

GOVERNMENT



GETTY IMAGES

Miami-Dade County is grappling with waste disposal strategies adter its trash incinerator in Doral burned down in 2023.

COUNTY ASKS ENTREPRENEURS TO HELP SOLVE TRASH PROBLEM

Miami-Dade County has a waste problem. Now, startups are being asked for potential solutions.

The Miami-Dade Innovation Authority launched its fifth Public Innovation Challenge to find innovative ways to divert and reduce trash, and engage locals on the topic. The goal is to use technology to improve recycling, organic waste reuse and other efforts to keep trash and recyclables from ending up in landfills.

MDIA, in partnership with the county’s Department of Solid Waste Management, will award \$100,000 each to at least three early-stage startups so they can test and validate their proposals. It will accept applications until April 21.

“Reducing landfill waste and improving waste diversion is crucial in ensuring the continued health and well-being of Miami

residents and fragile ecosystems, especially as our population continues to grow,” MDIA President and CEO Leigh-Ann Buchanan said in a statement.

The county is grappling with waste disposal strategies after its trash incinerator in Doral burned down in 2023. Since then, Miami-Dade has been hauling its trash to landfills in the county and other parts of the state. Mayor Daniella Levine Cava originally supported a plan to bring another incinerator to Doral, but withdrew it after community opposition.

Trash is a big issue in Miami-Dade. The county produces more than 5 million tons of waste each year, with only 37% of that recycled. It’s expected to become even more problematic in the coming years due to population growth.

Part of the MDIA initiative will involve educating locals on waste disposal to ensure more of it can be recycled, instead of ending up

“Reducing landfill waste and improving waste diversion is crucial in ensuring the continued health and well-being of Miami-Dade residents and fragile ecosystems.”

Leigh-Ann Buchanan, president of the Miami-Dade Innovation Authority

in landfills. Studies show many Americans are not aware of proper recycling practices or do not know how to participate in recycling programs.

The MDIA challenge will focus on four areas of waste diversion: platforms that connect residents to recycling education resources; technologies that show residents how to sort their waste (such as applications that identify recyclable materials); analytics platforms to help the department of solid waste management and residents better understand where their trash is going; and waste diversion management solutions, such as strategies to divert organic waste from county landfills.

“As our community continues to grow, we must use all the tools in our box to reimagine how we manage our waste now and in the future,” Levine Cava said.

Care About Food Waste? In Massachusetts, You Can Be a Compost Consultant.

By Somini Sengupta

Photographs by Cassandra Klos

March 25, 2025

Nytimes.com

America has a food waste problem: Rotten tomatoes and pizza boxes end up in trash dumps and produce a potent planet-heating gas called methane.

Massachusetts has a fix: A state regulation requires businesses to keep food out of dumpsters. To help them comply, the state offers a carrot, in the form of a chatty, practical, 63-year-old hand-holding food-waste-reduction consultant named Heather Billings.

Which is how, on a frigid Wednesday morning, Ms. Billings found herself poking around the narrow kitchen of the Port Tavern, a sports bar in Newburyport, Mass.

An owner of the Port Tavern, Abbie Hannan, left, invited Ms. Billings to look at how the restaurant managed its waste.

She quickly spotted a very solvable problem at the prep cook's station: a 23-gallon trash can into which went tomato tops and other food scraps.

Then came the dumpster inspection. Could anything in there go to compost?

Ms. Billings, a consultant contracted by the state government, took notes, snapped pictures and peered behind the bar to assess where the lemon wedges and plastic olive skewers ended up.

She had some easy fixes for Port Tavern's co-owner Abbie Hannan. She proposed inexpensive, four-gallon plastic buckets to nest inside the bigger trash bins to collect food scraps. She connected Ms. Hannan to compost haulers and a charity that could pick up leftover edible food.

"Our biggest challenge will be to get everyone to follow the rules," Ms. Hannan surmised.

"A visual reminder is always good," Ms. Billings replied. She opened her binder to show signs that could be affixed to the kitchen walls.

State regulations require institutions that produce half a ton of waste per week — hospitals, universities, restaurants — to divert organic waste away from landfills and incinerators.

Many don't. Ms. Hannan hadn't

heard of the food waste ban until she saw Ms. Billings give a presentation recently at a local event.

In theory, there's a stick for those that fail to comply. If state inspectors see large amounts of food waste being trucked into a waste site, they try to trace it back to where it's coming from. Enforcement is rare. In the last 10 years since the regulations have been in place, only 141 businesses have been cited for not complying with the regulation; 14 consent orders have been issued, laying out what they should do. (State officials declined to let a reporter accompany an inspector or to interview one.)

Some food that's wasted is still good.

There are charities in the Boston area that take the surplus from restaurants and grocery stores.

Because, even as so much food goes to waste, many Americans are still hungry.

An [independent study published in the journal Science](#) concluded that among the half dozen states with composting laws, Massachusetts had gone farthest in reducing total waste in its landfills. Several experts [quibbled with that study](#), saying it had failed to break out how much of that waste reduction was organic matter. Sure, they said, Massachusetts had made a dent. But so had [California and Vermont](#).

Environmentalists want Massachusetts to go further, by requiring residents to also keep food waste out of landfills and requiring cities and towns to offer rat-proof compost bins. "We're still throwing away a lot of food," said Kirstie Pecci, who heads an advocacy group called Just Zero. "I'm frustrated by a lack of progress to get to the next level."

State officials estimate that 380,000 tons of organic waste are diverted every year. That's about 6 percent of the total waste generated, about 6.1 million tons annually.

One additional benefit of the food waste rule: It has spurred new businesses around the state, like Black Earth Compost.

Composting turns food waste into dirt that farmers and gardeners can use to nourish their soil.

So far, the state has relied mostly on carrots to nudge restaurants to compost. One of them is Ms.



Billings.

Her passion for keeping useful things out of the trash goes back decades. She watched her father-in-law, a truck driver in Maine, haul newspapers for recycling. It led her to set up a neighborhood recycling center 35 years ago in

her hometown, Fitchburg, Mass., and then work for a waste hauling company. She is now a senior waste reduction consultant for CET, formerly called the Center for EcoTechnology, a nonprofit group [contracted by the state](#) to help businesses comply with the regulation.



Her job, as she sees it, is to observe and advise. Do people who work in the kitchen have to travel far to dispose of compost? Are dumpsters clearly labeled so employees know what should go in them? Can restaurants save money by reducing their trash vol-

umes? Is there enough organic waste to send to an anaerobic digester facility, where organic matter is turned into fuel? Ms. Billings inspected for food waste.



At Port Tavern, the trickiest problem stood in the parking lot. The bar shares the dumpster with three other restaurants. Only if everyone agrees to hire a compost hauler would they be able to reduce the trash they generate, and the cost of trash pickup.

“It’s complicated,” Ms. Hannan warned. “Not insurmountable,” Ms. Billings replied, with her signature cheer. She would just have to do more hand-holding.

Solid Waste Authority of Broward County Seeks Feedback from Local Businesses on Garbage and Recycling

\By Community News Releases,
March 25, 2025
Newsbreak.com
Miami Community News

The Solid Waste Authority of Broward County is inviting business owners to complete a short survey on how they handle garbage and recycling at their business. Feedback will help shape a long-term Solid Waste Management and Recycling Master Plan and improve local recycling programs.

“if you own or manage a business in Broward County, we want to hear from you,” said Mayor Mike Ryan, Chair of the Solid Waste Authority. “Businesses play a key role in helping to manage our community’s waste stream and in shaping a sustainable future. Your input will help identify opportunities to promote reduction, increase diversion and recycling, enhance efficiency, and create solutions for businesses of all sizes.”

The survey is open from March 17 to April 11, 2025, and is available in English, Spanish, and Kreyòl at <https://browardswa.org/surveys/>:

This business survey follows a recent residential survey, with more public engagement opportunities, including a second residential survey and community focus groups, planned for later this year.

