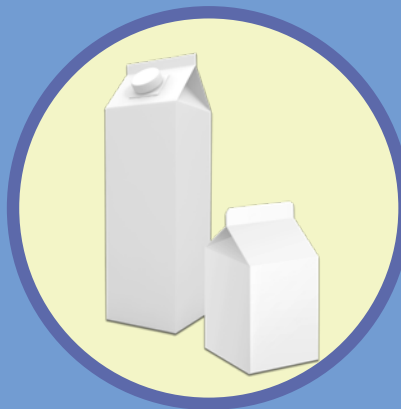


Dry, Flattened  
Cardboard



Clean Milk and  
Juice Cartons



Dry Paperboard  
Boxes



Clean Aluminum  
Cans

# RECYCLING GUIDE

EVERYTHING CLEAN AND DRY  
no plastic bags • no bagged recycling

[HCFL.gov/Recycling](http://HCFL.gov/Recycling)



Hillsborough  
County Florida

Tampa Bay  
**Times**  
**NIE**  
newspaper in education  
[tampabay.com/nie](http://tampabay.com/nie)



Clean Plastic Bottles  
and Containers  
(caps on)



Clean Steel  
and Tin Metal  
Containers



Dry Paper,  
Newspaper  
and Junk Mail



Clean Glass  
Bottles  
and Jars

# About Hillsborough County Solid Waste



Hillsborough County's Solid Waste Management oversees waste collection, processing, disposal and recycling for a service area that covers the unincorporated county and New Tampa areas. The integrated operation includes collection, transportation, disposal and reporting of all solid waste generated in Hillsborough County.

Hillsborough County residential solid waste customers receive curbside garbage, recycling and yard waste collection. Customers also have access to the County's Household Hazardous Waste collection sites, yard waste drop-off sites and Community Collection Centers. The mission of Hillsborough County government is to provide effective quality service at a reasonable cost with courtesy, integrity and accountability in a manner that protects and enhances the quality of life of our diverse population.

## Request a recycling presentation

Hillsborough County offers free presentations to schools, businesses, homeowners' associations and community groups on the topics of recycling and waste reduction. Presentations can be tailored to accommodate available meeting times, different age groups and the needs of the target audience. Print and digital copies of educational materials are available at no charge.

To request educational materials or schedule a presentation, call 813-272-5680 or email [Recycling@HCFL.gov](mailto:Recycling@HCFL.gov)

# Residents of Tampa Temple Terrace and Plant City



Your list of accepted recyclables is different from the County's service area. Always check with your service provider directly for the most updated guidelines.

## Recycling contacts

**Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management**  
[HCFL.gov/recycling](http://HCFL.gov/recycling)  
813-272-5680

**City of Tampa Department of Solid Waste & Environmental Program Management**  
[tampagov.net/solid-waste](http://tampagov.net/solid-waste)  
813-274-8811

**City of Temple Terrace Public Works Department**  
[templeterrace.com/182/Public-Works](http://templeterrace.com/182/Public-Works)  
813-506-6570

**Plant City Solid Waste Department**  
[plantcitygov.com/solid-waste](http://plantcitygov.com/solid-waste)  
813-757-9208



## About NIE

The *Tampa Bay Times* Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources — a "living textbook." Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world.

NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tampa Bay Times* plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.



Each year, NIE provides more than 1 million print copies and 10 million digital editions of the *Times* to area classrooms free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are aligned to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit [tampabay.com/nie](http://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).

### NIE staff

Jodi Pushkin, manager, [jpushkin@tampabay.com](mailto:jpushkin@tampabay.com)  
Sue Bedry, development specialist, [sbedry@tampabay.com](mailto:sbedry@tampabay.com)

### Credits

**Written by:** Sue Bedry, *Times* staff  
**Curriculum activities by:** Jodi Pushkin, *Times* staff  
**Designed by:** Stacy Rector, Fluid Graphic Design

© *Tampa Bay Times* 2023

## Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for elementary, middle and high school students. B.E.S.T.  
ELA.312.F.1.3; ELA.312.R.2.11; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3;  
ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1;  
ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3 Language Arts: LAFS.312.L.1.1; LAFS.312.L.1.2; LAFS.312.L.2.3; LAFS.312.L.3.4; LAFS.312.RI.1.1; LAFS.312.RI.1.2; LAFS.312.RI.1.3; LAFS.312.RI.2.6; LAFS.312.RI.3.7; LAFS.312.RST.1.3; LAFS.312.RST.3.7; LAFS.312.RST.3.9; LAFS.312.SL.1.1; LAFS.312.SL.1.2; LAFS.312.SL.1.3; LAFS.312.SL.2.4; LAFS.312.SL.2.5; LAFS.312.SL.2.6; LAFS.312.W.1.1; LAFS.312.W.1.2; LAFS.312.W.1.3; LAFS.312.W.2.4; LAFS.312.W.2.5; LAFS.312.W.2.7; LAFS.312.W.3.9 Science: SC.6.N.1.1; SC.6.N.1.4; SC.6.N.1.5; SC.7.N.1.1; SC.8.N.1.1; SC.35.N.1.1; SC.35.N.1.2; SC.35.N.1.3; SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.18; SC.912.L.17.19; SC.912.N.1.4; SC.912.N.4.1; SC.912.N.4.2 5

## Teach with the *Times* and win

Educators, share 100 words about how you used this resource in your classroom for a chance to win a \$15 gift card! Visit [tampabay.com/nie](http://tampabay.com/nie) and click on Resources, Information for Teachers for more information and to enter.

