



School District
of Palm Beach
County

Recycling Matters!

Part of Palm Beach County's Green Schools Initiative

Congratulations...the Recycling Numbers Are In!

2011-2012 Waste Reduction & Recycling Goals

100 percent recycling participation by all schools and support facilities!

Additional 2 percent waste reduction!



Schools get paid for recycling a number of different items, including paper, ink and toner cartridges, and cell phones

Since making recycling mandatory for all schools and administrative facilities in 2009, the School District of Palm Beach County has become of the county's most successful recyclers. The 2010-11 school year was particularly impressive, with more than 14 schools adding a paper recycling program and 24 schools adding commingled materials to the list of things they collect. Schools get paid for a number of items, including paper, ink and toner cartridges, and cell phones, by vendors who specialize in those materials. Based on end-of-year reports, these were the top recyclers in FY11:

Paper Recycling Top 10

- Melaleuca Elementary (23.76 tons)
- Wellington High (15.94 tons)
- Bak Middle School of the Arts (15.61 tons)
- Palm Springs Middle (14.45 tons)
- Tradewinds Middle (12.59 tons)
- Palm Beach Central High (12.00 tons)
- Roosevelt Middle (11.38 tons)
- Lake Worth High (11.27 tons)
- Suncoast High (10.86 tons)
- Okeehetee Middle (10.68 tons)

Ink & Toner Cartridge Recycling Top 10

- Royal Palm High (\$323)
- Lake Worth High (\$253)
- Diamond View Elementary (\$224)
- Forest Park Elementary (\$193)
- Pierce Hammock Elementary (\$177)
- Whispering Pines Elementary (\$163)
- Hammock Point Elementary (\$162)
- John I Leonard High (\$144)
- Roosevelt Middle (\$131)
- Jupiter Middle (\$127)

Note that Roosevelt Middle and Lake Worth High appear on BOTH lists! Great job!

Spotlight on Resource Depot...A Hidden Gem



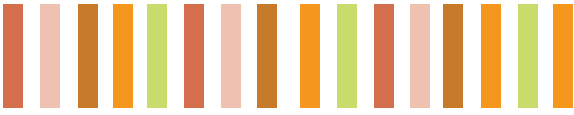
Did you know that we have an incredible teacher *superstore* right here in our own backyard? Many people have called it a "hidden gem"! **Resource Depot**, located in Riviera Beach, is a local non-profit and reuse center that provides art and classroom supplies to teachers free of charge (while the items themselves are free, shoppers are asked to pay \$1 per visit, but they may take as many items as they need —what a deal!). You can even get a "Super Green" membership, which entitles you to 35 free visits, preferred shopping hours, special e-mail notification of excess/unusual materials, and access to a

special "Wish List" of materials.

Donations by local businesses, individuals, and even the School District, are organized and stored in the warehouse and made available to Palm Beach County educators for use in the classroom. Among the more popular items are beads, fabric, Styrofoam pieces, wood, office supplies, and unusual craft items.

Check out Resource Depot online at www.resource depot.net or in person at 3680 Investment Lane in Riviera Beach (call 882-0090 for directions or more information).





Teaching the 3 Rs

Commercial entities, including schools, in Palm Beach County are estimated to generate approximately 5 pounds of trash per person per day. There is a tremendous cost to both society and the environment to collect and dispose of this waste material. In fact, our School District spends over FOUR MILLION dollars per year on waste collection and disposal! In addition, our waste contributes to the growing problem of quickly-filling landfills. So, the less we throw away and the more we recycle, the lower our solid waste hauling and disposal costs will be. This can lead to significant savings for the entire district and, of course, significant benefits to the environment.

To address our garbage problem, the District has adopted strategies that encourage the waste management hierarchy of REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. So, what does that really mean?

- ◆ The first and most important step is to **reduce** the amount of solid waste you generate
- ◆ Second, try to **reuse** materials for the purpose for which it was originally intended or in another way that prevents it from becoming waste
- ◆ Lastly, **recycle** any material that cannot be reused.

