

# **2023 Pinellas County Recycle Guide**

Text-only edition

Pinellas County Solid Waste  
Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education

## **What can I recycle?**

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Metal food and beverage cans
- Cartons
- Paper and cardboard

## **Everything clean and dry**

- No caps
- No lids
- No straws
- No food
- No shredded paper
- No plastic bags

### **What happens beyond the recycling bin?**

To help answer this question, Pinellas County's recycling outreach experts visit Tampa Bay area Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) each year. At MRFs, collected recyclables are sorted, baled, then sold to manufacturers to be made into new products. MRFs use machines to sort recyclables by physical properties such as weight, shape, size and magnetism. Only the products shown on the cover of this guide can be sorted at our local MRFs. Anything else is considered contamination and can harm employees and damage equipment. Find out more about contamination on the next page.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recycling is "the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products." These local MRFs play a key role by sorting recyclables and preparing them for sale to manufacturers to make new products.

**What does NOT belong in my recycle bin? When in doubt, leave it out.**

- Plastic bags or bagged recycling
- Clothing
- Yard waste
- Foam packaging products
- Paper towels, tissues or napkins
- Wires, cords or hoses
- Food waste or food residue

**Going beyond the text activity: Recycling-related careers**

Read the article “Reader Profile: Stephanie Watson” at [digital.mswmanagement.com/articles/stephanie-watson](http://digital.mswmanagement.com/articles/stephanie-watson).

Next, research recycling-related careers using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook at [bls.gov/ooh](http://bls.gov/ooh) and Career One Stop at [careeronestop.org/GreenCareers/ExploreGreenCareers/recycling-waste.aspx](http://careeronestop.org/GreenCareers/ExploreGreenCareers/recycling-waste.aspx). Select an occupation that seems interesting to you and answer the following questions:

- How does the occupation fit your skills and interests?
- What will you be doing in the occupation?
- What is the necessary education and/or training?
- How many jobs are there in the occupation currently?
- Is the occupation projected to grow, decline or remain unchanged? Why?
- How much does this occupation pay? What do the top 10 percent earn? The bottom 10 percent?

Visit the Pinellas County Solid Waste careers page at [Pinellas.gov/discover-a-career-with-pinellas-countysolid-waste](http://Pinellas.gov/discover-a-career-with-pinellas-countysolid-waste). Are there any openings for the occupation you’re interested in?

Using the article you read above and the articles in the business section of the Tampa Bay Times as models, write a news article using the information you collected to help others assess whether they would pursue a career in the selected occupation and why or why not. Present your findings to your class.

**Adapted from:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Choosing a career: activity”

**Florida Standards:** SC.312.N.2.1; SP.312.VI.3.3; SS.312.FL.1.2; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4

## Curbside recycling

In Pinellas County, garbage and recycling collection services are managed independently by municipalities (incorporated areas) and County-licensed private haulers (unincorporated areas).

Pinellas County does not offer garbage or recycling collection service except in the east Lealman community.

For more information, visit [Pinellas.gov/garbage-and-recycling-collection](http://Pinellas.gov/garbage-and-recycling-collection).

### City/Town

**Belleair** • 727-588-3769 ext. 406 • townofbelleair.com  
**Belleair Beach** • 727-595-4646 ext. 120 • cityofbelleairbeach.com  
**Belleair Bluffs** • 727-584-2151 • belleairbluffs.org  
**Belleair Shore** • 727-593-9296 • belleairshore.com  
**Clearwater** • 727-562-4920 • myclearwater.com/recycling  
**Dunedin** • 727-298-3215 • dunedgov.com  
**Gulfport** • 727-893-1089 • mygulfport.us\*  
**Indian Rocks Beach** • 727-595-6889 • indian-rocks-beach.com  
**Indian Shores** • 727-595-4020 • myindianshores.com  
**Kenneth City** • 727-498-8948 • kennethcityfl.org  
**Largo** • 727-587-6760 • largorecycles.com  
**Madeira Beach** • 727-543-8154 • madeirabeachfl.gov  
**North Redington Beach** • 727-391-4848 • townofnrb.com\*\*  
**Oldsmar** • 813-855-5257 • myoldsmar.com  
**Pinellas Park** • 727-369-0690 • pinellas-park.com  
**Redington Beach** • 727-391-3875 • townofredingtonbeach.com  
**Redington Shores** • 727-397-5538 • townofredingtonshores.com  
**Safety Harbor** • 727-724-1550 ext. 2002 • cityofsafetyharbor.com  
**Seminole** • 727-397-6383 ext. 3 • myseminole.com  
**South Pasadena** • 727-384-0701 • mysouthpasadena.com  
**St. Petersburg** • 727-893-7838 • stpete.org/recycle  
**St. Pete Beach** • 727-363-9243 • stpetebeach.org  
**Tarpon Springs** • 727-943-4837 • ctsfl.us/sanitation  
**Treasure Island** • 727-547-4575 ext. 250 • mytreasureisland.org

