



Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

The Alachua County Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department provides a variety of solid waste management services, including receiving, collecting, and transporting solid waste. They also process and market recyclable materials and promote various methods of waste reduction. The goal of the Department is to transition to a resource recovery focused organization rather than a disposal operation. The Department also provides disaster debris management in the event of a natural or man-made disaster in Alachua County.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Alachua County Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department is to provide clean, efficient, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound management of solid waste resources in Alachua County.

VISION STATEMENT

Focus on transitioning the current disposal and transfer system to a resource recovery based system to maximize the efficient and cost effective use of our resources. With a Department focus to "Strive for 75% Recycling", the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department will identify, develop, and seek to implement and utilize new and existing system technologies while developing new public/private partnerships and maximizing current ones, to accomplish this goal.

The Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department will:

- Be a benchmark leader in efficient, cost effective, and integrated resource recovery
- Use the latest, viable, and cost-effective technology in the industry
- Be recognized locally and nationally as a model for programs and customer service
- Be networked with other providers of resource recovery

Alachua County is ranked #13 in Traditional Recycling for the State of Florida by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

For 2018, staff will continue analyzing our solid waste system to develop a pro forma to evaluate technologies applicable to our industry to recommend to our Board of County Commissioners methodologies for increased resource recovery

Services Provided by the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department

Within the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department are the following programs & services:

LEVEDA BROWN ENVIRONMENTAL PARK AND TRANSFER STATION (LBEP)



5115 N.E. 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32609

PHONE: (352) 334 – 0172

The Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station (LBEP) officially opened in January 1999 & is the hub of the solid waste management system in Alachua County. This facility is responsible for the safe and efficient management of all municipal solid waste generated within Alachua County. The facility also hosts on site, the Alachua County Environmental Protection Hazardous Waste Facility and the Alachua County Materials Recovery Facility. Waste collected through the County and brought to the facility is screened and then loaded into long haul trailers to be disposed of at the New River Landfill which is located 35 miles North in Raiford, Union County. Alachua County maintains an Interlocal Agreement for disposal at the New River Solid Waste Association through 2018. Approximately 600-750 tons per day (roughly 181,000 tons per year) of household & commercial waste, generated in Alachua County, is hauled to the New River Landfill.

Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station tours are offered for **FREE** through the Office of Waste Alternatives. School, community groups, and citizens are invited to participate.

The Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station provide the following services:

- Operates a solid waste Transfer Station in accordance with Federal, State, and Local regulations.
- Screens waste for prohibited items prior to transporting the waste to the New River Regional Landfill for disposal.
- Recycles vegetative wood waste, pallets, waste tires, scrap metal, clothing, and appliances.
 - Approximately 850 tons of tires are collected and hauled off site to be recycled each year.
 - Recycled tires are turned into rubber mulch and asphalt additives.



- Contracts for wood waste to be ground into mulch, and then the mulch is given away **FREE** to Alachua County citizens.



- More than 1,000 tons of tree debris are chipped into mulch and given free to Alachua County residents each year.
- Alachua County citizens are allowed as much mulch as is available at the time of their request on a first-come first-serve basis. *****Citizens must load their own mulch*****
 - Phone: (352) 334 – 0172
- Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) does offer delivery of recycled wood chips.
 - Visit GRU's Wood Chip Recycling Program for more information.



- Maintains 25 kilowatt Solar Array and feed-in-tariff
 - The solar array at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park became operational on March 3, 2009.
 - This solar array was the 1st array to be part of GRU's Feed-in Tariff program.
 - Expected energy output of the array is 150 kilowatts per day.
 - This represents 15% of the total energy usage of the Transfer Station.



- Environmentally sound disposal sites for residents and businesses to drop off solid waste, recycling, and Household Hazardous Waste.
 - Address: 5115 N.E. 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32609
2 miles north of N.E. 39th Avenue, on the East side of N.E. Waldo Rd (State Road 24)
 - Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Phone: (352) 334 – 0172

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Prevents Household Hazardous Waste from being disposed of in an unsafe manner.
- Provides Household Hazardous Waste management through the Household Hazardous Waste Center operated by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD).
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, under the operation of the Alachua County EPD, opened at the end of 1999.
 - Since May, 2009, EPD has operated a new 11 kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System on the roof of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HWCC).
 - A 2nd Solar PV system was added to Alachua County's renewable power generation inventory.
 - The system generates, on average, 1415 kWh per month of electricity from 54 panels.



- Poisons, flammable liquids, corrosives, used motor oil and filters, brake fluid, transmission fluid, automotive batteries, antifreeze, stale gas, paints and other surface coatings, aerosol containers, dry cell batteries, fluorescent lamps, end of life electronics (E-Scrap or E-Waste), un-repairable or obsolete TV's, computers, computer monitors, stereo equipment, and VCR's are accepted.