To emphasize the importance of implementing the 3 R's, the District passed a mandatory waste reduction and reduction policy in 2009. The policy applies to all schools and administrative facilities and requires that everyone recycles, at a minimum, paper, cardboard, and mixed plastic, glass, and aluminum. The policy also encourages the collection of electronic waste, ink and toner cartridges, and other recyclables.

Solid Waste Authority's Adopt-a-Spot Program

Is your school looking for more community service projects? If so, consider SWA's Adopt-a-Spot program. SWA asks that each participating school commit to cleaning its 'adopted area' at least two times per year. This area can be school grounds, a nearby neighborhood, or anywhere else that needs some "sprucing up"! SWA will provide bags and gloves and other support free of charge. Interested? Contact Linda Moreno at 561-697-2700 x. 4717.

Green Facts and Figures

During the 2010-2011 school year, the District saved over \$550,000 in landfill fees through its recycling efforts. Now that's a green way to save some green!



- Every ton of paper recycled saves more than 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Scrap metal makes up one of the two largest exports that the U.S. sends to China.
- If just 25% of U.S. families used 10 fewer plastic bags a month, we would save over 2.5 BILLION bags a year.
- Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 3 hours.
- Telephone books make up almost 10 percent of waste at dump sites. Recycle them, or better yet, call to stop phone book delivery and then use an online telephone directory instead.



Solid Waste Authority to Deliver Recycling Presentations

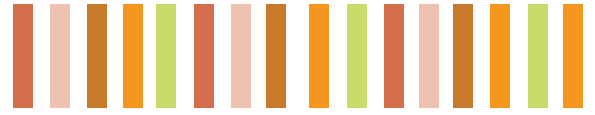


The Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is one of our District's most supportive recycling partners. SWA provides many valuable services, including interactive school recycling presentations. SWA's classroom presentations are a fun and innovative way of teaching students about waste and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Middle and high school presentations are scheduled to allow for changing classes when possible. Science teachers may want to join together for certain projects, such as students devoting a day to making their own recycled paper. The emphasis of these presentations is always the promotion of following the 3 R's. At the end of each lesson, students are given a promotional item that contains a recycling message.

School visits book up quickly, so call (561) 640-8949 or email education@swa.org to schedule your school's presentation today!





Palm Beach County's Green Schools Recognition Program

The Green Schools Recognition Program (GSRP) just completed its 3rd year in Palm Beach County. The program serves to encourage cultures of sustainability within school communities and recognizes K-12 public and private schools that have made strides in:

- Using the outdoors as a learning environment and enhancing the ecological integrity of those areas
- Demonstrating the conservation of energy and water, and promoting the reduction of solid waste generation and increased recycling
- Integrating curriculum that will prepare students to understand and act on current and future environmental challenges facing South Florida
- Promoting community involvement and fostering an awareness of local environmental issues
- Providing professional development and creating a school philosophy and culture that embraces sustainability

There are three levels of recognition under this program:

- *Program of Excellence:* a school that shows the highest level of commitment to sustainability
- *Program of Quality:* a school that is taking active strides in improving and maintaining sustainable practices
- *Program of Promise:* a school that is taking the beginning steps to improve sustainability

This year's program recognized a total of 49 applicants, almost double the number of schools that participated last year. On May 4, 2011, the winners of the third annual *Green Schools Recognition Program* were announced at a catered luncheon held at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties' downtown West Palm Beach headquarters. The program's highest honors went to Jupiter Middle School of Technology, who earned a cash award of \$2,000. A private school, St. Andrew's, received \$1,000 for placing second and Roosevelt Middle and Bak Middle School of the Arts, tied for third place, each received \$750.

For a complete listing of all the participants, winners, and the "green highlights" of their applications, visit www.ourgreenschools.com!

Applications for the 2012 Green Schools Recognition Program will be available in September 2011. For more information, contact Karen Aubry at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center—686-6600 or kaubry@fau.edu.



Recycling Coordinators for 2011-12

Now that the new school year is approaching, it is a good time to think about how you are going to implement a bigger, better recycling program and who is going to be responsible for its oversight.

As in years past, we are asking that EACH and EVERY school submit the name of its recycling coordinator so we will know with whom to communicate throughout the year.

