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Keep/Start Recycling

On my evening walks, I notice the trash and recycling containers curbside. My informal analysis is that only about 1/3 of households are utilizing the Wakulla County recycling program. It really is just a matter of having a collection point somewhere in the house and moving the items to the company-provided bins every few days. Remember to put the bin curbside the evening before your trash pick-up. What a great job for a younger member of the family to be responsible for doing so. Add motivation by explaining why this is such an important job to complete. It takes a family so little effort with such a great outcome as we implement the change to lessen our trash at landfills.

The truck that services us is a dual stream recycling. This means that there is one compartment on the truck for paper items, and one compartment for commingled items. Even if the truck is commingled, you do not need to separate your recycled items into two parts. That is done by the workers on location.

Let me remind you of what can be recycled and the process that is presently in place through the Wakulla County program.



- Most paper items are accepted including newspaper, junk mail, white paper, pizza boxes and cardboard. Because cardboard boxes are bulky, they need to be broken down and cut up into small squares (generally 18 inches).



- Commingled items include aluminum, tin, glass and #1-#7 plastic containers. Generally #1 – 7 plastic containers are considered those used in normal food packaging. Please rinse your commingled items before putting them in the recycling bin.
- Let's review what plastics can go in your bin that fit within the #1-#7 category which is found in a triangle on the bottom of the container.



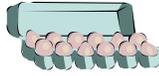
- Drink, milk, cooking oil, ketchup, syrup, shampoo, water and soap bottles;



- Frozen ready meal packages, food trays, cling film, margarine tubs, meal trays, and yogurt containers;



- Foam meat or fish trays (not to be confused with Styrofoam. Look at the bottom of the tray. If there is a number in a triangle, recycle it.);



- Hamburger boxes, egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys, melamine plastic plates and cups, caps, straws, and medicine bottles



Get your family involved. This can be a valuable learning experience for younger children. If you “grow” so much in your family recycling efforts, additional recycling bins are offered at no charge.