# Why recycle?

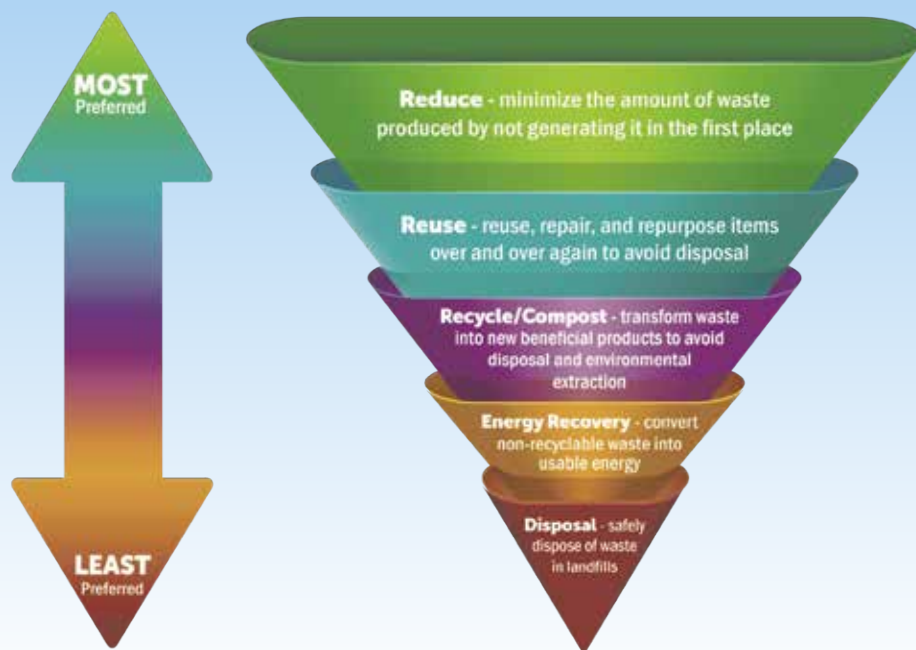
Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling can benefit your community and the environment.

## Benefits of recycling

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy
- Supports American manufacturing and conserves valuable resources
- Helps create jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

## How Should We Manage Waste?



# Waste reduction

The concept of waste reduction is simple – to reduce waste by creating less in the first place.

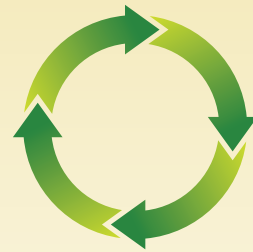
By following the three steps in order of reduce, reuse and recycle, you can save money, reduce your carbon footprint and preserve natural resources. This is known as the waste hierarchy. The waste hierarchy emphasizes reducing, reusing and recycling to reduce the amount of waste that will end up in a landfill.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



## REDUCE

- Choose items that use less packaging.
- Purchase recycled or upcycled products when possible.
- Decline disposable straws in restaurants or bring a reusable metal or glass straw.
- Bring your own “to go” container to a restaurant.
- Sign up for electronic bills and catalogs instead of receiving paper copies in the mail.



## REUSE

- Bring reusable bags to the store instead of using single-use plastic bags.
- Carry a refillable sports bottle instead of buying single-use plastic water bottles.
- Bring your own silverware and cup to work rather than using disposable items.
- Use glass or plastic containers with lids for food storage instead of plastic baggies or plastic wrap.
- Use washable sponges or cloth rags for cleaning instead of single-use paper towels.
- Donate reusable items such as unwanted clothing, appliances, books and furniture instead of throwing them out.



## RECYCLE

- Repurpose or upcycle materials when possible, instead of throwing them out.
- Recycle aluminum cans, metal food containers, paper, cardboard, paperboard, plastic containers, cartons and glass bottles and jars by placing them in your blue recycling cart curbside.
- Recycle single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers at participating grocery or big-box stores.
- Recycle electronics by bringing them to a Hillsborough County Community Collection Center.
- Compost your yard waste and food scraps.

