



Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for 5/20/2026

Virtual

Overview and Attendance

Wilfred Holmes, City of Belleair; Jacolby Washington, City of Clearwater; Jonathan Campbell, City of Clearwater; Kervin St. Aimie, City of Clearwater; Laura Valletti, City of Dunedin; Deanna Doss, City of Gulfport; Calley Pate, City of Oldsmar; Jenna Klindt, City of Oldsmar; Colin Bartholomew, City of Safety Harbor; Michael Weaver, City of St. Pete Beach; Austin Smith, City of St. Petersburg; Tessa Coulter, 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; Tony Selvaggio, eSmartRecycling; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Sommer Turner, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Kenneth Karbowski, Goodwill Industries- Suncoast, Inc.; Tessa Jones, Goodwill Industries- Suncoast, Inc.; Timothy Felder, Goodwill Industries- Suncoast, Inc.; Daniel Gallagher, Hillsborough County; Lisa Leseigneur, Hillsborough County; Stephanie Watson, Hillsborough County; Lael Giebel, KnowBe4; Eric Morales, Manatee County Solid Waste; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County Solid Waste; Rachelle Dobbs, Pasco County; Kelsey Grentzer, Pinellas County Communications; Doris S. Heitzmann, Pinellas County Extension; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Phil Nichols, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Tracy Bugh, Recycle By City; Abby Ward, Recycling Services of Florida; Tyler Ward, Recycling Services of Florida; Lynn St. Vil, St. John's County; Marissa Segundo, Transformations PR; Diane Daniel, Vacation Donations; Dawn McCormick, Waste Management; Mike DeClerck, Waste Management; Andrew Mekemson, Waste Pro; Caron Schwartz and Ella Rubin.

Andrew Mekemson, Waste Pro, recorded the notes.

Call to Order

Austin Smith, City of St. Petersburg, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Review of March 18, 2026, PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

Introductions

New members who introduced themselves included:

- Caron Schwartz – Concerned citizen and interested in compost and recycling guide
- Doris Heitzmann



- Jenna – City of Oldsmar
- Tracy – online recycling guide

Presentation

Tim Felder & Tessa Jones from Goodwill-Suncoast

Tessa Jones, Director of Business Development

Born and raised in Florida, Tessa Jones earned her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs from Florida State University and later completed her Graduate Gemologist Diploma through the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). She brings more than 18 years of experience in the second-hand resale market, having worked extensively with auction houses, estate jewelry, and luxury goods.

At Goodwill, Tessa created and developed the organization's e-commerce program, building a team that identifies, curates, and sells high-value donated items online. Under her leadership, the program generated more than \$2.8 million last year to support Goodwill's mission of transforming lives through lifelong learning and the power of work while seeking ways to enhance our communities' environmental resources.

Tim Felder, Sustainability Program Manager

Tim brings nearly 20 years of experience in the waste management and recycling industry. His background includes operations, environmental compliance, business development, and corporate sustainability, providing him with a practical understanding of how materials move through the recycling system.

In his current role, Tim leads sustainability initiatives across the Suncoast region, focusing on circular economy solutions, developing strategic partnerships, identifying landfill diversion opportunities, and environmental performance tracking. Prior to joining Goodwill-Suncoast, he maintained large-scale metal recovery operations, implemented process improvement projects in rolling mill operations in steel mills, and managed hazardous and non-hazardous waste programs for Fortune 500 companies.

Tim holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Coastal Carolina University and is passionate about developing practical, sustainable solutions that create both a positive environmental and community impact.

Presentation Notes

- Goodwill Industries-Suncoast operates 20 retail stores and 2 outlets operated in multiple counties throughout southeast Florida, focused on both environmental and social impact.
- Mission is to reduce landfill dependence while supporting community programs, like career planning, housing and re-entry and youth development.



