

Reduce, reuse and recycle...recycling challenged.

From ChracterTowns.org...Florida Trend has constructed an excellent article of the efficacy of recycling. One conclusion is to put the emphasis on reduce and reuse and audit the benefits of recycling. Another conclusion in the article is that, in many cases, the cost of recycling exceeds any revenue it produces; therefore, cities are abandoning the practice of curbside recycling.

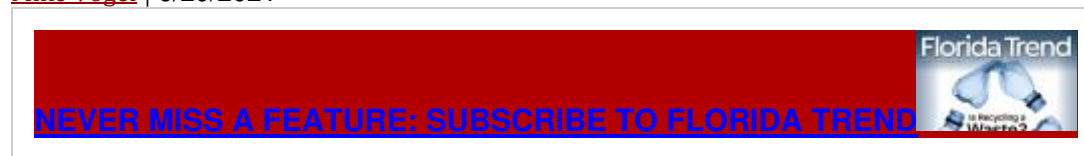
Given the financial argument and the need to keep working on the “reduce, reuse” angles, an important message needs to be recycled...an *environmental ethic* must include a thoughtful approach not driven exclusively by short-term financial needs...a bigger idea needs to prevail. A sustainable approach requires today’s action to meet short-term and long-term needs.

From... **Florida Trend** FLORIDA'S BUSINESS AUTHORITY

RECYCLING

Is recycling in Florida a waste?

Mike Vogel | 6/29/2021



Disillusioned cities are dropping curbside recycling.

Two years ago, the Central Florida city of Deltona found that its curbside recycling program cost too much and was generating too few environmental benefits. The city paid \$80 per ton to process waste paper that sold for \$5 a ton, for example. The market for recyclables was so slow that material stacked up, deteriorated beyond use and wound up in a landfill anyway.

City leaders began considering an idea they knew would be heretical to generations raised on the virtue of recycling: The 90,000 citizens of Deltona might do better by just throwing their recyclables in the garbage.

Ultimately, like four other Florida cities wrestling with the same pressures, Deltona eliminated curbside recycling.

This story also features expert opinions, business briefs and people in the news: **Mayor Heidi Herzberg; Eunomia; Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine; Ken Roberts; WorldCity; Dawn McCormick; Zachary Kirstein; 4G Recycling; Marshall Staiman; Jennifer Jones; Florida Gulf Coast University's Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education; Bill Brinkley; Chad Grecsek; Mike Carroll; Marshall Staiman**

Read more at: <https://www.floridatrend.com/article/31641/is-recycling-in-florida-a-waste>

Tuesday's Daily Pulse

What you need to know about Florida today

| 7/13/2021

Florida Trend Exclusive

Is recycling in Florida a waste?

Florida cities, like cities everywhere in the U.S. in recent years, are discovering that hard realities underlie recycling's virtuous veneer. Each year, Floridians generate 388 pounds of packaging material waste per capita. Packaging materials include plastic bottles and jugs, metal cans, glass containers and cardboard. Some 55% - 215 pounds - of recycling materials go to landfills or incinerators; Only around 45% - 173 pounds - gets sent off to be turned into new products. [Source: **Florida Trend**]

The message from state and federal agencies is still important.



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Waste Reduction Section is responsible for promoting and monitoring statewide recycling and waste reduction programs as well as the recycling and proper management of household hazardous waste, medications, mercury lamps (fluorescent) and devices (thermostats), batteries and scrap electronics. Grants and technical assistance are also provided to local governments for the implementation of solid waste management programs. Local household hazardous waste collection center grants are also administered by this section.

LINK: <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Recycling Basics

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling can benefit your community and the environment.

On this page:

[Benefits of Recycling](#)

[Steps to Recycling Materials](#)

[Recycling Creates Jobs](#)

Benefits of Recycling

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy
- Supports American manufacturing and conserves valuable resources
- Helps create jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States

LINK: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics#Benefits>