Survey results will guide educational efforts and inform recommendations for the 40-Year Solid Waste Management and Recycling Master Plan. To learn more about the Solid Waste Authority of Broward County, visit browardswa.org.

Coconut Creek Businesses Asked to Share Input on Waste, Recycling

By Luis F. Perez
Published March 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Tapinto.net

COCONUT CREEK, FL — The Solid Waste Authority of Broward County is asking business owners in Coconut Creek to complete a survey on how they handle garbage and recycling. The survey is open through April 11. It is available in English, Spanish, and Kreyòl at browardswa.org/surveys. City of Sunrise Mayor Mike Ryan, who serves as chair of the Solid Waste Authority, said businesses play a key role in helping manage waste and shaping a sustainable future. Feedback will help improve recycling programs and develop a long-term waste

management plan. “Your input will help identify opportunities to promote reduction, increase diversion and recycling, enhance efficiency, and create solutions for businesses of all sizes,” he said in a press release issued by the authority. The business survey follows a recent residential survey. More public engagement opportunities, including another residential survey and community meetings, are planned later this year. Survey results will guide educational efforts and inform recommendations for the county’s 40-year waste management and recycling plan, according to the release. For more information, visit browardswa.org.

SOLID WASTE

Garbage collection changes slated for March 31

New cans, collection days for some Sarasota County customers

JESS ORLANDO

Staff Writer
News Sun March 26, 2025

Starting on Monday, March 31, new service providers will take over garbage collection in Sarasota County’s unincorporated areas.

Changes include:

- New service days. Many residents will have a different collection day.
- Bulk pickup. Four free bulk pickups — up to 10 cubic yards — per year are allowed. Additional pickups are available for a fee.
- Curbside collection. Garbage, recycling, and yard waste will continue to be collected on the same day.
- New garbage carts. Each household will receive one new garbage cart. Additional carts are available upon request, and fees apply.

These changes are for residents in unincorporated Sarasota County, including Englewood, South Venice, Nokomis and other communities. It does not include those served by the city of North Port or the city of Venice, or anyone in Charlotte County.

Oland Stokes, the county’s Solid Waste Collections operations manager, said FCC Environmental Services is the new hauler for South County. Waste Pro will be handling collections in the north service area. Sarasota County commissioners selected the two companies to replace service provided by Waste Management for the last two decades.

“What isn’t changing is your recycle service and your yard waste service,” Stokes said. “Those two will still get collected just as they are today — so you will not see a change in that.”

In terms of bulk pickup, Stokes said the service has gotten to be expensive. The county asked residents how often they use that service, and the majority said “once, or twice a year,” according to Stokes.

Four free bulk pickups per year for up to 10 cubic yards will be available.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SARASOTA COUNTY

Residents are starting, or have already received their chosen carts.

Garbage/ from B1

Multi-family complexes will be allowed 20 cubic yards.

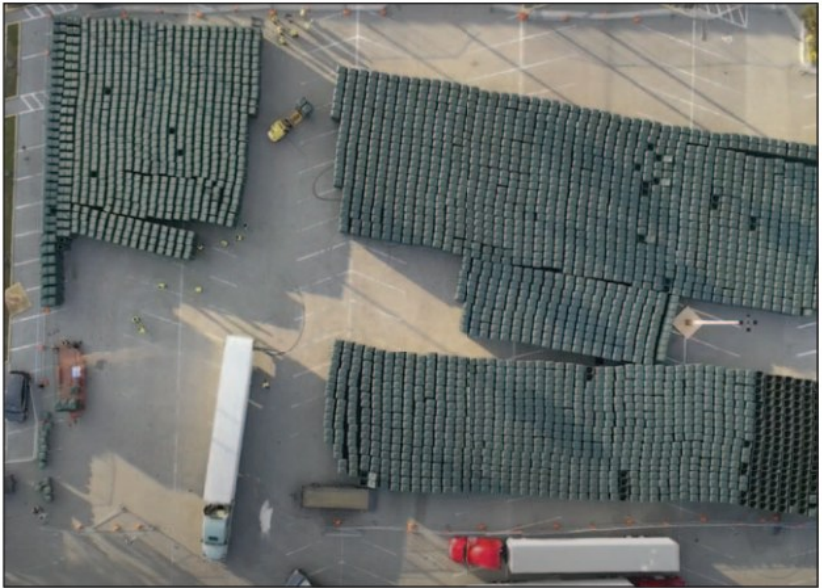
“We just wanted that best price, the best product, for our community at a good rate,” Stokes said. “If you have more than four bulk service pickups, you can schedule another one. You have to do that through your service provider, though.”

Residents should be getting, or already have received their new carts. They were able to select the size they wanted.

However, Stokes said there will be an opportunity in July for residents to exchange their cart out for no charge if they do not like it.

“We want you to get the container, use it and decide if it’s good for you and right for your family,” Stokes said.

Some residents may also need more than one cart. “You will have the



Hundreds of new garbage carts are being given out to residents as the Sarasota County prepares for solid waste service changes to begin March 31.

opportunity to select another cart if needed,” he said. “You have to schedule that with your service provider, and they will give you the price for that per month.”

Stokes said residents can keep their old carts and use it for things like yard waste.

“If that’s something that you’re not interested in, we have 12 community collections throughout the county,” he said. “You can bring it to one of those

community collections, or you can take it to the landfill and have it disposed there.”

Residents can find their new garbage pickup day by visiting, tinyurl.com/3hd-buxbc

Businesses and commercial owners in unincorporated Sarasota County will need to visit tinyurl.com/bdexmdck

“Remember to think before you throw no matter where you go,” Stokes said.



PROVIDED BY SARASOTA COUNTY

Waste Pro will be the new service provider for Sarasota County’s north service area.

Household Chemical Waste collection in Bonita Springs

Bonita Springs residents will be able to safely and responsibly dispose of household chemical waste – paints, cleaners, herbicides, pesticides, automotive fluids and pool chemicals – from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, at Bonita Springs Recreation Center, 26740 Pine Ave.

The collection, hosted by Lee County Solid Waste and City of Bonita Springs, features an easy, drive-through process and is available to all residents at no charge.

The event is for residents only. Businesses that need chemical waste disposal can call MXI Environmental Services at 276-477-0947 to schedule an appointment for the monthly business collection held at the county's permanent Household Chemical Waste drop-off location, 6441 Topaz Court, off Metro Parkway in south Fort Myers.

Visit leegov.com/solidwaste/recycling/chemicals for more information. **Ft Myers News Press March 22, 2025**

Medical Waste Firm Planning Expansion In Hardee

By **MICHAEL KELLY**
Of The Herald-Advocate
March 20, 2024

WASTE
Continued From A1

The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) board approved selling two lots in the newly expanded Hardee County Commerce Park to a South Carolina company looking to expand into Florida.

EcoSteris is a medical waste management company headquartered in Summerville, South Carolina.

On Thursday, the board approved a purchase contract for the company for lots 34 and 39 in the commerce park which total nearly eight acres.

EcoSteris agreed to pay the IDA \$50,000 per acre for the property.

Denise Grimsley, CEO of the IDA/Development Group, told the board the company would not be seeking any incentives from the board to construct its new facility.

According to its website, the company specializes in providing environmental and health-care integrated waste treatment and disposal solutions through the use of clean sustainable technology that meets strict national and international safety standards and regulations.

Grimsley said the company will be sterilizing surgical and operating equipment and treating biomedical waste in the building, but it will not handle hazardous waste at the facility.

EcoSteris will have 24 months to begin construction or the property will revert back to the IDA at the original purchase price.

The IDA will also have a right of first refusal if the company were to try and sell the property.

See **WASTE A3**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AIR PERMIT

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Resource Management, Permit Review Section
Draft Air Permit No. 1170084-014-AC
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, Seminole County Osceola Road Landfill
Seminole County, Florida

Applicant: The applicant for this project is Seminole County Board of County Commissioners. The applicant's authorized representative and mailing address is: Mr. Oliver Bond, Solid Waste Management Division Manager, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, Seminole County Osceola Road Landfill, 1950 State Road 419, Longwood, Florida 32760.