- Landfill diversion:
 - In 2025, collected over 49.5 million pounds to achieve a 77% diversion rate.
- Textile recycling – textiles is one of the largest waste streams they handle and is one of the fastest growing waste category in the nation with the rise of fast fashion.
 - In 2025, recycled over 10 million pounds of textiles.
- Cardboard recycling
 - In 2025, recycled 330 tons of cardboard.
- Glass recycling – partner with local “rage room” businesses, where people pay to smash glass in a controlled, safe environment.
 - In 2025, recycled 200 tons of glass and ceramics.
- Electronics recycling through Dell Reconnect and batteries.
 - In 2025, recycled 200 tons of electronics.
 - In 2025, over 2,250 tons of batteries.
- Plastics – partners with NextTrex to recycle plastic film and soft plastics since July 2025. Partners with
 - In 2025, recycled 48,000 pounds of soft plastics.
 - Eliminated all plastic bags in Goodwill stores and replaced them with reusable totes for purchase.
- Partnership with Osomtex in Miami, Florida. Sends Osomtex unsold textiles that get turned into socks and those socks are sold in stores.



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- New partnership to transform unsold textiles into new apparel for uniforms and sellable products. Collaborating with UpCycle, which creates furniture out of 100% recycled fibers and textiles.

[Presentation Recording](#)

Updates

State Updates

- Florida DEP
 - Getting ready to wrap up the county data with county recycling rates by July 1st

Regional Updates

Hillsborough County

- No updates



City of Tampa

- Successfully had the Earth Fair 4/19/26. Trees, compost mulch and plants
- Recycling Programs roll out coming soon

Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay
 - Tracy with Recycle By City
 - Reminder that the [Where Does It Go? Search Tool](#) code is available for embedding on municipal websites
 - There is a way to customize for specific municipalities
- Jasmine
 - Pinellas County municipalities, reminder to submit your FY26 Municipal Recycling Grant reimbursement requests by September 15, 2026.
 - Reminder: on the [PPR SharePoint site](#) is a database of all Pinellas County municipal contracts for recycling processing and collection. Hover over "Documents/Resources," then click "Contract Database" to access.
 - Pinellas County launched a spring-cleaning campaign to encourage residents to safely clear out old gas, household chemicals, paint and certain batteries and drop them off at our free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off locations before the start of hurricane season. These materials can ignite fires and pollute homes and neighborhoods during storms, so don't wait. Dropping them off now will help you save time and avoid long lines right before a storm.
 - [Household Chemical Collection](#) event in Treasure Island on 5/30, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 - Treasure Island Community Center Park: [150 106th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL](#)
 - [Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Day](#) – 5/30, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 - MRG regular update – this FY's round
- Leslie Caplin – Social media impact with action shots and video content

Pinellas County Municipal Updates

City of St. Petersburg

- April 22, 2026 – Austin's first video about recycling was posted on City of St. Pete's social media account.



- Hurricane Expo 5/27/26 5 - 7 p.m.
- Composting workshop May 30th at the Secondhand Market

Clearwater

- Participating in the Hurricane Expo with Pinellas County. Protect yourself during hurricane season

Community Updates

Waste Pro

- Pinellas County's Tire Amnesty Day, April 18th
 - 861 tires collected
 - <https://pinellas.gov/story/pinellas-county-collects-861-used-tires-during-free-collection-event/>

Transformations PR

- Waste and recycling workers week June 15 – 20, 2026
- Emily mentioned County proclamation

Work Group Updates

No Work Group Updates

- Considering starting new work groups.
 - Ideas:
 - Zero waste planning
 - Food Waste hub
 - School recycling guide (tool kit)

Open Discussion

- Caron Schwartz- Compost or food waste programs coming to the county?
- Hurricane Preparedness Expo 5/20, 5 – 7 p.m.
 - Seminole City Park, Park View Room, 7464 Ridge Rd., Seminole, FL 3372
- [Recycle Florida Today Conference](#) – June 22-24, 2026

Announcements

- Next meeting is on Wednesday, July 29, at 9:30 a.m. via Teams
- [Household Hazardous Waste Center Operator](#) position open



- Deadline to apply – 5/26

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 29th @ 9:30am via Teams