- Address: 5125 N.E. 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32609
2 miles north of N.E. 39th Avenue, on the East side of N.E. Waldo Rd (State Road 24)
- Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday 8:00 a.m. – noon
- Phone: (352) 334 – 0440

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

Alachua County began operating the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in January, 2015.



- The MRF is a 22,000 square feet recycling facility for the community.
- Alachua County recycles 54% of its waste!
 - Alachua County has one of the highest recycling rates in the entire State of Florida!
- The facility cost \$1.1 million to construct and houses equipment for sorting the materials from the Big Blue and Big Orange recycling bins, the Rural Collection Centers, Bradford County, Gilchrist County, High Springs, Levy County, and Commercial Recycling.

- **Blue Bin**



- Plastic Bottles & Jars (*yogurt cups & butter tubs*)
- Metal Cans, including aerosol cans (***Empty first please!***)
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Beverage cartons

- **Orange Bin**



- Brown Paper Bags and Newspapers
 - Magazines, Catalogs, Telephone Books
 - Corrugated Cardboard & Pasteboard (*NO larger than 3X3*)
 - Office Paper and Junk Mail
 - Paperback books, workbooks, and soft-back textbooks (*New item*)
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- Address: 5121 N.E. 63rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32609
2 miles north of N.E. 39th Avenue, on the East side of N.E. Waldo Rd (State Road 24)
 - Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Phone: (352) 548 – 1341

ENGINEERING AND COMPLIANCE

The County Solid Waste Engineer and the Professional Geologist provides oversight and technical expertise on solid waste management activities, programs, and processes. The Engineer is responsible for capital improvement projects in the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department and ensures that all Solid Waste Facilities and Operations comply with all State and Federal regulations for Solid Waste Management facilities and operations.



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide innovative solutions to challenges facing the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department and to ensure that the Department's facilities operate in compliance with Federal, State, and Local rules and regulations.

The Office of Solid Waste Engineer provides the following services:

- Provides permit compliance at the County-operated waste management facilities.
- Annually updates long-term solid waste management planning options to reflect changes in technology regulations & economics.
- Manages current & future capital projects and contracts.
- Manages all permitting for all solid waste facilities.
- Provides cost effective compliance monitoring at five (5) closed landfills in accordance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection permits.
 - Annual sampling of gas probes.
 - Oversee remediation of contaminated areas when necessary.
 - Oversee routine sampling of monitoring wells and stormwater outfalls for contaminants & water quality.
- Provides management of the closure/post closure fund for the Alachua County Southwest Landfill in accordance with Florida DEP long-term care regulations in a manner that will maintain the escrow account balance for 30 years post-closure.
- Utilize available technology to accelerate stabilization of the waste at the County's closed Southwest Landfill.
- Operates a reverse osmosis leachate treatment facility at the Southwest Landfill.



WASTE COLLECTION

Waste Collection staff manages the curbside collection contract, provides enforcement for compliance to the curbside contract, and manages and/or assists other departments with non-ad valorem assessments. Citizens living within the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) are part of a universal curbside collection program. These residents have volume based curbside collection for solid waste as well as curbside collection of recycling and yard waste. The residential collection contract is bid jointly with the City of Gainesville. This contract directs the flow of the residential waste stream to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park & Transfer Station.



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide courteous and effective waste collection services to citizens of Alachua County, and to help those citizens manage and reduce their household waste.

The Office of Waste Collection provides the following services:

- Preparation of Non-ad Valorem Assessments
 - Rural Collection Centers
 - Curbside Collection
 - Solid Waste Management
 - Special Paving Projects
 - Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement
- Oversight and management of the Curbside Solid Waste Collection Contract
 - Customer Service
 - Codes enforcement
 - Liquidated Damages
 - Billing
- Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Phone: (352) 338 – 3233
- Email: wastecollection@alachuacounty.us

RURAL COLLECTION CENTERS

Residents residing outside of the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) may either subscribe for garbage and recycling collection through the contracted hauler or use one of the five (5) rural recycling and solid waste collection centers. All residents of the County may use the collection centers. Non-County residents may also use the centers but they must purchase an annual non-resident permit. Residents may bring up to a level pick-up truck load (approximately 2 cubic yards) of materials (garbage, recyclables, yard waste, and/or hazardous waste) to the collection centers for disposal.

Common materials accepted at the Rural Collection Centers are:

- Residential garbage
- Commingled recyclables
- Paper recycling
- Yard waste
- Furniture
- Appliances (except those containing refrigerants)
- Scrap metal
- Hazardous waste (minimal amounts – for large amounts, please go to HHW center)
- Electronics
- Gently used items for reuse in the designated reuse areas at each Center



The Rural Collection Centers do not accept refrigerators, air conditioners, tools or items containing petroleum fuels, or commercial waste of any kind.