Facility Location: Seminole County Board of County Commissioners operates the existing Seminole County Osceola Road Landfill, which is in Seminole County at 1930 E. Osceola Road, Geneva, Florida.

Project: Seminole County Board of County Commissioners is requesting authorization to construct a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant at the Seminole County Osceola Road Landfill. The proposed RNG plant will convert landfill gas (LFG) into a pipeline quality natural gas equivalent by removing hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, water and oxygen from the LFG. Once the RNG plant is in operation, air emissions from the landfill and associated flares and engines should see a significant reduction since the LFG will no longer be combusted onsite but instead will be injected into a natural gas pipeline. Consequently, a review under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program in Rule 62-212.400 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) was not required. More details on the proposed RNG plant project are provided in the application and the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination document.

Permitting Authority: Applications for air construction permits are subject to review in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Chapters 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212, F.A.C. The proposed project is not exempt from air permitting requirements and an air permit is required to perform the proposed work. The Permitting Authority responsible for making a permit determination for this project is the Permit Review Section in the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Resource Management. The Permitting Authority's physical address is: 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida. The Permitting Authority's mailing address is: 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS #5505, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400. The Permitting Authority's phone number is 850-717-9000.

Project File: A complete project file is available for public inspection during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except legal holidays), at the address indicated above for the Permitting Authority. The complete project file includes the Draft Permit, the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination, the application and information submitted by the applicant (exclusive of confidential records under Section 403.111, F.S.). Interested persons may contact the Permitting Authority's project engineer for additional information at the address and phone number listed above. In addition, electronic copies of these documents are available on the following web site by entering the draft permit number: <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp>.

Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit: The Permitting Authority gives notice of its intent to issue an air construction permit to the applicant for the project described above. The applicant has provided reasonable assurance that operation of proposed equipment will not adversely impact air quality and that the project will comply with all applicable provisions of Chapters 62-4, 62-204, 62-210, 62-212, 62-296 and 62-297, F.A.C. The Permitting Authority will issue a Final Permit in accordance with the conditions of the proposed Draft Permit unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. or unless public comment received in accordance with this notice results in a different decision or a significant change of terms or conditions.

Comments: The Permitting Authority will accept written comments concerning the proposed Draft Permit for a period of 14 days from the date of publication of the Public Notice. Written comments must be received by the Permitting Authority by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on or before the end of this 14-day period to the above address and electronically to David Read at David.Read@FloridaDEP.gov. If written comments received result

Comments: The Permitting Authority will accept written comments concerning the proposed Draft Permit for a period of 14 days from the date of publication of

the Public Notice. Written comments must be received by the Permitting Authority by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on or before the end of this 14-day period to the above address and electronically to David Read at David.Read@FloridaDEP.gov. If written comments received result in a significant change to the Draft Permit, the Permitting Authority shall revise the Draft Permit and require, if applicable, another Public Notice. All comments filed will be made available for public inspection.

Petitions: A person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing in accordance with Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the Public Notice or receipt of a written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who asked the Permitting Authority for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of that notice, regardless of the date of publication. A petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above, at the time of filing. A petition for administrative hearing must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) with the Agency Clerk in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the deadline. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the approval of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Permitting Authority's action is based must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, any email address, telephone number and any facsimile number of the petitioner; the name, address any email address, telephone number, and any facsimile number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how each petitioner received notice of the agency action or proposed decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so state; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and, (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action. A petition that does not dispute the material facts upon which the Permitting Authority's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Permitting Authority's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this Public Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Permitting Authority on the application have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Extension of Time: Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation: Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

Tips from the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD)

**RECYCLE
✓RIGHT!**

How to Dispose of Styrofoam™

Styrofoam™ is **NOT** recyclable in your blue cart.

Clean white styrofoam™ can be put in the designated container for recycling at a Customer Convenience Center or Landfill.



ROLL With Us...RECYCLE!



For more information
visit indianriver.gov
or call 772-226-3212

Toxic waste disposal in pavement dangerous

Companies like Mosaic make profits by mining minerals, refining them and selling them.

But they *always* leave behind some form of toxic waste for the government (*taxpayers*) to pay to clean up.

So those profits are actually earned at the expense of the people.

As an engineer, I have seen countless examples of companies deciding that the best place to dispose of waste – glass, rubber, radioactive material – is in pavement. Every time that has been tried, it has failed.

Pavement is not a random mix of materials. There are careful calculations done to ensure the strength, integrity and proper mix of soils and asphalt to ensure that the pavement performs as desired.

Every time a foreign material is added, the pavement suffers and fails early.

In this case, we are placing radioactive waste in a sub-base that will certainly be exposed to water through pavement intrusion or lateral flows. That will leach radioactivity into our fresh water.

Also, if the sub-base loses integrity, through excavation or pavement failure, the radioactive material will become airborne and spread.

This idea is dangerous and should be shut down.

Let Mosaic use its own money to process the waste and transport it to proper landfills.

John J. LiMarzi, Sarasota

Baldwin County's \$25 million recycling facility opens – why it's a game changer

By Debbie Williams

Wkrg.com

March 20, 2025

SUMMERDALE, Ala. (WKRG) — A \$5 million piece of equipment sorts and processes cardboard, plastics, aluminum, tin, and steel.

“This is a recycling facility in its purest form,” said Terri Graham, CEO of the new Solid Waste Disposal Authority.

Housed in a new \$25 million, 60,000 square foot facility, Baldwin County is beginning a county-wide recycling service. The facility also includes an education center that explains the importance of recovering, reducing and reusing waste. “The work is just starting we still have a long way to go,” said Graham. “This is just our push to actually understand what we are trying to do.”

County efforts to recycle haven't always worked as intended, according to Baldwin County Commission Chairman Matt McKenzie, “It goes to the landfill right now. We were taking stuff to other places but not as much as we are now.”

The new facility can process 40,000 tons of recyclables a year which will then be sold. The cardboard and paper products go to International Paper, aluminum to Novelis in Bay Minette, and the plastics to K&W Plastics in Troy.

County-wide curbside pick-up will be offered in stages. Six sites around the county will be set up for hard-to-recycle materials like lithium batteries, glass and hazardous household waste.

“We are trying to get as much material, bring as much knowledge and education to the community as possible so that we can get people excited about recycling and doing the right thing,” said Graham.



Big Businesses in Colorado Could Start Paying Fees to Help Recycling

A looming state program will charge companies fees to help pay for recycling across the state, but will those costs be passed to consumers?

By Catie Cheshire
March 25, 2025
Westword.com

Colorado’s extended producer responsibility program will begin next year, requiring large businesses to fund the **recycling** or disposal of their packaging.

Large companies like **Molson Coors** won’t have to track down each and every cardboard box encircling a case of beer, or every can and bottle, but the company will pay a fee intended to strengthen recycling in the state by bolstering infrastructure and residential recycling in Colorado.

The intent is to incentivize companies to make more recyclable packaging, so higher fees will be levied for hard plastics while fees for paper, which is recycled more easily, will be lower.

Producer responsibility programs have existed for decades in Canada, and California, Maine, Minnesota, Maryland and Oregon also have programs or are in the process of rolling them out. However, some Colorado businesses have concerns related to the costs and legality of the program, and attempts to overturn the program could be in the works.

State lawmakers created the program in 2022, setting up a system where producers pay a third-party, nonprofit organization to manage funds generated by fees and oversee business participation; Circular Action Alliance (CAA) was eventually selected by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to administer the funds.

CAA submitted **a draft plan** in February after consulting an advisory board made of local government officials, Colorado recycling companies, the Colorado Retail Council and recycling advocates. The plan is under review by the state’s producer responsibility advisory board until early April 2025, with most elements of the plan expected to kick in April 2026.

