



## **Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Virtual

### **Overview and Attendance**

Caroline Ogburn, Balcones Resources, SSR Sarasota; Wei-Ting Liu, CDM Smith; Wilfred Holmes, City of Belleair; Brandi Portalain, City of Clearwater; Jonathan Campbell, City of Clearwater; Kervin St. Aimie, City of Clearwater; Bill Pickrum, City of Dunedin; Savannah Bunch, City of Dunedin; Austin Smith, City of Gainesville; Nick Le, City of Lakeland Solid Waste; John Benton, City of Largo; Lauren Fatkin, City of Largo; Colin Bartholomew, City of Safety Harbor; Vicki Fordyce, City of St. Petersburg; Tessa, City of Tampa; Holly Langston, City of Tarpon Springs; Marco Villagomez, City of Tarpon Springs; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Veatrice Farrell, Digital Education Foundation; Emily Grant, FoodRecovery.org; Christopher Perry, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Karen S Moore, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Sommer Turner, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Ken Karbowski, Goodwill Suncoast; Timothy Felder, Goodwill Suncoast; Angela Fama, Hillsborough County; Stephanie Watson, Hillsborough County; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Lael Giebel, KnowBe4; Eric Morales, Manatee County; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Kelsey Grentzer, Pinellas County Communications; Pola Godsey, Pinellas County Property Appraisers Office; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Phil Nichols, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Tyler J Ward, Recycling Services of Florida; Kaitlyn Nielsen, St. Pete Beach Public Works; Marissa Segundo, Transformations PR; Kylie Diaz, Visit St. Pete Clearwater; Brenna Haggar, Waste Management; Daric Hunt, Waste Pro; Ed Farmer, Waste Pro; and wstvil.

Daric Hunt, Waste Pro, recorded the notes.

### **Call to Order**

Vicki Fordyce, PPR Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### **Review of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, PPR Meeting Notes**

No objections to notes as written.

### **Introductions**

- New member introductions
  - Veatrice Farrell, Digital Educational Foundation
  - Kylie Diaz, VSPC, VP of Community Relations



- Holly Langston, City of Tarpon Springs, Sustainability Coordinator
- Tim Felder, Goodwill, Sustainability Program Manager
- Phil Nichols, PCSW
- Brenna Hagggar, Waste Management

## Presentation

### Emily Grant, FoodRecovery.org

#### [Presentation Slides](#)

FoodRecovery.org connects food donors with nonprofits to fight hunger and reduce waste. Their solutions make it easy to donate or receive food while helping the environment. All for free.

Annually, 133 billion pounds of food is wasted. They aim to bridge the gap between food surplus and food insecurity, making nutritious meals accessible to everyone, regardless of their circumstances. They work hand in hand with community organizations to distribute surplus food to those who need it most.

4,215 partners including businesses and nonprofits

133 million pounds of food rescued and donated since 2023

110 million meals served since 2023

## Updates

### State Updates

- Christopher Perry - FDEP
  - Capacity Study Completed – Published in May 2025 – <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/documents/2025-capacity-study>
  - Recycling Study Completed – <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/2024-solid-waste-management-report>
  - Battery Campaign – Take Charge in Florida – <https://floridadep.gov/TakeChargeFlorida>
  - New Member – Sommer Turner

### Regional Updates

#### Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay
  - Where Does It GO – Search Tool – Live – <https://pinellas.gov/where-does-it-go-search-tool>
  - Master Plan Refresh update – negotiating with vendor



- Negotiating for the WTE facility operator
- Ashley Wyland
  - Starting work on next year's Recycle Guide! Municipalities – if you have not replied to my email confirming information, please do so ASAP!
  - Charity Free applications due August 1
- Jasmine Scott
  - MRG reminder
    - Municipalities, Municipal Recycling Grant (MRG) Reimbursement Requests are due September 15, 2025. Please email them to [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov).
  - Pinellas County Solid Waste FY26 disposal fee increase
    - Pending the Board's final budget approval on Sept. 18, 2025, Pinellas County Solid Waste's disposal fee for municipal solid waste and yard waste will increase by 8% on Oct. 1, from \$54.50 to \$58.86 per ton. The following additional fee increases will take effect on October 1:
      - The out-of-county waste surcharge is applied at \$58.86 per ton in addition to the per-ton rate of \$58.86.
      - The tire fee will increase from \$150.00 to \$180.00 per ton (for loads containing five or more waste tires; reweigh is required).
      - Radio frequency (RFID) window sticker cost will increase from \$18.00 to \$20.00, and the transponder will increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00.
    - Please email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) with questions.
  - Need more Recycle Guides? Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) to get some copies!
  - Is your group interested in coming on a tour? Reach out to us to schedule or sign up for a Monthly Tour:  
[https://pinellas.gov/events/list/?tribe\\_eventcategory%5B0%5D=2301](https://pinellas.gov/events/list/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=2301)

## City of Tampa

- Tessa Coulter
  - Waste Composition Study - TBD
  - Finishing up prairie robotics pilot program
  - Trash-free waterways campaign in full effect – you will see ads all around with their cute characters!