- Locations:
 - **Alachua-High Springs**
16929 N.W. U.S. Hwy 441, High Springs, Florida 32643
Phone: (386) 454 – 2563
 - **Archer**
19401 S.W. Archer Road, Archer, Florida 32618
Phone: (352) 495 – 3257
 - **Fairbanks**
9920 N.E. Waldo Road, Gainesville, Florida 32609
Phone: (352) 334 – 3873
 - **North Central Rural**
10714 N State Road 121, Gainesville, Florida 32653
Phone: (352) 334 – 3875
 - **Phifer**
11700 S.E. Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, Florida 32640
Phone: (352) 334 – 3874



- Phone: (352) 334-0172
- Hours: Monday – Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday – Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED: Wednesdays & Thursdays



WASTE ALTERNATIVES

Waste Alternatives manages a variety of programs for the division related to source reduction and recycling. The Office of Waste Alternatives focuses on public education and public relations for the division including a school board approved curriculum for pre-K-12, a multi-media education and promotions campaign, tours of waste management facilities, and general education workshops and events.

Waste Alternatives manages mandatory commercial recycling. Mandatory commercial recycling regulated through the Alachua County Code of Ordinances requires all businesses, including commercially collected residential properties (multi-family housing), to offer and maintain recycling programs. Additionally, Waste Alternatives manages special events recycling, the County office recycling program, Tools for Schools, and the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department websites and social media outreach.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality waste alternatives public education and services to our community in Alachua County.

The Office of Waste Alternatives provides the following services:

- Monitors and reports to Florida Department of Environmental Protection on Solid Waste and Recycling in Alachua County, as required by Chapter 403, Florida Statutes & Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-770.
- Educates the community on ways to increase recycling, reduce disposal costs, and save landfill space, as required by the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan.
 - Waste Alternatives offers complimentary waste survey to help businesses learn how to produce less waste and possibly save money on their solid waste disposal costs.
- Instills in the next generation, through educational programs, a strong ethic for preserving natural resources through recycling, waste reduction, and reuse.
- Manages a web-based Alachua Exchange program, at www.alachuaexchange.com, which facilitates the reuse of surplus materials and products that would otherwise be thrown away.
 - Donate used goods
 - Find something you need
 - Help the environment in the process
- Manages the Tools for Schools program, a reusable resource center for teachers, providing the opportunity for businesses, institutions, and individuals to donate surplus materials and overstocked supplies to public school teachers.



TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS - a reusable resource center where teachers can shop for free!



- Tools for Schools is a partnership of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and the School Board of Alachua County that offers a place for public

school teachers to shop for new and gently used learning materials at no cost. All items at Tools for Schools have been donated by the general public.

- One goal is to help alleviate some of the economic pressures teachers face every school year.
- These materials not only benefit the teachers, but the students, parents, businesses, our community, and the environment.
 - A lack of materials infringes upon a student's potential for learning & creativity.
- Tools for Schools aims to educate the community in recognizing the value of these materials and getting them into Alachua County classrooms.
- Visit our website for information on the program, locations, volunteering, or needed supplies.
 - www.ToolsForSchools.alachua.fl.us
- Address: 1147 S.E. 7th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32641
- Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - Summer Break Hours: Wednesday ONLY 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Phone: (352) 374 – 5213
- Encourages innovations in reuse and recycling through the annual Trashformations Art Competition for middle school, high school, and college students.



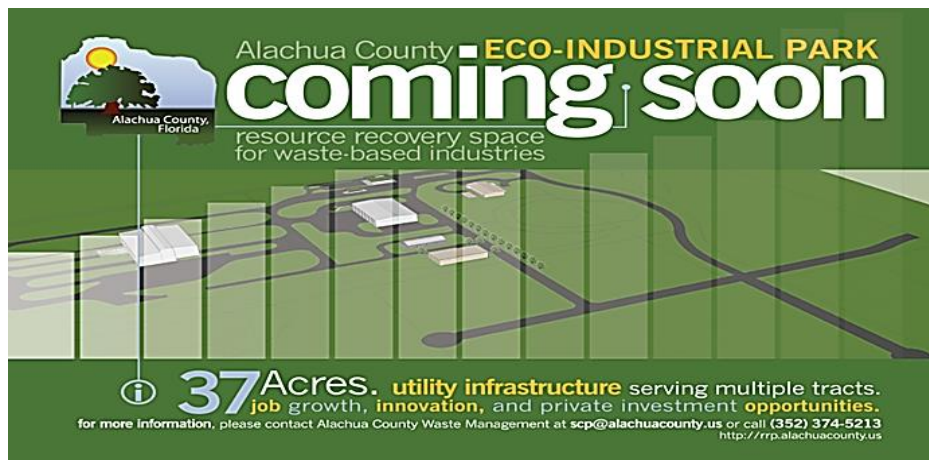
- Trashformations 2018 will be the 21st annual student recycled art competition, sponsored by Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, the Office of Waste Alternatives, and the Florida Museum of Natural History.
 - Competition Location: Museum of Natural History
 - Date/Time: Friday, November 30, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.
 - For details, visit www.trashformations.alachuacounty.us
- Promotes special events to remind the public of the value of alternatives to waste disposal, including distribution of compost bins, waste tire recycling, and various public information forums.
- In 1989, the Waste Watchers public education campaign began.
 - Promotes waste reduction through a multi-media advertising campaign, provides FREE school, community, and commercial waste reduction presentations, and provides personal services such as free compost bins and supplies.
 - Helps students, residents, and business people of Alachua County understand the need to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
 - Phone: (352) 374 – 5213
 - www.AlachuaCountyRecycles.com