The plan maps out the first five years of the producer responsibility program in Colorado, including preparations that will occur in 2025. Here’s what we know so far:

How the Producer Responsibility Program Would Work

According to CAA’s draft, the goal is to increase Colorado’s recycling rate from an estimated 25 percent to 41 percent by 2030, and to “improve processing of compostable covered materials, and ensure continuous improvement related to reuse and refill.”

Unlike other existing producer responsibility plans that require companies to calculate their exact amount of business to see if they are mandated to pay the fees, Colorado’s proposed plan has a flat line: Any company that does more than \$5.6 million in business total and sells products in Colorado must participate.

Dues will be recalibrated each year, taking into account the costs of materials and program management as well as

commodity revenues.

“The producer dues are based on the net recycling services costs for each covered material in the state and vary by the type of covered material and if it is readily recyclable,” the plan explains.

The materials covered by the program include paper, rigid plastics, metal and glass. Dues depend on the specific material but range from an estimated 2 cents per pound for paper to 90 cents per pound for rigid plastic.

The estimated budget needed for the program is \$215 to \$267 million in 2026, the first planned year of the program. By 2030, the number could rise to anywhere from \$300.7 to \$397.2 million.

Between \$121.7 million and \$160 million will be dedicated to residential recycling reimbursements in the first year of the program; up to \$197.3 million could go toward residential reimbursements by 2030. The first phase of implementation will focus on residential recycling and slowly build to include small businesses and small commercial properties, which won’t have to pay dues but could have their recycling costs reimbursed. A large part of the projected budget growth between 2026 is due to increasing funds for recycling expansion.

Around \$10 million of the annual budget is for operating and program management costs, including staffing.

Part of the budget is for a statewide education program, with a \$14 million projected budget for education and outreach in 2024. But by 2030, the projected education budget is \$20.5 million.

Each year, any leftover money from dues will go back into the fund for program improvement or to make dues lower the next year.

The CAA plan proposes eventually adding a concept called ecomodulation, which phases out materials that are hard to recycle or regularly contaminate compost, but that would be further down the line. The plan also considers adding jobs both in recycling and trash pickup and in industries that turn raw materials into new products to create a circular economy in Colorado.

Possible Benefits of the Program

Program funds will be given to local governments to reimburse recycling costs. In Denver, for example, the city recently **switched to charging for trash** while providing recycling and composting under the trash fee to every household smaller than eight dwelling units. Residents’ payments still don’t cover the entire program, however, with an estimated \$15.7 million gap that must be paid with money from the city’s general fund in 2025.

A **needs assessment** conducted as part of the producer responsibility plan proposal found Denver could save \$14.2 million annually by 2030 thanks to the program. Cities that contract out to third-party waste removal services or those where people choose their own waste pickup could also recover recycling costs as the program would cover expenses to set up a citywide program.

“Nothing about CAA or this legislation requires communities to run waste in a certain way,” says Rachel Zerowin, communications manager for CAA. “Communities will continue to operate their own waste programs in the way that works for them, and then CAA reimburses.”

Positive environmental impacts are also expected. According to Zerowin, the program is estimated to divert an additional 410,000 tons of paper packaging materials from the landfill and expand recycling access to 700,000 households in the state by 2035. That waste diversion could prevent 1.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, CAA adds.

“Once it’s in place, this program represents an entire shift in our state’s recycling systems, and it’s all going to drive less waste, more efficiency and reduced costs for the governments and the residents who are currently covering the recycling bills for the covered items,” Zerowin says.

GreenLatinos, an advocacy nonprofit that supported the bill in 2022 and has a seat on the advisory board, has traveled statewide for feedback, finding that many Coloradans in rural areas wish they could recycle but can’t, according to Ean Tafoya, vice president of state programs for the organization.

“Not only is the community asking for it in the sense that they want to be able to do the right thing with their trash, it’s really about making polluters pay,” Tafoya says. “These are the corporations who are generating the waste, and they’re pushing the social costs onto the community. ... These corporations are the ones putting a box in a bag, in a bag, in a box — and you’re left to hold the bag.”

The companies that will have to pay dues into the program aren’t thrilled, to say the least. The Colorado Competitive Council, which represents major employers in the state and is an affiliate of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce, says producers have been telling state officials about their major concerns in three areas: cost, effectiveness and legality.

Concerns, Challenges Facing Implementation

Colorado Competitive Council executive director Rachel Beck says that while the companies in the council support increasing recycling in the state, they don’t believe a producer responsibility program will work, citing the over 300 waste management districts in the state that all operate differently as an example.

“To try and put something in place for the entire state when the conditions are so different in different parts of our state, it’s a big challenge to tackle,” she argues. “One member suggested that the implementation needed to be a lot more pragmatic and that it might be a good idea to pause and maybe just focus on the front range, or even just Denver, as a start; learn some lessons from that, and then decide what to do about the rest of the state.”

According to Beck, the cost of the pro-

gram will likely be passed down to people at the grocery store.

“When we were talking about this in 2022, one of the examples that we were using was an estimate from the Colorado Brewers Guild that a single, medium-sized brewery will pay \$50,000 or more a year to the producer responsibility organization,” Beck says. “Large retailers and manufacturers will pay tens of millions of dollars. Those estimates were largely based on programs in Canada.”

Beck says **a study** on New York and Quebec found the cost of a basket of goods increased by 4 to 6 percent after producer responsibility programs were implemented. On the other hand, Zerowin cites **a report** from Oregon that found no correlation between rising grocery prices in Canada and producer responsibility programs. Additionally, Colorado’s law restricts producers from charging a point-of-sale fee to consumers to cover costs of the program.

“This bill was passed several years ago and corporations and industry are part of the conversations,” Tafoya says. “Some will say this is too hard to do or costs too much, but not having microplastics in our water is worth it.”

Regardless of any impact on consumer costs, producers believe the concept may be illegal. According to a legal analysis by law and lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, the bill could be out of compliance with state law for several reasons, mainly because CAA will be given “legislative and agency functions,” according to Brownstein.

Colorado law prohibits the state legislature from delegating its authority to private companies. Though CAA isn’t part of the government, the company will be administering revenue, including setting dues, for a government program, which lawyers argue should be done by the legislature or a state agency in house.

Colorado residents didn’t vote directly on the bill, either causing the lawyers to question where the regulation is **Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR)** compliant.

TABOR requires any increase in taxes in Colorado to be voted on by the population rather than passed by the legislature. The upcoming producer program is based on fees, not taxes, but the opposition’s legal analysis argues that program dues constitute a tax, and therefore the program should have been put up for a ballot measure.

“Our concerns are the same now as they were two or three years ago when we were contemplating this program,” Beck says. “That the costs were underestimated, they will be passed along to consumers, we won’t get a significant return on our investment and that the thing is going to end up in court, anyway, because it was structured inappropriately.”

Once the advisory board turns in its comments, CAA will have sixty days to respond before the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment approves or rejects the plan. The CDPHE currently expects to open the plan to public comment from early September through early December 2025.

City beach to offer free garbage pickup next month

Nathan Cobb
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK
March 24, 2025

PANAMA CITY BEACH – Beach residents should not miss out on an upcoming change to get rid of bulk trash. In a news release Monday, Panama City Beach officials said the city’s quarterly bulk waste pickup is slated for next month. Pickup dates vary based on geographic location within the city’s limits. Pickup for residents east of Nautilus Street will occur April 7. Pickup for residents west of Nautilus Street will occur April 14. The free program is not available for commercial businesses or residents who live in apartments condos or on private streets. “The city’s bulk waste pilot program is so important because it helps keep

our community looking great,” Shari Cooper, spokesperson for Panama City Beach, wrote in an email. “The city is proud to offer this valuable service to our residents on the specific days based on their geographic location.” According to the release, large items that are eligible for pickup include furniture, appliances, broken fencing and other construction materials. Residents must place the items near their curb no later than 7 a.m. on pickup days. Items should not block roads, sidewalks or fire hydrants. Regular household trash, as well as yard waste and hazardous materials, is not eligible for pickup.

