



"Working locally to effect change globally"

# THE RECYCLING PLANET

WINTER/SPRING 2007

A QUARTERLY REPORT ON MANAGING SOLID WASTE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

## The County signs new 7 year agreements with Franchise Collectors: Customer Service Improves

Effective as of October 1, 2006, Hillsborough County entered into new, 7 year agreements with its three existing Franchise Collectors for residential solid waste collection; Waste Management of Tampa, Republic Waste Services and Waste Services of Tampa, Inc.

By putting longer term agreements in place, Hillsborough County was able to secure more favorable rates compared to bidding contracts to new vendors. These new agreements ensure that Hillsborough County's solid waste customers will continue to receive some of the lowest solid waste collection and disposal rates in Florida.

These new agreements provide incentives for quality performance and monetary penalties for poor performance.

As a result of the new agreements, the Franchise Collectors experienced a 44% decrease in residential complaints during the first 14 weeks of this fiscal year compared with the same time period last year.

"These remarkable improvements are testimony to the County Commission's firm direction to develop tougher quality control measures, and staff's uncompromising negotiations with the franchise haulers in order to ensure the best service for our residents," said Wally Hill, Hillsborough County's Deputy County Administrator. ●

## COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY EXPANSION

The Hillsborough County Resource Recovery (waste-to-energy) Facility is the cornerstone of the County's Solid Waste System. This Facility, located at 350 Falkenburg Road, uses solid waste collected from commercial and residential properties as fuel to produce electricity as a by-product. The electricity generated runs the plant and the excess is currently sold to Tampa Electric Company.

The Resource Recovery Facility's capacity will be expanded from 1,200 tons per day to 1,800 tons per day. A "notice to proceed" was issued to Covanta Hillsborough, Inc. on December 29, 2006 for the capacity expansion construction project. The expansion is expected to be completed in late 2009. The existing Facility capacity has been processing 360,000 tons of solid waste per year. About 200,000 tons of processable solid waste has been diverted annually to the County's Southeast County Landfill. The expanded facility will be able to process this excess solid waste, thereby reducing the amount of waste that has to be sent to the landfill.



In addition to the expanded solid waste capacity, the Facility will increase its electric generating capability from 29 Megawatts to 45 Megawatts

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# ★ Volunteers needed for ★ Great American Cleanup

About two million volunteers in 12,000 communities are expected to join forces this spring as part of a nationwide community improvement effort during the Great American Cleanup.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful (KHCB) is coordinating the event locally and expects about 2,500 volunteers to participate during the countywide cleanup on April 21. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., and the cleanup will take place from 9 a.m. to noon.

Every year, thousands of animals are entangled in, or ingest debris, which is often fatal. Your efforts can help save many animals from this fate.

KHCB is recruiting volunteers and local sponsors for the cleanup, which will take place at several locations throughout the county.

Last year, more than 2,000 volunteers picked up an estimated 122,128 pounds of trash including bottles, cans and cigarette butts. KHCB hopes to have a greater turnout this year to make an even bigger impact. This is a great way to clean up your community and show your pride in it at the same time.

KHCB originated from a group of concerned residents in Hillsborough County, who saw that litter was becoming a problem based on urban growth, lack of community pride and limited knowledge of disposal options. The non-profit organization is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc. (KAB). The Great American Cleanup was created to communicate KAB's message on the need to effect a change in attitudes and behavior through hands-on involvement. ●

For more information on how to get involved with the Great American Cleanup, call (813) 960-5121 or e-mail [KHCB@yahoo.com](mailto:KHCB@yahoo.com).



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per day or enough electricity to provide power to 40,000 homes. The electricity produced will be sold to a utility company and the revenues will help to off-set the Facility's operating costs.

During the construction period, tours of the Facility will be reduced and/or restricted to specific days/hours. ●

The contact for the Resource Recovery Facility capacity expansion project is Thomas Smith. Tel.: (813)276-2909 E-Mail address: [smitht@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:smitht@hillsboroughcounty.org)

## Authorized Solid Waste Collectors

Hillsborough County has issued exclusive franchises for the collection of solid waste within the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Service Area pursuant to the authority granted by State law and County ordinances. It is unlawful for any person to collect and transport solid waste within the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Service Area for others unless they are a franchise collector (See Hillsborough County Ordinance 96-34 as amended and Chapter 83-415, Laws of Florida).

Hillsborough County has three (3) authorized franchise solid waste collectors: Republic Waste Services, Waste Management of Tampa, Inc. and Waste Services of Florida, Inc.

Any other haulers attempting to provide solid waste collection or hauling service including the removal of construction & demolition debris, **are not authorized.**

Should you require additional information, please contact the Solid Waste Management Department Customer Service Section at 272-5680 and press 0. ●





## New Hours for Yard Waste Facilities

Effective March 1, 2007, the County's three yard waste processing sites began closing at 5:00pm to customers that **do not have automatic dumping vehicles**. They will remain open until 5:30pm for customers with automatic dumping vehicles.