### Bin Request

City • 727-588-3769 ext. 401  
Hauler • 727-572-8779  
Hauler • 727-572-8779  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
City • 727-562-4920  
City • 727-298-3215  
City • 727-893-1089  
City • 727-595-6889  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
Hauler • 727-452-5278  
City • 727-587-6760  
City • 727-543-8154  
Hauler • 727-452-5278  
City • 813-855-5257  
City • 727-369-0690  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
City • 727-724-1550 ext 2002  
Hauler • 727-452-5278  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
City • 727-893-7838  
Hauler • 727-572-6800  
City • 727-943-4837  
City • 727-547-4575 ext. 250

\* Recyclables are collected in two separate bins. Glass is not accepted curbside.

\*\* Call for information about recycling collection assistance.

## **Unincorporated**

**Coastal Waste and Recycling** • 727-561-0360 • [coastalwasteinc.com](http://coastalwasteinc.com)

**County Sanitation** • 727-522-5794 • [countysanitationservice.com](http://countysanitationservice.com)

**D and D Hauling - Sanitation** • 727-586-6416 • [dndhauling.com](http://dndhauling.com)

**Solar Sanitation** • 727-535-0447 • [solarsanitationinc.com](http://solarsanitationinc.com)

**Superior Trash Service** • 727-254-0664 • [superiortrashservice.com](http://superiortrashservice.com)

**Tote Enterprises, Inc.** • P.O. Box 10033 • Largo, FL 33773 • (727) 422-0736

**Waste Connections** • 727-572-6800 • [wasteconnections.com/pinellas](http://wasteconnections.com/pinellas)

**Waste Management** • 727-572-8779 • [wm.com](http://wm.com)

**Waste Pro** • 727-452-5278 • [wasteprousa.com/office/clearwater](http://wasteprousa.com/office/clearwater)

## **Going beyond the text activity: Waste hierarchy**

The EPA's waste management hierarchy ranks the various waste management strategies from most to least environmentally preferred. The hierarchy places emphasis on reducing, reusing, recycling and composting as key to sustainable materials management. These strategies reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Working individually or in pairs, create a comic strip that demonstrates the “four Rs”: citizens reduce, reuse, and recycle, and Pinellas County's Waste-to-Energy Facility recovers metals and energy from the remaining waste. This is further explained on Page 5. For example, a person buying bananas at the grocery store and choosing not to bag the bananas would demonstrate the concept of reduce.

The comic strip should include four frames, one for each of the four Rs, and they should be placed in the correct hierarchy. Use the comics in the e-Edition of the Tampa Bay Times as inspiration.

**Florida Standards:** SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16; G.K12.5.1.3c; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4; VA.312.C.1.1; VA.312.O.2.1; VA.312.O.3.1

### What's the best way to get rid of something?

The EPA's waste management hierarchy ranks the most preferred to least preferred ways to manage our waste.

**Source reduction and reuse** is all about not creating as much waste in the first place. Examples include buying only what you need and donating or gifting usable items.

**Recycling and composting** turn the waste we do create into new materials. For example, a plastic water bottle may become a park bench in a new life, while composting food scraps creates nutrient-dense soil.

Pinellas County's Waste-to-Energy Facility burns garbage to create energy, which is an example of **energy recovery**. This reduces the volume of waste by 90 percent, which saves space in the county's one and only landfill.

Finally, **treatment and disposal**, or **landfilling**, is the least preferred way to manage our waste. Burying things in a landfill means they are there forever, taking up space and wasting resources.