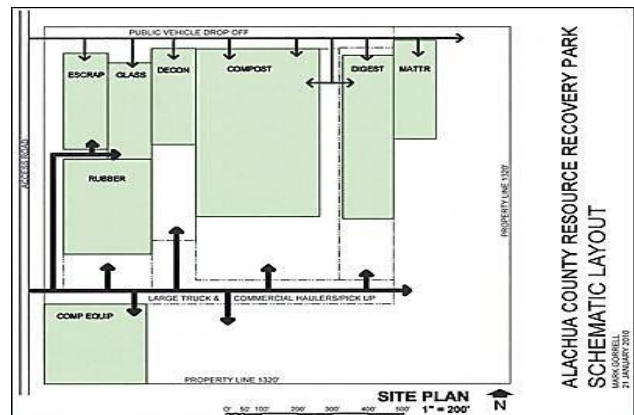
- In 2010, Florida Statute 403.7032, creating the 75% recycling goal for the State of Florida, went into effect.
 - Each County must calculate and report their recycling rate to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection by April 1st each year.
 - The recycling rate is based on the percentage of municipal solid waste created in the County which is diverted from a waste disposal facility for the purpose of recycling.
 - The goal is to achieve 75% recycling by the year 2020 and the following benchmarks were set to help achieve this goal:
 - December 31, 2012 – 40% recycling rate
 - December 31, 2014 – 50% recycling rate
 - December 31, 2016 – 60% recycling rate
 - December 31, 2018 – 70% recycling rate
 - December 31, 2020 – 75% recycling rate
 - Although businesses make up a majority of our waste stream in Alachua County, and play a pivotal role in helping us achieve the 75% recycling rate, they can't do it alone. We also need help from our residents as well as our public agencies/entities.
 - Phone: (352) 374 – 5213

RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK (RRP)

A resource recovery park is an industrial park reserved for waste based industries, companies, and/or government facilities that process discarded materials and create new products. They have the potential to divert hundreds of thousands of tons of materials that would otherwise go to landfill. A RRP also attracts new companies into the recycling, composting, and manufacturing sectors; and allows local companies in these sectors to expand. As a result, Green Jobs are created and the local tax base is expanded.



The next phase in the development of the Leveda Brown Environmental Park is the development of the adjacent 35 acres as a Resource Recovery Park. This park will partner with private industry to bring light industrial businesses that will utilize the recycling commodities from our community, and the region, for remanufacturing into new products. This year, the County will move forward with developing the basic infrastructure to include, utilities, roads, fiber optics, storm water, and conservation areas. Construction of the infrastructure will begin in 2018. Our staff is working with stake holders throughout the community including the Chamber of Commerce, Innovation Hub, Plum Creek, the Airport Advisory council, the CRA, and others to ensure the success of this project. Additionally, the relocation of the Fairbanks Collection Center, warehouse storage space, and a small warehouse space for rental to start up incubator waste based businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities are also proposed. These factions of the project will begin in 2018.



- Benefits of a Resource Recovery Park
 - Reduces flow of discarded materials to landfill, and extends life of landfill
 - Keeps dollars at home through local jobs and businesses
 - Reduces ecological footprint of Alachua County by reducing greenhouse gases, energy use, water use, and resource use
- Ideal infrastructure for Alachua County
 - Reuse
 - Recycle
 - Compost
 - Special discards
 - Manufacturing
 - Resource Recovery Park
- Economic incentives for a Zero Waste Economy
 - The goal of new incentive mechanisms is to motivate market forces in favor of prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting
- State and County solid waste management plans compliance
 - Conforms with Alachua County Comprehensive Plan
 - Conforms to anticipated state mandate of 75% diversion from landfill
- Multiplier Impacts on Economy
 - Direct jobs 200-300
 - Indirect jobs 200-300
 - For more details on this project, visit www.AlachuaCountyRecycles.com