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Solid Waste Management in Florida 2001-2002

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Southern Waste Information Exchange
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List of Acronyms

BMP	Best Management Practices
C&D	Construction and Demolition
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRT	Cathode Ray Tube (found in TV's and Monitors)
CY	Calendar Year
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (same as FDEP)
DIY	Do-It-Yourselfer
DMS	The Florida Department of Management Services
DOH	The Florida Department of Health
DRC	Database of Recycled Products
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency (same as USEPA)
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FAC	Florida Administrative Code
FCN	Florida Communities Network
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (same as DEP)
FLPPR	Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable
FY	Fiscal Year
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning
KAB	Keep America Beautiful
KABS	Keep America Beautiful Systems
KFB	Keep Florida Beautiful
LI ion	Lithium Ion
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology
MCD's	Mercury Containing Devices
MCL's	Mercury Containing Lamps
MRF	Materials Recovery Facilities
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MWC	Municipal Waste Combustors
NASPO	National Association of State Purchasing Officials
Ni-Cd	Nickel Cadmium (in reference to batteries)

NICE	Neighbors Involved in a Clean Environment
NiMH	Nickel-Metal Hydride
NRRL	New River Regional Landfill
P2	Pollution Prevention
PCW	Petroleum Contact Water
PRBA	Portable Rechargeable Battery Association
PRIDE	Prison Rehabilitation Industries & Diversified Enterprises
PSC	Public Service Commission
PTE	Passenger Tire Equivalents
PUOCC	Public Used Oil Collection Center
QA/QC	Quality Assurance & Quality Control
R&E	Recycling and Education
RAP	Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement
RBRC	The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation
RCRA	Resource Conservation & Recovery Act
RMPF	Recovered Materials Processing Facilities
SNAPS	State Negotiated Agreement Price Schedules
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SSLA	Small Sealed Lead-Acid (Rechargeable Batteries)
SWANA	Solid Waste Association of North America
SWIX	Southern Waste Information eXchange
SWMA	Solid Waste Management Act
SWMTF	Solid Waste Management Trust Fund
TPD	Tons per Day
TRC	Thermostat Recycling Corporation
UOF	Used Oil Filters
US REI	U.S. Recycling Economic Information
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency (same as EPA)
UWR	The Universal Waste Rule
VLA	Vehicular Lead Acid (battery)
WTE	Waste to Energy (incinerators)

Executive Summary

- Florida's population in 1999 was 15,322,040. In that year, 25M tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) was collected. Fifty-five percent of that MSW was generated from commercial establishments and 45 percent from the residential sector. Also that year, Florida's fifteen most populous counties generated 77 percent of the MSW collected. In 2000, the population of Florida was 15,982,378. Of the 19.7M tons of MSW collected that year, 53 percent was reportedly generated by the commercial sector and 47 percent from the residential sector. Due to changes in reporting requirements and a lack of reporting by several counties, the data on generation type for 2000 may not be totally accurate.
- Of the total MSW collected in 1990, approximately 16 percent (4M tons) was combusted into energy and gases, 27 percent (6.8M tons) was recycled, and 57 percent (14.1M tons) was disposed in landfills. In 2000, about 15 percent (3.8M tons) of the MSW was combusted into energy and gases, 27 percent (7.0M tons) was recycled, and 58 percent (14.9M tons) was disposed in landfills.
- There was an apparent dramatic drop in the statewide recycling rate from 38% (1997) to 28% (1998). However, DEP attributes most if not all of that drop to more accurate measuring methodology first employed in 1998 rather than to any real change in recycling activities throughout the state. In recent years, even before the use of the revised measuring methodology, the percentages of MSW recycled and combusted had flattened out while landfill disposal had begun to increase.
- The major components of the MSW stream in 1999 and 2000 were about 26 and 21 percent for paper, 20 and 23 for construction and demolition debris, and 16 and 14 percent for yard trash, respectively.
- Counties with population greater than 75,000, also referred to as large counties were required to meet a 30 percent waste reduction/recycling goal by the end of 1994. In 1999, 13 of the 35 large counties had met the goal. In 2000, the number of counties meeting the goal had dropped to 11. During this period, all counties were required to recover a majority of the newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, plastic bottles and steel cans from their waste stream. Both in 1999 and 2000, none of the counties met the goal for all five materials. For 1999, thirty-nine percent of the counties achieved the goal for one or more of the materials and seven percent for two or more of the materials. In 2000, thirty percent achieved the goal for one or more of the materials and sixteen percent for two or more of the materials.
- From SFY 1989-2001, local governments have received over \$375M in solid waste grants, including \$241M awarded to counties in the form of Recycling and Education Grants. Counties spent about \$17.38 of their own dollars for every \$1 provided by State grants in FY 2000.
- According to the most recent information available, Florida has 333 curbside recycling programs that collect over 21 different types of materials. Over 9.1 million Floridians in 3.6M homes had curbside recycling available to them in 2000. It is available to 75 percent of all single-family and 70 percent of all multi-family units
- A 1999 study estimated that over 32,000 people were employed in some recycling capacity in Florida, with 51 percent of those jobs in the private sector.
- Florida has 50 Materials Recovery Facilities, 161 Recovered Materials Processing Facilities, and 6 permitted composting facilities.

- Pollution Prevention (P2) is another key component of Florida's waste reduction program. Since its inception in 1988, Florida's P2 program has assisted more than 450 Florida businesses in eliminating or reducing the generation of hazardous waste and toxic releases to Florida's environment.
- Florida has the largest capacity to burn MSW of any state in the nation and is host to 13 Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities. In counties with these facilities, the average percentage of waste burned was 22 percent in 2000. Combined, Florida's WTE facilities have the capacity to generate over 500 megawatts of electricity daily.
- In 2000, Florida had 60 Class I landfills, no Class II landfill, 40 Class III landfills, 98 C&D debris disposal facilities, and 91 land clearing disposal facilities. Eighty-five percent of the Class I landfills in Florida are publicly-owned and operated. Twelve percent are publicly owned, but privately operated.
- Based on the most current information (1999), tipping fees at Class I landfills vary from county to county, ranging from \$23.00 per ton to \$92.00 per ton. The statewide average tipping fee per ton of MSW for Class I landfills is \$42.47.
- In 2000, approximately 168,000 tons of waste tires were collected, with 32 percent of them being recycled and 44 percent being burned as fuel.
- Each year, about 50,000 tons of biomedical waste are generated in Florida. In 1999-2000, 13 commercial biomedical waste treatment facilities were permitted in the state.
- The amount of mercury reaching Florida's MSW via household batteries and mercury-containing lamps and devices was estimated to be less than 5 ½ tons in 2000, down from an estimated 12 tons in 1995.
- Cathode Ray Tubes from television and computer monitors are estimated to be the second largest source of lead in Florida's MSW, exceeded only by the combined category of vehicular lead acid batteries and small sealed lead acid batteries.
- Public Used Oil Collection Centers accepted nearly 2.6M gallons of used oil in 1999, estimated to be about 34 percent of the used oil generated by Do-It-Yourselfers. In 1999, 99M gallons of used oil and oily wastes were collected. In that year, 22M used oil filters were collected (42 percent of the total estimated to be generated in Florida) and over 12,000 tons of steel were recovered.



Bob Graham speaks with the garbage collector in this historic photo
Photo: State Archvies