### How do I know what my options are?

You're in luck! The Where Does it Go? Search Tool offers quick and helpful guidance about what to do with an item you're looking to get rid of in Pinellas County. The searchable database includes hundreds of materials and local instructions for reuse, recycling and disposal.

Visit [Pinellas.gov/wheredoesitgo](https://pinellas.gov/wheredoesitgo) to start searching!

**Recycling Drop-Off Centers**

**DUNEDIN**

Highlander Park Recycling Site • Ed Eckert Dr., across from Highlander Pool  
Lake Haven Recycling Center • 817 Lake Haven Road

**CLEARWATER**

Clearwater Solid Waste Facility • 1701 N Hercules Ave.  
Pinellas County Government Center • 29582 U.S. 19 N, west side, south of Curlew Road  
Sand Key Park • 1060 Gulf Blvd.  
Walmart • 23106 U.S. 19 N, southeast corner of parking lot

**GULFPORT**

49th Street Neighborhood Center • 1617 49th St. S

**INDIAN ROCKS BEACH**

Brown Park • Bay Boulevard and Second Street  
Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve • 903 Gulf Blvd.  
Indian Rocks Historical Museum • 203 Fourth Ave.  
Kolb Park • 1507 Bay Palm Blvd.

**INDIAN SHORES**

Indian Shores Town Hall • 19305 Gulf Blvd.

**LARGO**

Hamlin Boulevard 4-H • 14644 113th Ave. N  
Pinellas County Extension • 12520 Ulmerton Road, north of Ulmerton Road, entrance on 125th St. N Frontage Road  
Starkey Road Recycling Center • 1551 Starkey Road, north of Ulmerton Road, south of East Bay Drive  
24 Tri-City Plaza • U.S. 19 N and East Bay Drive, behind Ross store

**PALM HARBOR**

Curlew Retention Pond • 1740 Curlew Road, between Belcher Road and CR 1  
John Chesnut Sr. Park • 2200 East Lake Road  
William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility • 4111 Dunn Dr., Off Alt U.S. 19 N

**REDINGTON SHORES**

Redington Shores Town Hall • 17425 Gulf Blvd.

## **SAFETY HARBOR**

Safety Harbor Fire Station 53 • 3095 McMullen-Booth Road  
Safety Harbor Public Works • 1200 Railroad Ave.

## **SEMINOLE**

Lake Seminole Park • 10015 Park Blvd., east of Seminole Boulevard

## **ST. PETERSBURG**

City of St. Petersburg Recycling/Brush Sites:

- 1000 62nd Ave. NE
- 7750 26th Ave. N
- 2453 20th Ave. N
- 2500 26th Ave. S
- 4015 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S

Crescent Lake Park • 1320 Fifth St. N

Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste • 2855 109th Ave. N

St. Petersburg Municipal Marina • 300 Second Ave. SE

## **TARPON SPRINGS**

A.L. Anderson Park • 39699 U.S. 19 N, between Klosterman Road and Tarpon Avenue

Brooker Creek Education Center • 3940 Keystone Road

Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue Station 70 • 1023 Gulf Road

Tarpon Springs Yard Waste Facility • 898 S Levis Ave.

## **TIERRA VERDE**

Fort De Soto Park boat ramp overflow parking area - 3600 Pinellas Bayway S

Fort De Soto Park campground - 3500 Pinellas Bayway S

## **Going beyond the text: reading charts and maps**

Using the information on the cover of this publication, make a list of items you use on a daily, weekly and monthly basis that can be recycled in Pinellas County.

While all municipalities have recycling collection, not all multi-family properties (such as apartments and condominiums) or commercial properties (such as schools, offices or warehouses) have this service. Use the chart on Pages 6-7, the map on Page 7, or scan the QR code on Page 7, to find the closest drop-off recycling site to your school, parents' workplace or your home.

Finally, identify one item that you use daily that is not recyclable in Pinellas County. Use the Where Does it Go? Search Tool at [Pinellas.gov/wheredoesitgo](https://pinellas.gov/wheredoesitgo) to find out how you should get rid of it in the most environmentally friendly way. As a class, discuss your findings.