See TRASH, Page 2A

Trash

Continued from Page 1A

“We encourage all eligible residents to participate in the program,” Cooper wrote. “By doing so, not only can they avoid paying fees at the landfill, but they gain a sense of pride knowing that they played a key part in keeping their neighborhood and PCB clean and safe.”



Panama City Beach this week launched its Bulk Garbage Pilot Program, which allows residents schedule a time to have bulk trash items picked up from their homes. PROVIDED BY PANAMA CITY BEACH

City of Melbourne Offering Free Recycling Decals

By City of Melbourne
Published March 25, 2025 at 10:01 PM
Tapinto.net

MELBOURNE, FL - The City of Melbourne Environmental Community Outreach (ECO) Division is offering free recycling guide decals to City of Melbourne residents and business owners.

The 10” x 10” decals are designed to go on recycling cart lids. They provide a quick and easy guide to show what can – and what cannot – be recycled through Waste Management’s curbside collection service.

To request a recycling decal, call the ECO Division at 321-608-5080 or email recycle@mlbfl.org. You may have the decal mailed to you, or you may pick up a decal at City Hall or the City of Melbourne Public Works and Utilities administration office.

ECO staff will also be placing decals on recycling carts during weekly recycling checks as part of the [Curb Contamination Program](#).

“If you’re confused about what to recycle in the City of Melbourne, you’re not alone,” said Megan Ruben, ECO Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator. “Recycling has been a challenge since single stream recycling began in 2010, but it is very important for reducing waste in landfills and keeping our city clean.”

Plastic bags, for example, should



Photo Credit: City of Melbourne

not be put in the carts because they get tangled up in the machinery at the recycling plant.

Aluminum and steel cans; plastic bottles and jugs; glass bottles; and paper, including cardboard, are all appropriate for curbside pickup.

For More Information:

For questions about recycling in the City of Melbourne, or to request a decal, contact the ECO Division at 321-608-5080 or recycle@mlbfl.org.

View Waste Management’s curbside recycling guide: wm.com/recycleright

Fort Myers recycling facility catches fire; smoke visible for miles



Reporter: Haley Zarcone
Writer: Johnathan Minehan
Published: March 25, 2025
Winknews.com

Thick smoke erupted from a Fort Myers recycling facility on Tuesday evening as flames tore through the building.

Nearly a dozen fire units responded to the scene on the 3700 block of Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard, where Mome Metals Recycling and Allied Recycling operates.

Chief Tracy McMillion of the Fort Myers Fire Department said, “The fire was actually called in around 6:22 p.m., and

as we were approaching the fire, many of our crews actually reported a large smoke column, probably about three or four times as big as it is now.”

When WINK News arrived, Fort Myers firefighters were actively battling the flames.

“We’ve got a really good knockdown of the fire, and we’re looking at having a much shorter night than what we would normally have,” said McMillion.

After sundown, it was still all hands on deck.

The facility manager, Mohammad Obiedat, discussed the possible cause

of the fire.

“What we think is could be a battery inside one of the cars, the one we buy. So it might be that’s the reason for starting the fire,” said Obiedat.

Obiedat expressed his gratitude for the fire department’s quick response.

“I want to just thank the fire department for the quick response. They are great people. They really saved my yard, and we really appreciate their efforts.”

The facility plans to install new sprinklers early Wednesday morning and expects to resume operations shortly.

Tips from the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD)

RECYCLE
✓RIGHT!

How to Dispose
of **BATTERIES**




LITHIUM BATTERIES should **NEVER** be placed in your recycling OR garbage carts!

Single-use alkaline batteries such as 9 volt, C, D, AA, and AAA **are safe** to dispose of with your regular trash.

Lithium batteries, such as rechargeable, cell phone and laptop batteries, and other hazardous household batteries are highly flammable and **should NOT be put in a cart**. Please bring them to one of the 5 Customer Convenience Centers or to the Main County Landfill.


Download the
CARter's Corner app
for the latest recycling information
or visit indianriver.gov.





County landfill extension nearly complete

By **MIKE ARNOLD**
Chronicle Reporter

The \$4 million expansion of the Citrus County Landfill is mostly complete.

The project began in July 2023 and was scheduled to be completed this month.

According to Special Projects Manager Veronica Kampschroer the 19.5-acre project is “substantially complete,” save a few exceptions.

“Citrus County Landfill Expansion phase 4A is substantially complete,” she told commissioners at their last regular meeting. “There are three exceptions: We have some minor electrical repairs, repaving of the main road and adjustments to stormwater flow.

“Due to the fact there will still be mobilized contractors on site for that project, we are consid-

ering that project to be 92 percent complete even though we have reached substantial completion.”

On Tuesday, commissioners are expected to approve a contingency allowance request to pay T&K Construction LLC \$191,519 for repaving the existing roadway.

The condition of the existing roadway at the landfill was impacted by the construction phase of the project and is in need of repaving.

The work involves milling 2.5 inches of the roadway and then repaving it. A total of 4,917 square feet of asphalt will be repaved.

Landfill accepts some items free of charge

Citrus County residents might not know this, but the landfill accepts many items free of charge.

Following items are free to dispose of: clean recyclables; automotive fluid recyclables (10-gallon limit per visit) to include used oil, oil filters and antifreeze; furniture; carpet and padding; mattresses and box springs (up to 1,000 pounds per year); computers; laptops; tablets; monitors; lead acid; rechargeable batteries; metal appliances (stoves, washers, etc.); scrap metal (chain link fence not included); and the first 10 gallons or 60 pounds of hazardous waste, paint and related materials (over that amount is 35 cents/pound)

The landfill offers a self-haul program for \$160 annually.

Residents can also pay by the visit. To dispose of bagged or canned residential solid waste, residents pay \$5 per visit for up to five 30-gallon bags or cans.

See **LANDFILL**, page A8

Citrus County Chronicle March 25, 2025



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

The \$4 million expansion of the Citrus County Landfill is nearly completed.

LANDFILL

From page A1

For bagged or canned residential yard waste, residents pay \$5 per visit of up to eight 30-gallon bags or cans.

Large stumps (excess of 4-foot diameter) or trees (longer than 10 feet) are not accepted. Christmas trees

are accepted, but only from Dec. 26 to Jan. 31.

All loads must be covered, or there will be an additional cost.

The landfill is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Hazardous waste can be dropped off Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. only.

The landfill is located at 230 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, Lecanto.

For more information about fees, or other information, call 352-527-7670, email landfillinfo@citrusbocc.gov or visit tinyurl.com/2hebdwxs.

Mike Arnold can be reached at mike.arnold@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2929, ext. 429.

Doing sanitation work in the city is no piece of cake

For the past five months, I have stepped up from my role as assistant city manager to serve as the interim city manager for the city of Punta Gorda. In this new role, I find immense value in experiencing first-hand what our team members do for the city.



MELISSA REICHERT
Interim City Manager

Last Friday, Mayor Debi Luxand I had the opportunity to spend the morning with our sanitation team. I was fortunate to be trained by Ricky Platt (crew chief) and Ed Downs Jr., and I learned a great deal from these hard-work-

ing individuals about the exceptional customer service they provide to our residents. Their work is physically demanding, requires meticulous attention to safety, and is performed in extreme weather conditions.

The day began early, before dawn, with a safety briefing on operating the tipper system, along with the provision of a safety vest and safety glasses. While Mr. Platt was driving, he explained how he used a system of mirrors and cameras to ensure it was safe to proceed to the next stop.

I joined Mr. Downs on the back of the sanitation truck after we turned off of Bal Harbor. The work was fast-paced, and I was immediately impressed by the care taken to empty each bin completely. I was determined to pull my own weight, but it quickly became clear that the new goal was simply not to slow the crew down.

As the sun came up and the day pro-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Interim Punta Gorda City Manager Melissa Reichert is flanked by Ricky Platt (crew chief, on her right) and Ed Downs Jr. (her left) after a day working the sanitation route.

gressed, it became evident how skilled the team is at navigating our narrow streets, especially with lawn mowing trailers and construction trailers in the mix. What also stood out was the exceptional customer service our sanitation team provides.

