the Swap Shop will be open on Saturday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 17th and will be closed on Mondays and on Saturday, June 10th and Saturday, June 24th.
 - No change in the operating hours: 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Household Chemical Collection Events:

- Beginning in 2023, the number of Household Chemical Collection events at Household Hazardous Waste North (HHW North) will increase from 12 to 22 annually to better serve the residents of Pinellas County. HHW North events will occur twice a month, on the second and fourth Saturday of each month (except November and December) beginning in June 2023. For example, in June, the Household Chemical Collection events will occur on June 10th and June 24th at HHW North.
- Starting with the June 10th event, the County’s chemical contractor will operate the Household Chemical Collection events with one (1) HHW Section staff member overseeing the contractor.

Please send any questions or comments to recycle@pinellas.gov.