Sources: Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

## Reducing your use

Tampa Bay partnering governments and non-profits are joining the worldwide movement to reduce waste from single-use plastics. According to the Ocean Conservancy, six of the top 10 contributors to marine debris are single-use, or disposable, plastic products. How can you contribute to reducing these items? Make a list of single-use plastic items that people use daily. Look through your home and classroom. Look through the *Tampa Bay Times* for ideas as well. Make a list of the items and create an infographic or chart showing a replacement item that would be more environmentally friendly. Check out [ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org](http://ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org) for more ideas. Share what you have learned with your class and family.

Florida Standards: SC.312.L.17.14; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3

# What can I recycle curbside in Hillsborough County?

## Only these items should be placed in your blue cart:

Always place recyclables loose in your cart, never bagged. Recyclables should be clean, dry and rinsed free of food and liquid residue.



Clean & empty plastic bottles and containers (caps on)



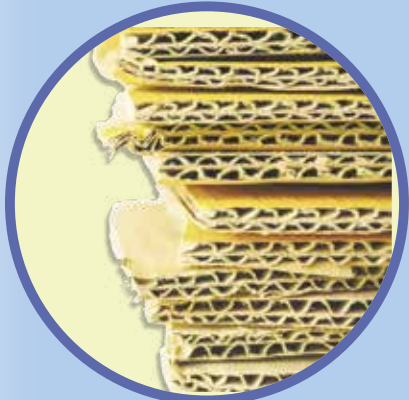
Clean & empty aluminum cans



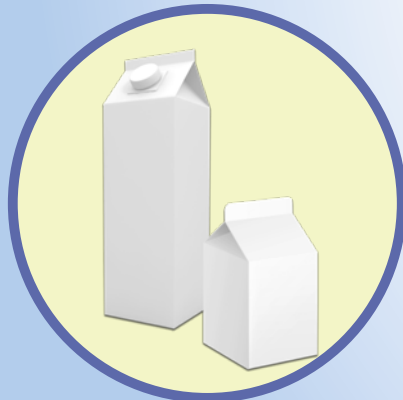
Clean & empty glass bottles and jars (no lids)



Dry paper, newspaper, and junk mail (no shredded paper)



Dry, flattened cardboard



Clean & empty milk and juice cartons



Clean & empty metal food containers



Dry, flattened paperboard (such as cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper rolls)

### GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

## Trash the tangles

According to TampaBayRecycles.org, "Items such as plastic bags, cords, wires, tarps and hoses jam and damage sorting equipment used for recycling processing. Not only can this damage the equipment, but workers must manually remove them, a difficult, dirty, and potentially dangerous task".

Look at the different items shown in the advertisements of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Using the information on the pages of this

publication as a guide, classify the items you find in the newspapers as recyclable or not recyclable. Create a poster showing what can and cannot be recycled. Next, create a full-page advertisement advising people what to recycle and what not to recycle. Share what you have learned with your family and class.

**Florida Standards:** ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3; SC.312.N.1.4; SC.312.N.1.5

If you have questions or for a more detailed list, visit [HCFL.gov/Recycling](http://HCFL.gov/Recycling) or call our Solid Waste Customer Service Team at 813-272-5680.

# “Recyclable” vs. “recyclable curbside”

Just because it has a recycling triangle on it doesn't mean it's recyclable curbside

There are many items that are “recyclable.” However, not all these items are recyclable in curbside programs. To stay up to date on recycling rules, visit [HCFL.gov/Recycling](http://HCFL.gov/Recycling).

For example, polystyrene foam products have a recycling symbol on them, but are not recyclable curbside. Neither are single-use plastic bags. These items can be recycled at your local grocery store. Hillsborough County accepts plastic bottles, jugs, tubs and containers.

Remember, just because an item is made from plastic doesn't mean local recycling facilities can process it.



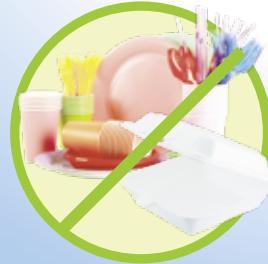
## When in doubt, leave it out

**Avoid “wishcycling”** - placing items in your blue cart that you hope are recyclable but actually aren't causes more harm than good. Just because you hope something is recyclable, doesn't suddenly make it recyclable.

**Avoid recycling contamination** - non-recyclable items or excessively dirty materials can contaminate clean recyclables, damage the sorting equipment and potentially harm staff.

If you are not sure if an item is recyclable or not, don't place it in the recycling cart. When in doubt, leave it out!

# What NOT to recycle curbside in Hillsborough County



**NO plastic waste**  
Trash plastic non-containers, straws, furniture, utensils, cups, lids, and foam products



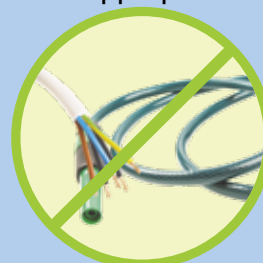
**NO plastic bags or bagged recycling**  
Return plastic bags to retailers.