From waving to young children eagerly watching the sanitation workers to residents rushing out with one last bag of trash, I was impressed by the kindness and friendliness that our team members consistently show.

At one point, Mr. Downs asked me to share information with residents about items that cannot be placed in the trash. These include tires, brush, rocks, dirt, construction and demolition debris, household hazardous waste, flammable sub-

stances (such as paint, stains, varnishes, oil, and propane), medical waste, sewage or manure, yard waste, grass clippings, and radioactive materials.

Household hazardous waste — such as antifreeze, batteries, cleaners, polishers, flares, gasoline, kerosene, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, mercury, motor oil, used oil filters, and paint — can be taken to the Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility, located at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL.

Electronic device recycling services are also available. Residents can place discarded electronics curbside for collection and proper disposal. Accepted items include, but are not limited to, computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCRs, and DVD players. These will be collected on Fridays only by Waste Management, using a separate truck from the recycling collection.

If an item cannot be picked up on the same day, an exception tag will be placed on it. In these cases, a special pick-up request is required and can be made by calling 941-575-5050.

I am extremely grateful to Ricky and Ed for taking the time to show me the ropes. I was also thankful that my weekend work required the use of a computer rather than safety glasses. My muscles were certainly not used to stepping on and off a sanitation truck and holding on for dear life. I'm so proud that we have dedicated team members like Ricky and Ed on our staff.

For additional information, please contact Interim City Manager Melissa Reichert at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling 941-575-3302.

Charlotte Sun March 22, 2025

Iowa City urges safe battery disposal after five landfill fires

The Gazette
Mar. 24, 2025 11:40 am
Thegazette.com

In the first three months of this year, five fires have ignited in the Iowa City Landfill and have required emergency response to extinguish. Most, if not all, of these fires were started by batteries that were improperly disposed of in the trash.

Batteries and battery-containing devices should not go into the trash or regular recycling. Batteries that are incorrectly disposed of are a leading cause of landfill and recycling facility fires. The city is asking residents to properly dispose of batteries via battery drop-off locations located throughout Johnson County, including:

- Iowa City Fire Station #2 West (301 Emerald

- St., Iowa City)
- Ace Hardware East (1558 Mall Drive, Iowa City)
- Ace Hardware North (600 N Dodge St., Iowa City)
- City Hall Cashier Counter (410 E Washington St., Iowa City)
- North Liberty Community Center (520 W Cherry St., North Liberty)
- Coralville Recreation Center (1506 Eighth St., Coralville)

Hazardous Material Collection Facility at the Iowa City Landfill (3900 Hebl Ave. SW, Iowa City) **These drop-off locations** are available to residents in Johnson County, Kalona, and Riverside at no cost. Battery-containing devices such as electronics, toys, and power tools can be properly recycled via the City's electronics and appliances recycling programs. More information is available at www.icgov.org/recycle.

FAU RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHTED ON RECYCLIST PODCAST FOR WORK ON MYSTERIOUS “BLACK GOO” IN LANDFILLS

TUESDAY, MAR 25, 2025
FAU.EDU

Dr. Yalan Liu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, was recently featured on the Recyclist Podcast to discuss her research into one of the most perplexing emerging issues in landfill management: the mysterious “Black Goo.”

During the interview, Dr. Liu shared insights from her ongoing project, “Emerging Challenges in Leachate Management at Florida Landfills: Addressing the Mysterious Black Goo,” a collaboration between FAU and the University of Central Florida, funded by the Hinkley Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management. This research addresses the increasing occurrence of sticky, clog-forming material—referred to as Black Goo—in leachate and gas collection systems across Florida’s landfills.



On the podcast, Dr. Liu discussed her team’s efforts to conduct a statewide landfill survey, analyze chemical compositions of leachate and Black Goo samples, and develop practical guidance for operators facing this issue. She also spoke about the broader implications for solid waste infrastructure, regulatory preparedness, and the need for proactive, science-based solutions.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO: 25-03
OPENING TIME: 9:00am
OPENING DATE: March 21st, 2025

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District
Raymond Bossert, General Manager
5306 Sun 'n Lake Blvd.
Sebring, FL 33872
e-mail: rbossert@snldistrict.org
Phone Number: 863-382-2196

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER

YOU ARE INVITED TO PROPOSE ON THE FOLLOWING:

Sun 'n Lake of Sebring Improvement District

Waste Collection For The District

See Attached Project Documents

The complete set of proposal documents is available on the District website at www.snldistrict.org or call 863-382-2196

Proposals must be received in the District Office before:
Time: 2:00pm
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025

State of Florida
Tax Exemption Number:
85-8012528797C- 8

Signed: Raymond "Boz" Bossert,
General Manager
Date: March 14, 2025
March 25; April 1, 2025

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

RFQ NO.: 25-601
The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County ("Authority") requests interested Certified-Small Business Enterprises to submit STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQs) for the purpose of selecting a pool of qualified and licensed firms to provide General Engineering Services for the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County ("AUTHORITY"). The evaluation process shall be in accordance with Florida Statute 287.055, Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act. Services to be provided include a wide range of engineering and construction management services as required for the development of Authority projects. A Non-Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE will be held on APRIL 3, 2025, AT 2:45 PM, local time, open to all interested parties. ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. The AUTHORITY only accepts bids and proposals electronically through Bonfire. Interested parties may obtain the Bid documents by downloading from the AUTHORITY's website at www.swa.org or through Bonfire at <https://swa.bonfirehub.com/>. Bids must be received by the AUTHORITY no later than 2:00 pm EST time, APRIL 23, 2025, through Bonfire. If you are new to Bonfire, please register your company for access to this and other solicitation opportunities. Please be advised that paper and emailed bid submittals will not be accepted. Bids must be submitted through Bonfire at the time and date specified. For any additional information, contact Patricia D. Armstrong, Purchasing Manager, via e-mail at: parmstrong@swa.org, March 22, 23, 24, 2025 11151502

E21S5-R0

ROAD & BRIDGE SWEEPING SERVICES to Clean & Remove Debris On Primary Roads Within the Lake City Operations Area in Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee & Union Co. (Letting: 02250416; Call Order: 008; Project #41021257267) (Est. \$150,000)

Due April 16, 2025 at 11 am

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 2, LAKE CITY - 386/758-3703
FAX: 386/758-3791 <https://cpp.fdot.gov/>

Q250185MWB Ferrous Metals Recycling
Invitation to Bid

Lee County Procurement Management will receive sealed proposals in the Office of the Procurement Management Director, 2115 Second Street 1st Floor, Fort Myers, FL 33901 prior to 2:30 pm on Monday, March 31, 2025 Lee County is requesting a percentage (per 100 pounds) for mixed types of primarily ferrous metals (including white goods) collected from our facilities and delivered to a metals recycling company. No pre-solicitation meeting is scheduled Solicitation forms and instructions may be secured from the website: www.leegov.com/procurement or by calling Procurement Management at (239) 533-8881.
11140223 March 21, 2025

BP 01D DUMPSTERS

Due March 31, 2025 at 2 pm

Above Bid Packages Pertain to Main Campus Floor Modernizations – East Tower Holtz OB Triage Renovation Project at Jackson Memorial Hospital

Contact: Skanska USA Building – Project Manager: Samantha Gonzalez – Samantha.gonzalez@skanska.com Senior Project Manager: Vincent Collins – vincent.collins@skanska.com Preconstruction Manager: Cynthia Phillips – cynthia.phillips@skanska.com

PROJECT INFORMATION RELEASED FOR JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM

ITB 26-46-MM Annual Office RE-CYCLING SERVICES.