## Hillsborough County

- Angela Fama



- Hillsborough County is working on a countywide *Fire Prevention & Battery Recovery* Campaign to educate residents on proper battery disposal practices and prevent battery-related fires. The campaign will include billboards, gas station TV ads, YouTube, radio, podcasts, and social media ads. This campaign has a 6-month timeline slated to run through the holidays. It includes collateral from the PPR Contamination Workgroup, which can be found at: [Tampa Bay Recycles](#), and some new audio and videos developed by our Communications Department for YouTube, radio, and other similar platforms.
- Additionally, Hillsborough County is working on a countywide *Anti-Litter* Campaign in partnership with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, the county's anti-litter partner. This campaign will include over 100 gas station TV ads broadcasted for one month. The goal is to encourage organizations and businesses to sponsor, or "adopt" an area across the county and contribute to keeping it clean for the community. To learn more or share this program resource with others, visit: [Adopt-A-Road | Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#).
- The results from FDEP's 2024 Solid Waste Management Report were published at the beginning of July. We thank our municipal partners for providing their data, and the local commercial recyclers across the county for reporting their recycling tonnage. With this county-wide collaboration, Hillsborough, the third most populated county, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> place in the state, achieving a 51% the traditional recycling rate.

## **Manatee County**

- Mary Oquendo
  - New Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Contract Roll Out of changes to service
    - With new contract, manatee county will be providing 96 gallon container to all residents
    - Once a week collection
    - No more plastic bags for yard waste

## **Pinellas County Municipal Updates**

### **City of St. Petersburg**

- Vicki Fordyce
  - Chemical collection event on September 6 at the SPC Allstate Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Preparing for hurricane season

### **City of Clearwater**

- Jonathan Campbell



- Recognized Solid Waste Workers in June 2025
- Hurricane Expo Completed
- Once schools start back up, Jonathan will be back in schools doing recycling presentations

## Community Updates

### Transformations PR

- Marissa Segundo
  - Waste & Recycling Expo one-day preview event at the Broward County Convention center on Wednesday, August 20th. It is \$50 or you can use my code gives you **free** admission and access to the Water Expo, as well. [Register Here](#) using the code **TRANSFORMATIONS PR**
  - Questions? Reach out to Marissa: [marissa@transformationsPR.com](mailto:marissa@transformationsPR.com)

### Keep Pinellas Beautiful

- Pat DePlasco
  - High School Environmental Leadership Workshop Program Completed
    - 40 students involved in the program!
  - Applied for a lot of grants, especially for revitalization after the hurricanes last year
    - Lots of beach restoration and plantings occurring
  - International Coastal Cleanup
    - September 1 – October 31
  - If you have a site of concern in your community, contact KPB to get some volunteers out there to clean it up!
  - <https://www.kpbcares.org/>

### Visit St. Pete Clearwater

- Kylie Diaz
  - Using the LWEG in their event program
  - Highlighting a hotel that recently became a B Corp organization
  - Working with Tourism Cares – helps 4,000 partners to register to be listed on the Tourism Cares map



- Partners must meet a lot of criteria to be on the map
- <https://www.tourismcares.org/>
- If you know a partner who wants to be listed on the map, reach out to Kylie Diaz - [kyliediaz@VisitSPC.com](mailto:kyliediaz@VisitSPC.com)

### **Goodwill Suncoast**

- Ken Karbowski
  - Goodwill Suncoast has eliminated the use single use plastic bags at all stores
    - This prevents over three million plastic bags from being disposed of in the communities they work

### **Work Group Updates**

#### **Contract**

- Jasmine Scott
  - The work group is responsible for maintaining a database of Pinellas municipal recycling collection and processing contracts. Please send updated recycling collection and processing contracts to [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov)

#### **Contamination**

- Ashley Wyland
  - Working on a lot of promotion of the ads (HC doing a lot in the coming months), next meeting TBD
  - Reminder to everyone – you are welcome to use the ads and add your own logo and information to them! Please reach out to [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) to request the art files

#### **Low Waste Event Guide**

- Jasmine Scott
  - Please help us continue to promote and use the guide. The Tampa Bay Area Low Waste Event Guide is available on the [Pinellas](#) and [Reduce Your Use Tampa Bay](#) websites. Send us your feedback on the guide to [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov). Low Waste Event Guide is live.

### **Open Discussion**

- N/A

### **Announcements**

- N/A



## **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025 @ 9:30 am via Zoom