**The Yard Waste Processing Facility locations are:**

<b>Falkenburg Yard Waste Facility</b>	350 Falkenburg Road
<b>Northwest County Facility</b>	8001 W. Linebaugh Avenue
<b>South County Facility</b>	1300 US Hwy 41, North of Big Bend Road

## Senior Citizen Discount

If you are a homeowner in Hillsborough County and will reach the age of 65 before January 1, 2008, you may be eligible for the Senior Citizen Discount of the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Annual Disposal Assessment. This assessment (fee) is included on your ad valorem property tax bill, which is mailed to you each year on November 1. To be eligible for the 25% discount, you must own and live in your assessed residence and must be a customer of the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management System.



Once approved, the discount will automatically be applied annually to the solid waste disposal assessment on your ad valorem tax bill.

Please note: If you are currently receiving this discount, you do not have to apply again unless you move, sell your home, or in any way change the status of the ownership or occupancy of your home.

You must apply for the Senior Citizen Discount on or before August 1, 2007 to receive the discount for the next annual billing cycle in November, 2007.

For more information and/or an application, please contact the Solid Waste Management Department at 272-5680 •

## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING

### Blue Recycling Container



#### DO

put in newspapers (remove plastic bags), magazines, old phone books, junk mail (minus any plastic covers or inserts), office paper, brown paper shopping bags, and clean, unwaxed corrugated cardboard (cut to a maximum of 3 ft. squares)

#### DON'T

put in cereal boxes, pizza boxes, shoe boxes, waxed boxes, or paper drink carriers

### Green Recycling Container



#### DO

put in rinsed plastic bottles and jugs with the numbers 1 and 2 (inside triangle on bottom or side of bottle or jug), glass bottles and jars, (any color), and aluminum and steel food and beverage cans

**Please remove all caps and lids and place in garbage**

#### DON'T

put in plastic tubs or cups, aluminum pans or foil, hangers, household batteries or styrofoam

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND ELECTRONICS COLLECTIONS



Hillsborough County residents are encouraged to safely dispose of household chemicals and electronics by taking them to our collection events for proper disposal. These events are scheduled at one of three (3) locations on Saturdays from 8AM to 2PM and are for household residents only, not businesses or other organizations.

- **1st Saturday of the month at The Sheldon Road Facility (9805 Sheldon Rd.)**
- **2nd Saturday of the month at The South County Facility (Powell Rd., 1/4 mile North of Big Bend Rd.)**
- **3rd Saturday of the month at The Hillsborough Heights Facility (CR 579, 1/4 mile North of I-4.)**

Insecticides, paint, TVs, and computers are some of the items taken at these collections. For more information about the household chemicals and electronics collections, please visit our HomeSafeHome website at <http://www.hillboroughcounty.org/solidwaste/resources/publications> or call the Solid Waste Management Department at (813) 272-5680.

In the event of operational problems or for the safety of the public and our employees, the collections may be suspended.

### SOLID WASTE COLLECTION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Listed below are the Holidays on which solid waste (household garbage, recyclables and yard waste) collection service **WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**.

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**LABOR DAY**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

## GREENING BUSINESSES - ONE PROPERTY AT A TIME

'Getting to the Heart of Commercial Waste Reduction' through a process of 'Greening Property Managers.' This is the title and goal of an Innovative Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant awarded to Hillsborough County by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This project was motivated by the fact that a large portion of the County's solid waste comes from the Commercial/Institutional sector.

The program aims to educate property managers about more environmentally friendly options available to them in managing their facilities and to offer a different perspective on property management. This in turn can translate to a trend of more responsible business operations and practices that can slow down the increase in the volume of solid waste generated and contribute to a cleaner and 'greener' quality of life in our community.



## GREEN CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP:

The County will be hosting a free, 4-hour workshop on May 1, 2007, for managers of commercial property, real estate, janitorial companies and other related service personnel. Topics will include: Management of Electronic Waste; Waste Reduction and Recycling; an overview of the Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Program; Management of Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris; and Green Cleaning and Maintenance for Florida Buildings. Participants will receive Green Kits containing product samples, informational resources and promotional giveaways. ●

For more information, please contact the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department at (813) 272-5680.

**Please  
Put Litter In  
Its Place**



## **“CAN DO” Community Focus**

If your community is planning an event and would like to have the recycling and anti-litter staff including “CAN DO” attend, please contact the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department by email at [Solidwaste@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:Solidwaste@hillsboroughcounty.org), or by calling 272-5680.



## **RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION SERVICE REMINDER**

Collection service is provided between 6:00AM and 6:30PM for all garbage, yard waste and recycling collection.

Please have your materials out for collection by 6:00AM on your designated collection days. ●



## **Compost Happens, Rain Barrel, and Water-Wise Workshops:**

- April 28, 2007
- May 19, 2007
- June 16, 2007

**Compost Happens:  
8:30-9:30 AM**

**Rain Barrels:  
9:30-10:30 AM**

**Water-Wise:  
10:30-12PM**

Pre-registration required.  
Call (813) 744-5519, ext. 146

Hillsborough County Extension,  
5339 County Road 579,  
Seffner, FL 33584

<http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu>

## **COMPLAINTS/SUGGESTIONS?**

Contact the Solid Waste Management Department by e-mail at [Solidwaste@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:Solidwaste@hillsboroughcounty.org) or by calling 813-272-5680

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*This newsletter is sent to you by the Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department as part of its ongoing Recycling and Waste Reduction Public Education and Awareness Program.*

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