Simply drop a line to Susan Pope White (susan.popewhite@palmbeachschools.org) and let her know the name of your school's recycling coordinator.

Aluminum Can Recycling Challenge

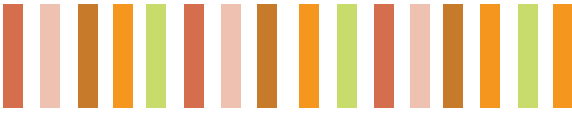
The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) has just announced its 2nd Annual Great American Can Roundup School Recycling Challenge. CMI is awarding \$1,000 to the school in each state recycling the most aluminum cans per student and an additional \$5,000 to the top per capita recycling school nationwide. The contest period is from America Recycles Day (Nov. 15) to Earth Day (April 22) 2012.



Your school could win up to \$6,000, plus the value of the cans and the chance to win \$50 pizza cards. Put your school in contention by going to www.cancentral.com/RoundUp and register by **December 15** to be eligible for the School Recycling Challenge. There you will find everything needed to build recycling enthusiasm and rally the community for the win. Environmental educators will also appreciate grade-appropriate, free interdisciplinary curricula and worksheets for the classroom.

Please contact Jenny Day at 202-232-4677, or by email jday@cancentral.com for more information.





School District of Palm Beach County

Do you need FREE paper recycling bins for your school?

We receive paper recycling bins from the Solid Waste Authority and can provide them to our schools free of charge. There are two sizes available – small (for classrooms) and large (for centralized collection)..

Send an e-mail to [Susan Pope White](mailto:Susan.Pope.White@palmbeachschools.org) and let her know how many of each size you need and you'll receive them within 7-10 business days!

Third Annual Learn Green Conference & Expo—11/11/11

From teachers and parents to architects and service providers, many people are now involved (or want to become more involved) in sustainability initiatives involving our K-12 educational centers. Are **YOU** interested in greening our schools?

If so, register today for this exciting one-day conference & expo that focuses on a sharing of ideas about how to “green” a school’s day-to-day operations and curriculum, with an emphasis on practical and easy-to-implement steps. Presentation topics will also include energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, school gardens, art integration, and many other exciting topics. Exhibit Hall highlights agencies and vendors who offer environmentally-based goods, services, or educational opportunities.

The keynote speaker is Rachel Gutter, Director of the Center for Green Schools at US Green Building Council. For more information about the conference & expo, visit the [conference web-site](http://www.usgreenbuilding.com/green-schools).

Where: Dreyfoos School of the Arts, West Palm Beach

When: November 11, 2011, 8a—5p

Cost: Only \$15 for adults and \$10 for students - *includes breakfast AND lunch!*

Register online today at <https://fauf.fau.edu/Expo>

Important Recycling Reminders

To get your (recycling) year off on the right foot, here are some things to keep in mind:

Paper Recycling

Most schools now use our private paper recycler, SP Recycling, for recycling paper (they have the red and green painted bins). Please remember that SP empties their bins on an **as-needed basis only**; they do not come automatically. That means that when your school’s bin is nearly full, you should send an email to 528@spnewsprint.com and let them know that you need service. They will then empty it within about 1-3 business days. Please include the school name in your email to avoid delays!

Ink and Toner Cartridge Recycling

[Dade Recycling](http://www.daderecycling.com) collects empty ink and toner cartridges, as well as cell phones and other small electronic waste items throughout our District and pays

schools for their collected items! Still need a collection bin or need more? [Email](mailto:528@spnewsprint.com) Dade Recycling and request delivery.

Plastic/glass/aluminum (“Commingled”) Recycling Service

The big blue bins (called “toters”) are supposed to be emptied by our waste/recycling haulers once a week per our contract. Each school has an assigned pickup day. If the hauler does not empty the bins on the prescribed day, please notify our office **on the day following the missed pickup** so that we can contact the hauler on your behalf. Email [Susan Pope White](mailto:Susan.Pope.White@palmbeachschools.org) or call her at PX 27119.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling

Need a new recycling bucket for collecting rechargeable batteries? [Email us](mailto:528@spnewsprint.com) and we’ll deliver one to your school.



GET INVOLVED