**NO soiled recyclables or food/liquid waste**  
Dispose of food/liquid waste and dirty materials in your gray trash cart. Backyard compost food waste if appropriate.



**NO yard waste**  
Backyard compost or place at the curb on your designated day for pickup.



**NO Tanglers** (hoses, cords, wires, holiday lights and rope)  
Dispose of tanglers in your gray trash cart.



**NO clothing**  
Donate gently used items to charity organizations or thrift stores.



**NO electronics or batteries**  
See Pages 10-11 to find out how to recycle these items responsibly.

# Recycling FAQs

**How do I find my trash and recycling schedule?**  
 Visit [HCFL.gov/recycling](http://HCFL.gov/recycling) and click on Find My Trash and Recycling Schedule.

**What if my trash is not picked up on my designated day?**  
 Report at [HCFL.gov/Trash](http://HCFL.gov/Trash) or call Solid Waste Customer Service at 813-272-5680.

**What do I do if my trash or recycling cart is damaged?**  
 Report at [HCFL.gov/Trash](http://HCFL.gov/Trash) or call Solid Waste Customer Service at 813-272-5680.

**What can I recycle in my blue cart?**  
 Hillsborough County residential trash customers receive weekly curbside recycling collection service. See Pages 4-5 of this publication or visit [HCFL.gov/recycling](http://HCFL.gov/recycling) to view items that can be recycled in your blue recycling cart and common items that should not be placed in your blue cart. All recyclables should be placed in the blue cart loose—not bagged.

For all County Solid Waste and Recycling-related customer service needs, such as missed pickups, finding your service day or general questions, customers should visit [HCFL.gov/Trash](http://HCFL.gov/Trash) or call Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management customer service at **813-272-5680**.

Watch a video on the recycling lifecycle at [youtube.com/watch?v=38lyLUtUSVk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38lyLUtUSVk)



## GOING BEYOND THE TEXT Keeping a waste journal

A waste journal is a great way to study and analyze what you are throwing away and how it could be minimized. In this activity, you will record all items (including any food) that you dispose of over a two- to three-day period and analyze the results. Recording items can be done by writing down the name of the item or, for younger students, drawing an image or taking a photo. Create a chart or spreadsheet with six columns. In the first column, you will record the name of each item you dispose of. In the next four columns, you will record where the item should go (reuse, recycle, compost or trash). Use this publication to help you determine what is recyclable and compostable. In

# Word search

Find the words below in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Blue cart	Glass	Metal	Reduce																
Cardboard	Gray cart	Paper	Reuse																
Compost	Household waste	Plastic	Tanglers																
Contamination		Recycle	Wishcycling																
T	Q	H	L	F	E	D	M	D	S	G	P	G	B	W	K	Z	A	F	H
C	A	S	N	C	G	S	Y	Z	E	Z	L	Z	L	I	X	C	H	C	O
Y	O	N	U	M	X	Y	X	B	N	I	B	Y	F	S	I	P	T	A	U
S	X	D	G	W	T	W	S	T	O	U	Y	T	B	H	P	T	I	X	S
B	E	H	V	L	F	Z	W	Y	I	P	K	O	X	C	F	E	N	Y	E
R	U	Y	U	L	E	E	G	O	T	P	U	A	Z	Y	I	P	M	U	H
Q	S	H	C	T	E	R	L	U	A	S	T	E	V	C	Q	P	M	L	O
M	C	B	K	R	L	M	S	N	N	U	L	Q	D	L	I	X	T	H	L
W	U	I	V	V	C	I	Y	I	I	F	T	V	U	I	C	A	Y	F	D
A	P	Q	U	P	Y	L	O	V	M	K	X	S	W	N	Q	F	J	S	W
R	E	P	A	P	C	A	E	J	A	H	Y	O	O	G	R	M	Y	Z	A
P	A	C	K	G	E	V	O	A	T	V	Q	L	P	P	E	Q	I	D	S
K	Z	X	I	S	R	L	X	D	N	K	J	U	A	T	M	L	M	B	T
C	R	Y	S	T	D	D	R	A	O	B	D	R	A	C	Z	O	L	F	E
R	O	A	W	K	S	V	Q	K	C	R	J	L	Y	R	F	U	C	B	P
C	L	X	Y	G	R	A	Y	C	A	R	T	V	O	E	E	E	X	I	D
G	S	R	L	W	A	L	L	V	C	X	E	A	F	C	T	V	G	G	G
I	Z	P	Q	O	M	K	Q	P	U	E	M	R	A	M	H	F	I	I	K
I	J	R	E	U	S	E	U	M	R	K	Y	R	E	R	X	S	E	T	Q
D	Z	N	N	F	N	B	L	S	X	K	T	J	E	B	I	A	J	S	F

the final column, you will record where you actually disposed of the item. When your study period is finished, answer the following questions:

- How many items did you dispose of over the study period?
- What were the main components — parts — of your waste?
- What percentage of your waste was composed of recyclables? What percentage was food waste?
- What were some of the items that could have been reused or recycled instead of thrown away?
- Why do you think you didn't recycle those items?
- What steps can you take to increase your recycling rate?
- What steps can you take to reduce your nonrecyclable waste?