Due April 2, 2025 at 2 pm Contact: Mandy Mullins - 352/384-3090 mmmulins@alachuacounty.us



850/248-8270

25-32 Disaster Recovery Consultant Services

Invitation To Bid Purchasing 541611

Summary

ELECTRONIC OR SEALED PROPOSALS for RFP NO: 25-32 Disaster Recovery Consultant Services will be received by the BOARD OF County COMMISSIONERS OF BAY County, FLORIDA at the Purchasing Department, 840 West 11th Street, Suite 2500, Panama City, Florida 32401 up until 2:00 PM (central time) Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

COLLIER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR

AIR EMISSION MONITORING SYSTEM

SOLICITATION NO.: 25-8333

LISA OINE, PROCUREMENT STRATEGIST
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
3295 TAMiami TRAIL EAST, BLDG C-2
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112
TELEPHONE: (239) 252-8935
Lisa.Oien@colliercountyfl.gov (Email)

SOLICITATION PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NUMBER:	25-8333
PROJECT TITLE:	Air Emission Monitoring System
DUE DATE:	April 14, 2025, at 3:00 PM EST
PLACE OF RFP OPENING:	PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION 3295 TAMiami TRAIL EAST, BLDG C-2 NAPLES, FL 34112

All proposals shall be submitted online via the Collier County Procurement Services Division Online Bidding System:
<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/collier-county-fl>

The selected Contractor will design, install, and maintain a turnkey air emissions monitoring system that includes both monitoring devices and a robust data management software. This system must be capable of tracking real-time emissions data, including compounds that may emit odors, at Collier County's solid waste management facilities.

1. System Design, Equipment Specifications and Data Transmission

- System Design:** The Contractor will design a monitoring layout based on emission sources, air circulation patterns, wind direction and speed, and barometric pressure, ensuring that system monitoring devices are strategically positioned to detect odor-emitting emissions before they cross property boundaries. System devices must be portable and capable of being repositioned as needed to address emerging or reported emission sources effectively.
- Equipment Specifications:** The equipment provided for the system must include a Weather Monitoring Station(s) and portable, durable monitoring devices capable of detecting and differentiating between various compounds, including but not limited to:
 - Hydrogen Sulfide
 - Anhydrous Ammonia
 - Carbon Dioxide
 - Methane
 - Nitric Oxide
 - Nitrogen Dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Sulfur Dioxide
 - Carbon Monoxide
 - Volatile Organic Compounds
- Data Transmission:** System devices must securely transmit data in real time via cellular or network to a cloud-based systems to ensure uninterrupted monitoring.

2. Data Management Software Specifications:

- Real-Time Data Access:** The software must provide secure online access for authorized County staff, featuring both graphical and tabular displays.
- Data Export and Storage:** It should support data downloads in standard file formats (.csv, .txt, .xlsx) and store all collected data for historical records.
- Data Quality and Anomaly Alerts:** The system must conduct automated daily quality checks and issue real-time notifications to designated personnel in case of any anomalies.
- Odor Source Identification:** The software should leverage odor monitoring data and meteorological inputs to pinpoint odor sources. This capability may include air dispersion modeling or similar methods, with results displayed visually on a map that includes overlays for roads and topography, providing real-time updates on odor presence and intensity.
- Data Ownership and Public Access:** All collected data will be owned by Collier County, with provisions to ensure data availability to the public as required under Florida’s Sunshine State Laws.

3. System Maintenance and Support

- Equipment Maintenance:** The Contractor will provide ongoing maintenance for all equipment to ensure continuous functionality and accuracy.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") – PART I

Due April 15, 2025 at 2:30pm
Questions due by April 7, 2025
Email Melissa Neel at mneel@scgov.net
Phone: 941-702-2121

RFP #: 252707MN RFP TITLE: SOLID WASTE CONSULTING SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE

Sarasota County ("County"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida, will receive proposals on the date indicated in OpenGov Procurement (OpenGov), the County's electronic procurement portal, for the purpose of selecting a qualified Proposer to provide solid waste consulting services. Proposers are required to comply with Part II, Scope of Services.

OpenGov is located at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/scgov>

2.0 PROPOSER

- 2.1 For the purpose of this RFP, the term "Proposer" is defined as the legal entity submitting a proposal.
- 2.2 Proposers intending to submit a bid as a joint venture with another company must provide documentation attesting to the formation of that joint venture with their submittal. For purposes of this solicitation, all vendors who make up the joint venture will be considered together as the Proposer.

3.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 3.1 The Proposer must demonstrate experience providing solid waste consulting services within the last five (5) years.
- 3.2 Preferred Qualifications
 - 3.2.1. At least one of the Proposer's key personnel listed in the proposal is certified in Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and is certified in one or more of the following SWANA technical disciplines:
 - 1. Leachate Recirculation and Bioreactor Landfills
 - 2. Composting Programs
 - 3. Construction & Demolition Management
 - 4. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Collection Facility Operations
 - 5. Integrated Solid Waste Systems Management
 - 6. Landfill Operations (Manager of Landfill Operations a.k.a. MOLO)
 - 7. Recycling Systems
 - 8. Solid Waste Collection Systems
 - 9. Transfer Stations
 - 10. Zero Waste Principles & Practices
 - 3.2.2. Proposer has provided similar consulting services on a minimum of two (2) commercial, industrial or government projects within the last five (5) years.

I. BACKGROUND

Sarasota County Solid Waste utilizes an integrated solid waste management system (System) to provide comprehensive solid waste services to the residents of Sarasota County. The integrated system includes the collection of materials in the unincorporated area of the county, special waste programs available to all citizens residing in the County, the operation and/or management of facilities that are utilized for the separation, processing, and diversion or disposal of materials and/or waste, and education outreach programming for the community. Sarasota County provides exceptional services in the system and protects the environment through monitoring, compliance, and engineering controls.

II. INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMPONENTS

A. COLLECTION OF MATERIALS

- 1. Weekly collection of residential garbage, recycling, yard waste, and commercial garbage by the franchised hauler in the unincorporated areas of Sarasota County.
- 2. Curbside collection of additional items such as appliances, bulk materials, electronics, tires and used oil on an as needed basis for residents.

B. OPERATION/MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES

1. Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC) accepts waste from the franchised haulers, the cities of North Port, Sarasota and Venice, local businesses and Sarasota County residents.
2. Three chemical collection centers (north, central and south county) accept hazardous waste.
3. Jackson Road Transfer Station provides a staging and transfer location for recyclable materials collected in south county.
4. A contracted single stream recyclables processing facility processes collected materials from the franchised hauler, processes, and markets recovered materials.

C. EDUCATION OUTREACH

1. Keep Sarasota County Beautiful litter abatement programs (cleanup events, Adopt-a-Road).
2. Integrated recycling education campaigns.
3. Green Business Partnership.

D. SPECIAL WASTE PROGRAMS

1. Three chemical collection centers accept household hazardous waste from all Sarasota County residents.
2. Project Green Sweep accepts commercially generated hazardous waste and is available to qualifying businesses throughout Sarasota County.
3. Mobile collection events provide residents with the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste. Events are held in local communities and managed by Sarasota County hazardous waste staff.

III. CONSULTANT SERVICES

Services to be provided by Consultant include, but are not limited to:

- A. Providing industry research and guidance on solid waste programs, technologies, and processes.
- B. Estimating costs.
- C. Conducting waste stream analysis and composition studies.
- D. Conducting feasibility studies.
- E. Conducting generation studies.
- F. Conducting collection efficiency studies.
- G. Conducting studies and investigations related to recycling and collection issues.
- H. Assisting with the procurement process including preparation of scope, evaluation of submittals and recommendations, and negotiation of contracts.
- I. Preparing and negotiating of agreements.
- J. Serving as technical advisors for solicitation review committees.
- K. Researching innovative processes and techniques.
- L. Preparing and conducting educational outreach programs.
- M. Drafting, revising, or consulting on solid waste ordinances, master plans, and/or comprehensive plans.
- N. Piloting/implementing alternative collection approaches.
- O. Providing technical services related to existing and new facilities and structures.
- P. Furnishing facility site assistance such as zoning, special exception, or planning.
- Q. Conducting rate studies and cost analysis.
- R. Analyzing collection area routing.
- S. Providing technical reviews for projects and plans.