**Florida Standards:** SS.312.A.1.2; SS.312.G.1.1; SS.312.G.1.4; ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4

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### Household chemical collection

[Pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection](https://pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection)

#### HEC3:

For hours of operation, visit [Pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection](https://pinellas.gov/household-chemical-collection) or call (727) 464-7500. 2855 109th Ave. N, St. Petersburg 33716

It's easy to drop off your unwanted chemicals at HEC3. Drive up to the stop sign, turn off your car, and unload the chemicals onto the cart. Helpful staff are there to assist!

Government-issued ID required for proof of residency.

For information about business waste disposal, visit [Pinellas.gov/bizwaste](https://pinellas.gov/bizwaste).

#### Mobile collection events:

Select Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Going beyond the text activity: Rechargeable battery disposal

Watch the PBS NOVA video “Lithium's Properties and Power Potential” at [florida.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvsb-sci-licell/wgbh-nova-search-for-the-super-battery-inside-a-lithium-metal-cell/](https://florida.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvsb-sci-licell/wgbh-nova-search-for-the-super-battery-inside-a-lithium-metal-cell/).

A 2021 EPA report found 245 fires caused by lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries between 2013 and 2020 at 64 waste facilities. The fires happen at Materials Recovery Facilities, in transportation vehicles such as garbage trucks, and at garbage disposal facilities.

For example, in April 2022, it took first responders roughly 26 hours to fully contain a fire most likely caused by a lithium-ion battery explosion at a scrap metal facility in Manatee County. Read and watch the WTSP story “Plant manager: Lithium battery explosion sparked shred yard fire” at [wtsp.com/article/news/local/lithium-battery-explosion-sparked-shred-yard-firemanatee-county/67-38e8eae8-2e4e-46b1-8b93-4c99a2630a03](https://wtsp.com/article/news/local/lithium-battery-explosion-sparked-shred-yard-firemanatee-county/67-38e8eae8-2e4e-46b1-8b93-4c99a2630a03).

The danger happens when machines compress and consolidate waste. This type of battery can be damaged easily and, when damaged, can start fires by igniting the surrounding materials.

Working in small groups, look through the Tampa Bay Times to find ads that you find persuasive. Using these ads as your models, create a newspaper advertisement that explains the importance of properly disposing of rechargeable batteries and encourages Pinellas County residents to do so. Your goal is to grab the reader's attention and communicate a clear "Call to Action."

**Florida Standards:** ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4; SP.PK12.VI.9.11; WL.K12.AH.1.4; WL.K12.AI.1.4

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### **What to bring**

#### **AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS**

- Oils and antifreeze (Limit: 5 gallons)
- Gasoline and diesel (Limit: 2 five-gallon DOT containers. No tanks.)

#### **MERCURY-CONTAINING DEVICES**

- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Fluorescent bulbs (Limit: 12)

#### **CHEMICALS**

- Adhesives/epoxies
- Aerosols
- Cleaners

#### **LAWN & GARDEN CHEMICALS**

- Pesticides/herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Sprayers

#### **PAINT PRODUCTS**

Paints/stains

Solvents

(Limit: 20 one-gallon, 5 five-gallon)

#### **POOL & SPA PRODUCTS**

- Chlorine
- Muriatic acid
- Cleaners/clarifiers

## **SIGNAL FLARES**

- Marine
- Road

## **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES**

- Including lithium-ion, mercury, nickel cadmium, and lithium
- Items with rechargeable batteries that cannot be removed

### **Don't let a battery blow up the day.**

Rechargeable batteries can cause fires if placed in garbage or recycling containers. Always take rechargeable batteries to a drop-off location. Use the Where Does it Go? Search Tool to find the closest one to you!

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### **Diving into the Artificial Reef Program**

Pinellas County's Artificial Reef Program was started by fishermen in the 1960s with the hopes of enhancing fishing opportunities. It worked!

Artificial reefs improve fishing opportunities and create new destinations for scuba diving. These reefs provide valuable underwater habitats for marine life.

Today, the Artificial Reef Program focuses on reuse. The reefs are constructed from environmentally safe building and demolition waste, such as concrete pipes, steel beams or entire ships!

