# Current State of Recycling in Florida <br> State of Florida 75\% Recycling Goal <br> Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting October 11, 2017 <br> Tampa, Florida 

## Florida's 2016 Solid Waste Stream

- 37,401,392 Tons Collected
- 10.2 pounds/person-day
- 7.1 pounds/person-day

US EPA
National Estimate 2014
4.44 pounds/person-day

- Recycling Rate $=55.8 \%$

US EPA<br>National Estimate 2014

34.6\%

## Florida Municipal Solid Waste Collected (2016)

(37.4 million tons)

ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/reports/Recycling/Reports/2016AnnualReport/MSW-Composition_2016.pdf


## 2016 Florida Solid Waste Disposition



Collected: 37,401,392 Tons Recycled: 16,396,396 Tons

Collected: 1.856 Tons/Person
Recycled: 0.814 Tons/Person

Traditional Recycling Rate: 44.7\%
Total Recycling Rate: 55.8\%

## Florida's Recycling Rates

- Total $\rightarrow$ Includes energy from MSW combustion and energy from landfill gas

- Traditional $\rightarrow$ Measured from recycling programs as well as materials used as landfill cover


Florida Historic Recycling Rates


## Florida Recycling Rates by Source

 (Estimated for 2015)

2016 Florida Recycling Rate by Component
$0 \% \quad 10 \% \quad 20 \% \quad 30 \% \quad 40 \% \quad 50 \% \quad 60 \% \quad 70 \% \quad 80 \%$


## Recycling Rates Across the US

| Location | Recycling <br> Rate | Comment |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| San Francisco, CA | $80 \%$ | Zero Waste Policies, ban on disposable plastic bas, <br> mandatory recycling and composting |
| Los Angeles, CA | $76 \%$ | Planning and implementation of programs to achieve <br> the 2025 zero waste to landfill goal |
| Portland, OR | $70 \%$ | Aggressive recycling and waste diversion program <br> that requires more labor which increases the cost <br> per ton of collecting MSW |
| San Antonio, TX | $29 \%$ | Pilot Program for organic waste that focuses on <br> composting |
| NYC, NY | $19 \%$ | Low rate due to inefficiencies related to the <br> performance of private companies |
| Atlanta, GA | $12.5 \%$ | New residential recycling programs, "Cartlanta <br> Program" |
| Chicago, IL | $9 \%$ | Lack of recycling interest and public participation |



## Challenges with Mass-Based Recycling Rates

## Accounting

- What counts?
- Alternative daily cover (ADC) at landfills
- WTE
- Landfill gas to energy
- Concrete and asphalt recycling

- Biosolids recycling
- Industrial waste recycling
- Creative Accounting
- How good are the numbers?
- How do you avoid cherry picking or double-counting?



## Issues with Mass-Based Recycling Rates

Accounting

- What counts?
- Alternative daily cover (ADC) at landfills
- WTE
- Landfill gas to energy
- Concrete and asphalt recycling
- Utility and industrial waste recycling
- Creative Accounting
- How good are the numbers?
- How do you avoid cherry picking or double-counting?
- Total or per capita?


## Substance

- Does not reflect source reduction (if you reduce the numerator, you also reduce the denominator)
- Treats all materials the same. We know materials have differing impacts with regard to environmental burdens, economics and landfill capacity consumption.


## Florida Solid Waste Generation in 2008 and 2015



## Per-Capita Florida Solid Waste Generation in 2008 and 2015



Florida's Per-Capita Waste Component Increase/Decrease $2008 \rightarrow 2015$

| Material | Per Capita Generation <br> (ton/person-year) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ |  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ |
| Aluminum Cans | 0.012 | 0.010 | Difference |
| C\&D Debris | 0.400 | 0.487 | -0.002 |
| Corrugated Paper | 0.137 | 0.128 | 0.087 |
| Ferrous Metals | 0.148 | 0.122 | -0.009 |
| Food | 0.092 | 0.100 | -0.026 |
| Glass | 0.042 | 0.043 | 0.008 |
| Newspaper | 0.077 | 0.051 | 0.001 |
| Non Ferrous Metal | 0.038 | 0.025 | -0.026 |
| Office Paper | 0.043 | 0.031 | -0.013 |
| Other Paper | 0.109 | 0.110 | -0.012 |
| Other Plastics | 0.061 | 0.073 | 0.001 |
| Plastic Bottles | 0.024 | 0.023 | 0.012 |
| Steel Cans | 0.017 | 0.015 | -0.001 |
| Textiles | 0.048 | 0.038 | -0.002 |
| Tires | 0.020 | 0.012 | -0.010 |
| White Goods | 0.029 | 0.018 | -0.008 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.149 | 0.156 | -0.011 |
| Process Fuel | 0.032 | 0.027 | 0.007 |
| Yard Trash | 0.170 | 0.177 | -0.005 |
| Total | 1.648 | 1.645 | 0.007 |

## Per-Capita Florida Solid Waste Generation in 2008, 2015 and 2016



## Getting to 75\%




## Construct More WTE Facilities




## Increase Recycling of Containers




## Increase Recycling of Containers and Paper Products




## Increase Recycling of Food Waste




## Increase Recycling of C\&D and Yard Trash





## Summary

- Florida current recycling rate $=56 \%$
- Most room for improvement $\rightarrow$ Residential waste
- Florida's per capita waste generation has increased slightly from 2008 to 2016
- Getting to $75 \%$ would require a multi-strategy approach
- Using a weight-based target has inherent limitations

