



The Abrams Agenda



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Palm Beach County Commissioner
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Garbage and recycling: It really pays off

The county's Solid Waste Authority ([SWA](#)) reported that it recycled 8.9 billion pounds of garbage from 2000 to 2013, earned more than \$122 million and distributed more than \$7.5 million of that to its municipal partners. This also prevented all that garbage from being dumped into a landfill!

Also, any recyclables that end up in the regular garbage aren't lost since all the garbage is burned in the new waste-to-energy plant that opened over the summer. The electricity generated is sold to FP&L and these revenues are used to offset operating costs while keeping residents' and business' rates down.

How to handle e-waste

No tech in the trash

Disposing of your old electronic equipment may take a little more time but it is well worth it! Certain metal components and other dangerous materials such as mercury are not only harmful to the environment but can cause injury to people when disposed of improperly.

The [SWA](#) has a number of home chemical and recycling centers (HRRCs) for electronic items which are classified as "household hazardous waste" (HHW). Some examples include VCRs, stereos, computer CPUs, printers, scanners, TVs, and telephone equipment including cell phones.

Other types of hazardous materials that need to be disposed at HCRCs are cleaning products, pool chemicals, paint, used oil, thermostats, pesticides, fireworks and propane cylinders. Please take a few moments to review a more comprehensive list at www.swa.org.

There are items that are **not** accepted by the SWA such as medical waste, syringes, drugs/medications, explosives, and radioactive materials. For more information, please call 561-687-1100 for assistance.

Revisiting the basics

Plastics, paper and cans

The [SWA](#) has made the recycling process fairly simple when it comes to items such as paper, plastic and steel cans. All residents and businesses should be using yellow and blue containers or dumpsters, which are provided by the [SWA](#) for free. By keeping paper and plastic items separate, the [SWA](#) is able to produce a cleaner product to sell to the mills that buy recyclables.

RECYCLE Right Every Day
For New Bins: 866-NEW-BINS, www.SWA.org

In Your Blue Bin

- Aluminum cans
- Drink boxes
- Glass bottles and jars
- Milk and juice cartons
- Plastic bottles and containers (up to 5 gallons)
- Steel cans

In Your Yellow Bin

- Paper bags
- Dry food boxes
- Unwanted mail
- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard (flattened and cut to 3'x3' maximum)
- School/Office paper
- Tissue/Beverage boxes
- Magazines/Catalogs/Telephone books

In Your Garbage

- Napkins/Paper towels
- Sandwich bags/Shrink wrap
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam™ containers

Home Chemical Disposal - For more information about the proper disposal of household hazardous waste call 561-687-2700

HCRC (Home Chemical Recycling Center)

- Computers, Electronics, Batteries, Recyclable batteries, Gas cans, Propane tanks, Pesticides, Fluorescent bulbs, Fluorescent lighting, Used cooking oil, Paint

Return to your local store

- Plastic grocery bags
- Styrofoam™ Egg cartons/Meat trays

Donate unwanted items

- Clothing/Accessories
- Appliances
- Toys
- Furniture