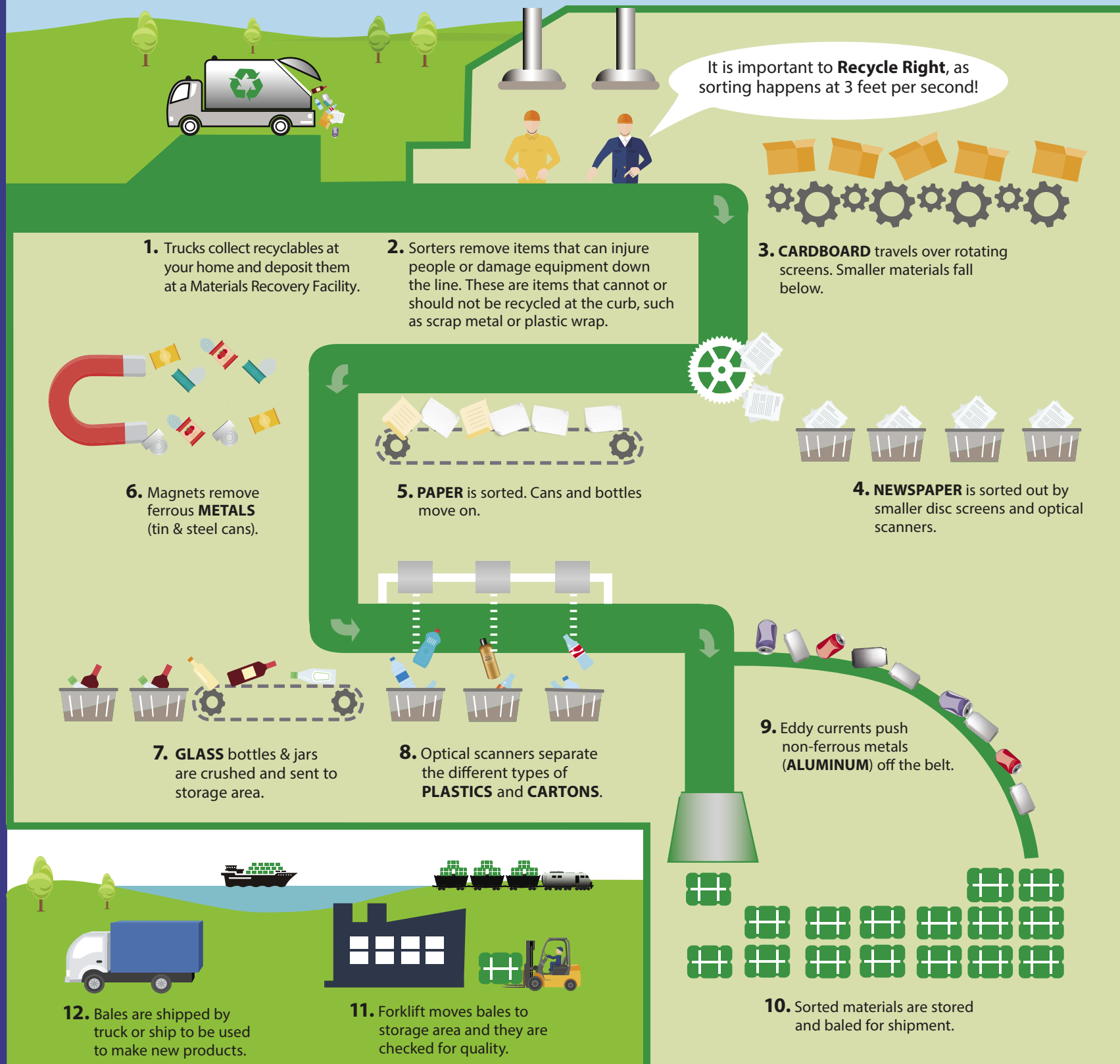
Using the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, write an article to share your results. Be sure to discuss the purpose and method of your study, the observations that you made and the conclusions that you drew from the data you collected.

*Adapted from: "Student Waste Journal," Recycling Champions Green Team Advocacy Action Kit, GrowNYC*

**Florida Standards:** SC.312.L.17.14; SC.312.N.1.4; SC.312.N.1.5; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3

# HOW DOES RECYCLING WORK?

## Learn how your recyclables are sorted at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)



**IMPORTANT:** Plastic Bags and plastic film can wrap around sorting equipment and jam the machines. They are particularly harmful to the recycling process and should not be recycled in curbside or drop-off center locations. To see how the single-stream recycling sorting process works, go to [youtube.com/watch?v=38lyLUtUSVk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38lyLUtUSVk) or visit [HCFL.gov/Recycling](https://www.HCFL.gov/Recycling).