RFP 2025010

Osborne Reef Restoration Waste Tire Abatement Services

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (the Department or DEP) hereby issues this Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract for Osborne Reef Restoration Waste Tire Abatement Services. The Solicitation will be administered through the Vendor Information Portal (VIP). Respondents interested in submitting a Response must comply with all of the terms and conditions described in this RFP.

1.1 Solicitation Objective

The Department intends to enter into a contract using the Attachment 1, Draft Contract, for Osborne Reef Restoration Waste Tire Abatement Services, hereby incorporated by reference. The Department intends to make a single award, however the Department reserves the right to award to one Respondent or multiple Respondents, or to make no award, as determined to be in the best interest of the State.

1.2 Background and Program Information

The Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Waste Management, is requesting removal of submerged waste tires from the tire field know as Osborne Tire Reef, as shown on the aerial maps, Exhibit J & K – Osborne Tire Reef Tires Plan View, of the attached Draft Contract. The Department’s Osborne Reef Restoration Project is part of ongoing abatement efforts to remove waste tires to help protect Florida’s vital coral reefs. See additional information at:

<https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/osborne-reef-waste-tire-removal-project>.

Event	Date	Time*	Location/Method
RFP Advertised	3/20/25	N/A	Vendor Information Portal
			Microsoft Teams Meeting Video option: Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 260 744 455 207
Optional Pre-Response Conference	4/7/25	1:00 PM	Microsoft Teams Meeting Audio option: Teleconference by calling +1 850-629-7330 Phone conference ID: 821 701 639# The number will be active 5 minutes before the meeting.
Questions Due	4/21/25	5:00 PM	Email to Procurement Officer
Answers Posted (Anticipated)	On or about: 4/28/25		Vendor Information Portal

Responses Due	5/12/25	3:00 PM	Department of Environmental Protection DEP Procurement Section, Room 215 3800 Commonwealth Blvd, MS93 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
Public Opening	5/13/2025	10:00 AM	Teleconference by calling +1 850-629-7330 Phone Conference ID: 622 502 622# The number will be active 5 minutes before the meeting.
References Contacted	Between: 5/20/255/30/25		Telephone and/or Email
Award Date (Anticipated)	On or about: 6/16/25		Vendor Information Portal

*All times are Eastern Time Zone.

Procurement Officer:
Sabina Flanagan
Purchasing Analyst,
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Procurement & Contracting Services - Procurement Section
3800 Commonwealth Blvd., MS #93
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Email: Sabina.Flanagan@FloridaDEP.gov

Annual Transporting and Disposal of Hazardous Waste

Invitation To Bid Solid Waste & Resource Recovery 96871

Project ID: ITB 26-193-MM

Due Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:00pm

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners are requesting the submission of Bids for ITB 26-193-MM Annual Transporting and Disposal of Hazardous Waste.

The following apply to this Invitation to Bid (ITB): Introduction, Instruction to Bidders, Terms and Conditions, Insurance, Scope of Services, Attachments, Sample Agreement, Submittals, and ITB Pricing Form. Specifications and supplementary documents are essential parts of the ITB and requirements occurring in one are as binding as though occurring in all.

Services, as defined herein, are to include all labor, materials, supplies and equipment in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications set forth within this solicitation.

Bidder must be qualified and fully capable of performing the required Services while adhering to all laws, specifications, procedures, protocols, applicable guidance, and industry best practices.

Alachua County Solid Waste Department is seeking bids for the Annual Transporting and Disposal of Hazardous Waste.

1.2. Background

Location: Alachua County is located in

North Central Florida. The County government seat is situated in Gainesville. Gainesville is located 70 miles southwest of Jacksonville, 129 miles southeast of Tallahassee, 140 miles northeast of Tampa - St. Petersburg and 109 miles northwest of Orlando. Alachua County has a population of over 250,000 and a regional airport. The County itself consists of a total area of 969 square miles.

Form of Government: Alachua County is governed by a Board of five (5) elected County Commissioners and operates under the established County Manager Charter form of government. In addition to the five County Commissioners, there are five elected Constitutional Officers: Supervisor of Elections, Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, Tax Collector, and the Property Appraiser. The Alachua County Attorney also reports to the Board.

1.3. Contact Information

Mandy Mullins

Procurement Agent I

Email: mmmullins@alachuacounty.us

Phone: (352) 384-3090

Department:

Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

1.4. Timeline

Question Submission Deadline: April 20, 2025, 12:00am

Solicitation Submission Deadline: April 30, 2025, 2:00pm

The scheduled solicitation opening will occur via Teams Meeting; the information

to join is provided below. Attendance (live viewing) of the bid opening is not required.

Join Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTQyYzk5YzMtZDc4ZS00N2IxLTljMWUtMjAwNTQwN2NjNTNi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2290fc851d-766d-4d7b-a09c-bfbf1d2dac94%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c82ab8e7-6ee1-4cd5-9191-4aa322a1828f%22%7d

Meeting ID: 259 625 692 241

Passcode: yX9G3Q

Or call in (audio only)

+1 469-998-7938,,366862554# United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 366 862 554#

If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to participate, please contact the Alachua County ADA Coordinator at ADA@alachuacounty.us or Equal Opportunity Office at 352-374-5275 at least 7 business days prior to the event. If you are unable to notify the Office prior to the event, please inform an Alachua County employee that you need assistance. TDD/TTY users, please call 711 (Florida Relay Service)

**TOWN OF DAVIE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# RS-25-15 DISASTER/DEBRIS
MONITORING SERVICES AND
FINANCIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE**

Dear Potential Proposer:

The Town of Davie, Florida invites qualified proposers to submit responses in accordance with the requirements stated herein no later than 2:00 pm on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, for RFP# RS-25-15 Disaster/Debris Monitoring Services and Financial Recovery Assistance. Interested firms may secure the solicitation package and all other pertinent information by visiting <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/davie-fl>.

Pursuant to Town Code Section No. 2-320, a Cone of Silence is hereby imposed on this solicitation. The cone shall be in effect until such time of award by the Town Administrator or the Town Mayor and Council.

Questions regarding this solicitation shall be submitted in the project Q&A section no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Responses to those questions considered material to the solicitation will be made available in a formal addendum issued to this project. It is the responsibility of prospective proposers to ensure they are aware of all addenda issued relative to this solicitation.

The Town encourages participation from businesses as outlined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.321.

Proposers shall submit all proposal documents for this project electronically through the Town’s e-Procurement portal: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/davie-fl/projects/149432>. Late submissions shall not be accepted.

Proposal responses will be publicly opened and firm names read aloud at Temporary Town Hall Building “D”, located at 8800 SW 36th Street Davie, FL 33328, after the due date/time noted above. Members of the public may attend the RFP opening virtually by phone or online. Please see below for virtual meeting information:

Meeting link:

<https://daviepurchasing.webex.com/daviepurchasing/j.php?MTID=mee22c2e92144ec2289a18cceb0f7d33e> / Phone: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll/ Access Code: 2330 055 0905

The selection of the successful proposer(s) shall be at the Town’s discretion and shall be made in a prompt manner after the receipt and evaluation of all ITB responses. The Town of Davie reserves the right to reject any and all submissions, to waive any and all irregularities in any submission, and to make

awards in the best interest of the Town.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate should contact the Town Clerk at 954-797-1023 at least forty- eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to request such accommodation. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by using the following numbers: 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Brian K. O’Connor
Procurement Manager
Town of Davie

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 119.071, sealed bids, proposals or replies by an agency pursuant to a competitive solicitation are exempt from inspection until such time as the agency provides notice of an intended decision or until thirty (30) days after the opening of the bids, proposals, or final replies, whichever is earlier.

Pursuant to Florida Statute § 286.0105, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by this board, agency, committee, or council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings. For such purpose he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
3/20/2025 7785629