



Take advantage of curbside recycling in Wakulla County

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It is been a number of years since our county adopted curbside recycling.

Since then there have been thousands of pounds of materials that avoided the landfill due to many citizens adopting this practice. I live in a housing development which makes it easy for me to observe my neighbors' recycling habits. I am disappointed with many who choose not to recycle.

Our county commissioners made a difficult decision when residential curbside recycling was adopted and made it extremely easy for many to recycle. I encourage everyone to find ways to cut back on their trash output. Give everything a second look to consider if it is something that can be recycled instead of trashed.

I hoped to interview a representative from WastePro concerning some of the gray areas and questions that have arisen concerning recycling in the county. Our schedules just were not aligned so I hope to do so in the next month and offer you an update to this article next month.

For now, let's review some basics that you may have forgotten since we started curbside recycling in Wakulla County. What happens when the recycle bins leave your home? Their content is sent to a recovery facility to be sorted, cleaned and processed into materials that can be used in manufacturing. Recyclables are bought and sold just like raw materials would be, and prices go up and down depending on supply and demand in the United States and in the world.

It is important to note that more and more of today's products are being manufactured with recycled content. common household items that contain recycled materials include newspapers and paper towels, aluminum, plastic and glass soft drink containers, steel cans, and plastic laundry detergent bottles. Recycled materials are also used in new ways such as recovered glass in asphalt to pave roads or recovered plastic in carpeting and park benches.

You help close the recycling loop by buying new products made from recycled materials. There are thousands of products that contain recycled content. When you go shopping, look for products that can be easily recycled and products that contain recycled content.

Some of the surprising things that you can find that are made with recycled content include carpeting, cereal boxes, comic books, egg cartons, motor oil, nails, and even trash bags.

Go to our website www.wakulla.ifas.ufl.edu to review what can be recycled through our curbside residential program and watch for my column next month when some questions will be answered from WastePro's perspective on how we can make better use of this valuable county program.

Here are some tips to keep in mind for curbside recycling:

Accepted for Recycle:

- Paper, Envelopes, Books & Magazines
- Cardboard & Boxes
- Shredded Paper (contained)
- Aluminum Pans and Foil
- Glass Jars & Bottles
- Tin Cans
- Plastic Bottles (take lids off), 5 Gallon Buckets, Plant Containers

NOT Accepted for Recycle:

- Plastic Bags/Grocery Sacks
- Pizza Boxes
- Styrofoam
- Clothes
- Glass Dishes
- Food & Beverage Cartons
- Hazardous Waste (Chemicals, Paint)
- Electronics
- Garbage & Yard Debris
- Empty Aerosol Cans, Metal (Wire Hangers, Pots & Pans)