# Backyard composting

Hillsborough County's Solid Waste Management Department and the Hillsborough County Extension Office are offering monthly workshops on composting to residents.

Attend a composting workshop and learn how to turn your yard and kitchen waste into fertile, organic matter to use as a soil amendment, mulch, potting soil and/or compost tea. Workshop attendees receive

a presentation, information packet, compost bin, kitchen bucket and thermometer.

Composting organic waste saves landfill space, reduces emissions and recycles your waste into a useful resource.

For more information and to find a workshop, visit [sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough/lawngarden/composting](http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsborough/lawngarden/composting).



## Cooking Recycling Effort (CORE)

Used cooking oils are a serious problem for home plumbing and Hillsborough County's wastewater collection system. Cooking oil that is poured down the drain gels and solidifies inside pipes, sewage lines and sewage lift stations, constricting water flow. This can back up home plumbing, and also cause equipment to malfunction, leading to sewage spills, overflows onto streets, and foul odors in homes and neighborhoods.

To find a CORE station near you, visit [HCFL.gov/CORE](http://HCFL.gov/CORE).

SCAN THE QR CODE



### GOING BEYOND THE TEXT Finding evidence

The following two News Video activities focus on the issue of the increasing use of plastic in our lives. In these two activities, videos of a news event are presented for discussion as well as to inspire the use of evidence to support logical claims using the main ideas of the video. Students must analyze background information provided about this current event, draw out the main ideas and key details, and review different opinions on the issue. Then, students should present their own claims using facts and analysis for support. Go to the following lessons, watch the videos and complete the discussion questions:

- The Oceans Are Filled with Plastic, and the Problem Might Get Worse <https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/videooftheweek.cfm?id=395>
- Scientists Scramble to Create Replacements for Plastic <https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/videooftheweek.cfm?id=440>
- Then, find *Tampa Bay Times* articles, photos, cartoons, editorials or letters to the editor focused on the same issues as the class discussion and videos.
- In a blog post or journal entry, write about what you have learned and explore some possible solutions to this growing problem.

Florida Standards: SC.312.L.17.14; SC.312.N.1.4; SC.312.N.1.5; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.4.C.5.2; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3



# Litter and marine debris hurt the environment



Littering and illegal dumping of trash pollute the environment, harm wildlife, increase costs to taxpayers and businesses, lower property values and threaten human health.

- Litter and trash clog storm drains and sewers, causing flooding in our neighborhoods.
- Litter and trash make their way through drains to end up on our beaches and in our waterways.
- Wildlife and pets get poisoned by, tangled in and injured by litter and trash.
- Littered open containers and debris such as tires become breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

- Illegal dump sites attract rodents and insects and are dangerous to children and animals.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. Plastic debris is currently the most abundant type of litter in the ocean, making up 80 percent of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. Plastic is found on the shorelines of every continent, with more plastic waste found near popular tourist destinations and densely populated areas.

*Sources: Hillsborough County, Keep America Beautiful, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nature, NOAA*

**Want to help?  
Volunteer with  
Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful!**

Visit [KeepTampaBayBeautiful.org](http://KeepTampaBayBeautiful.org), email [info@keptbb.org](mailto:info@keptbb.org) or call 813-221-8733 for more information.



## Reduce Your Use Tampa Bay [ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org](http://ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org)

Hillsborough County, Pinellas County, the City of Tampa, the City of St. Petersburg, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful and Keep Pinellas Beautiful are joining the worldwide movement to reduce waste from single-use plastics with a new partnership: Reduce Your Use Tampa Bay.

Visit [ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org](http://ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org) to find tips to reduce your household waste, check out the area businesses that have joined the campaign and take the pledge to be part of the campaign. You can be part of the Reduce Your Use Tampa Bay campaign by sharing how you are reducing pollution from disposable plastic products. Just visit [ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org](http://ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org) and click on Pledge.