Pinellas County installed a series of artificial reefs from 200 yards to 38 miles off the gulf coast. There are 13 offshore reef sites and 29 inshore reefs.

Visit [Pinellas.gov/reef](http://Pinellas.gov/reef) to access an online map of the artificial reefs.

### **Going beyond the text activity: Artificial reefs**

Watch the video "Pinellas County's Artificial Reefs" at [youtube.com/watch?v=cZhM9-o5cSM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=cZhM9-o5cSM). Use the information in the video, the information on Page 10 and the information on Pinellas County's artificial reef webpage ([Pinellas.gov/reef](http://Pinellas.gov/reef)) to compile a list of the environmental and economic benefits of artificial reefs. Next, write an editorial summarizing why artificial reefs are beneficial to Pinellas County. Be sure to back up your argument with specific facts! Use the editorials and opinion columns in the Opinion section of the Tampa Bay Times as examples.

**Florida Standards:** ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4; SP.PK12.VI.9.11; WL.K12.AH.1.4; WL.K12.AI.1.4

## **Page 11**

### **Take a tour of the solid waste disposal complex!**

Learn about our vision of zero waste to landfill by 2050.

The 90-minute tour includes a classroom presentation where participants will learn about the importance of Pinellas County's vision of zero waste to landfill by 2050 and how you can help. It also includes a driving tour for an up-close look at the Waste-to-Energy facility, landfill and more!

Tours are open to everyone ages 8 & older.

For more information and to sign up for a tour:

- Call 727-464-7500
- Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov)
- Visit [Pinellas.gov/educational-resources-garbage-and-recycling](http://Pinellas.gov/educational-resources-garbage-and-recycling)

“We found all aspects highly informative, both for our out-of-town visitor as well as for those who last toured 4 or 5 years ago. A lot has changed — and keeps changing.”

— Richard B.

“Thanks so much for a great tour!”

— Laura T.

“We had an amazing time! You're doing an incredible job and I'd love to stay in touch!”

— Caulin D.

Check out our favorite pages on the new website by searching the titles below on [Pinellas.gov](https://pinellas.gov).

1. **Holiday and Gift-Giving Guide:** According to a survey by finder.com and Pureprofile, Americans spent around \$15.2 billion on unwanted holiday gifts in 2019, and 4 percent of them ended up in the trash. Learn how to host a sustainable party and gift low-waste items with this helpful guide.
2. **Recycling FAQ:** Check out these Frequently Asked Questions to learn where your recyclables are processed, what the numbers on plastic containers mean, what Pinellas County's recycling rate is, and more!
3. **Waste-to-Energy Facility:** Pinellas County operates one of ten Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities in the state of Florida. Visit this page to learn about the benefits of WTE.

A text-only version of this guide can be found at [Pinellas.gov/recycleguide](https://pinellas.gov/recycleguide).

## About NIE

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) serves educators, students and families by providing K-12 schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Tampa Bay Times – a “living textbook” – plus award-winning original curriculum supplements, teacher guides, lesson plans, teacher professional development resources and much more – all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2021-2022, NIE provided more than 10.5 million digital licenses and almost half a million print copies of the Times to area classrooms free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors.

NIE is a member of Florida Press Educational Services, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote reading and critical thinking, particularly for young people.

For more information about NIE, visit [tampabay.com/nie](https://tampabay.com/nie), call 727-893-8138 or email [ordernie@tampabay.com](mailto:ordernie@tampabay.com).

Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/TBTimesNIE](https://twitter.com/TBTimesNIE). Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TBTNIE](https://facebook.com/TBTNIE).

## **Florida Standards**

**This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards:**

**B.E.S.T.:** ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.F.1.1; ELA.312.F.1.2; ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.F.1.4; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.2.4 **Geography:** G.K12.5.1.3c **Science:** SC.312.N.2.1; SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16 **Social Studies:** SP.312.VI.3.3 **Special Skills:** SP.PK12.VI.9.11; SS.312.FL.1.2; SS.312.A.1.2; SS.312.G.1.1; SS.312.G.1.4 **Visual Arts:** VA.312.C.1.1; VA.312.O.2.1; VA.312.O.3.1 **World Languages:** WL.K12.AH.1.4; WL.K12.AI.1.4

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