## Ways you can help reduce single-use plastics

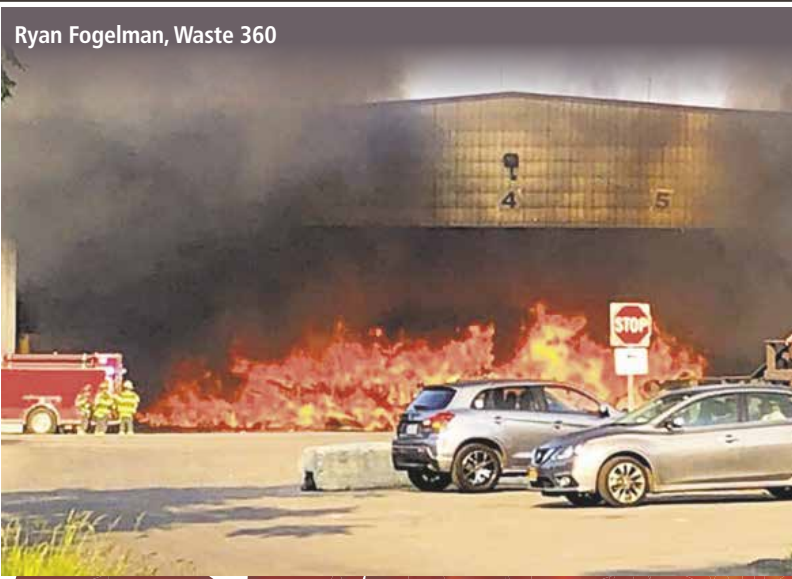
- Bring your own reusable bags
- Say no to disposable straws or bring your own reusable one
- Use reusable drink cups and water bottles
- Bring your own container and utensils for takeout or leftovers



Stefanie Valentic, Waste 360



Ryan Fogelman, Waste 360



Ryan Fogelman, Waste 360

# Prevent fires: Dispose of rechargeable batteries correctly

Improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries (the kind found in found in cellphones, digital cameras, laptops, hearing aids, watches and keyless remotes) is causing hundreds of fires at recycling centers, waste facilities and even in garbage trucks.

A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency found 64 waste facilities that experienced 245 fires caused by, or likely caused by, lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries from 2013 to 2020.

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

Rechargeable batteries (such as Ni-Cd and lithium-ion) should be individually bagged and brought to a Hillsborough County Community Collection Center or Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

For more information, visit [HCFL.gov/Recycling](http://HCFL.gov/Recycling) and click on Batteries.

## Never place pool/spa chemicals in your carts! They can cause a fire.



# Other types of batteries

Never place batteries of any type in your blue recycling cart.

- Alkaline batteries (such as AA, AAA, C, D or 9-volt) can be safely disposed of in your gray curbside trash cart.
- Cordless power tool battery packs (limit five per month) should be brought to a Hillsborough County Community Collection Center or Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Lead-acid batteries found in automobiles, motorcycles, lawn mowers and boats should be brought to a Hillsborough County Community Collection Center or Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.



# Household hazardous waste (HHW)

Many of the everyday products we use in our homes are potentially harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment. Products that contain ingredients that are toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive are known as household hazardous waste (HHW).

Common examples of HHW include household cleaners, solvents, paints, stains, pesticides, herbicides, antifreeze, motor oil, nail polish remover, flares, propane tanks, ammunition, pool chemicals and rechargeable batteries.

Improper disposal of HHW can pollute the environment, endanger wildlife and threaten human health.

- **DON'T put HHW in your blue recycling cart.**
- **DON'T put HHW in your gray trash cart.**
- **DON'T pour HHW down the drain or toilet, on the ground or into storm sewers.**
- **DO take HHW to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center for proper disposal.**

Questions about HHW? Visit [HCFL.gov/HHW](http://HCFL.gov/HHW), call 813-272-5680, option 4, or email [PUD-SpecialWaste@HillsboroughCounty.org](mailto:PUD-SpecialWaste@HillsboroughCounty.org).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Hillsborough County makes it easy for residents to dispose of unwanted or expired HHW items. Just bring your HHW, along with a valid photo ID, to one of Hillsborough County's three HHW Collection Centers.

**The following locations accept household hazardous waste from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**

### First Saturday of the month

Sheldon Road Household Hazardous Waste Center  
9805 Sheldon Road  
Tampa, FL 33635

### Second Saturday of the month

South County Solid Waste Facility  
13000 U.S. 41  
Gibsonton, FL 33534

### Third Saturday of the month

Hillsborough Heights Solid Waste Facility  
6209 County Road 579  
Seffner, FL 33584

# Hillsborough County Community Collection Centers

Hillsborough County operates five Community Collection Centers (CCCs) to provide residents a convenient and responsible means of disposing of items not collected curbside.

All Hillsborough County residents, including those residing in Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City (must show valid photo ID to verify county residence), may drop off:

- **Electronics (limit five items per month)**
- **Paint, stain and varnish (limit 10 1-gallon containers and five 5-gallon containers; must be sealed and not leaking)**
- **Rechargeable batteries (including Ni-Cd, lithium and lithium-ion and lead acid; must be individually bagged)**

Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management residential customers who pay the annual Hillsborough County solid waste assessment on their property tax bill (must show valid photo ID and Hillsborough County property tax bill\*) may drop off:

- **Electronics (limit five items per month)**
- **Paint, stain and varnish (limit 10 1-gallon containers and five 5-gallon containers; must be sealed and not leaking)**
- **Rechargeable batteries (including Ni-Cd, lithium-ion and lead-acid; must be individually bagged)**
- **Automotive tires (limit 12 per year)**
- **Concrete**
- **Furniture**
- **Household appliances**
- **Mattresses and box springs**
- **Steel**
- **Tile**
- **Treated wood**

\* Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management residential customers may download their property tax bill from [hillstax.org/services/aspx](http://hillstax.org/services/aspx).

## Community Collection Center locations

### Alderman Ford

(Mon. – Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
9402 County Road 39  
Lithia, FL 33547

### Hillsborough Heights

(Mon. – Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
6209 County Road 579  
Seffner, FL 33584

### Northwest County

(Mon. – Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
8001 W Linebaugh Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33625

### South County Solid Waste Facility

(Mon. – Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
13000 U.S. 41  
Gibsonton, FL 33534

### Wimauma Solid Waste Facility

(Mon. – Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
16180 W Lake Drive  
Wimauma, FL 33598



[HCFL.gov/HHW](http://HCFL.gov/HHW)

## GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

### Hazardous waste

Products that contain ingredients that are flammable, corrosive, reactive or toxic are known as household hazardous waste (HHW). These items are often everyday products we use in our homes and are potentially harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, "Hazardous waste exhibits one or more characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity that make it dangerous. Paint products, pool chemicals, household cleaners and pesticides are typical examples. When disposed of in the municipal solid waste stream or otherwise improperly managed, these materials have the potential of contaminating the groundwater – our drinking water supply."

Using the information in this publication and on the Hillsborough County website, create a full-page advertisement encouraging people to bring their HHW products to a county facility. Use the advertisements and advertorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models for your advertisement. Share your ad with your classmates.

**Florida Standards:** ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.R.2.2; ELA.312.R.2.3; ELA.312.R.3.2; ELA.312.R.3.3; ELA.312.C.1.1; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3; SC.312.N.1.4; SC.312.N.1.5

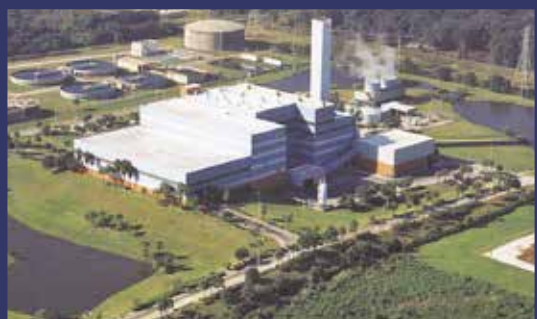
# How Waste-to-Energy works

1



Trash is picked up curbside and delivered to the Hillsborough County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).

2



At the RRF, trash is incinerated to produce electricity. This electricity is used to power county facilities and is sold to electric utilities.

3



Metal is removed from the ash, sold and recycled.

4



The remaining ash is landfilled or recycled into useful products such as road base, concrete or cement.

Waste-to-Energy saves energy, preserves natural resources and reduces greenhouse gases

Every year, the Hillsborough County Waste-to-Energy facility:

Processes more than **544,000 TONS**

of waste that would otherwise have ended up in landfills

.....  
**Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 446,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>**, equivalent to taking 86,000 passenger vehicles off the road for one year  
.....

.....  
**Produces 46 megawatts** of electricity, enough to power 25,000 homes for a year  
.....

.....  
**Recovers 21,800 tons of metal**

for recycling annually, enough to build 17,000 cars

Source: Covanta Hillsborough

## GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

### Planning for the future

An advocate is someone who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. Hillsborough County updated the Solid Waste Section of the Unincorporated Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan in 2022. The overall goal is to improve the County's waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs in a cost-efficient manner.

Review the Plan by visiting [planhillsborough.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Solid-Waste.pdf](http://planhillsborough.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Solid-Waste.pdf). Pay special

attention to the four specific objectives listed.

Choose one objective that interests you and research its proposed policies. Do you agree or disagree with them?

Look up who your County Commissioner is by visiting [H CFL.gov/BOCC](http://H CFL.gov/BOCC) and clicking on Contact Your Commissioner.

Write your County Commissioner a short letter advocating for or against one or more of the policies that you researched.

If you choose to advocate against a policy, you must suggest an alternative.

You can find a sample letter from the American Library Association at [ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aboutaasl/aaslcommunity/quicklinks/el/Sample\\_Letter\\_to\\_Elected\\_Officials.pdf](http://ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aboutaasl/aaslcommunity/quicklinks/el/Sample_Letter_to_Elected_Officials.pdf).

Email your letter to your Commissioner using the contact form on the Contact Your Commissioner webpage. Share your letter and any reply that you receive with your class.

**Florida Standards:** ELA.312.C.1.3; ELA.312.C.1.4; ELA.312.C.1.5; ELA.312.C.2.1; ELA.312.C.3.1; ELA.312.C.4.1; ELA.312.R.2.1; ELA.312.V.1.1; ELA.312.V.1.3

Take a virtual tour of Hillsborough County's Waste-to-Energy Facility at [youtu.be/KmTbHInScw](https://youtu.be/KmTbHInScw)

