Lee County Integrated Solid Waste Management System
Lee County, Florida

2011 INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATION
Executive Summary

The Lee County Solid Waste Management System was developed in 1989 with the adoption of an integrated solid waste management master plan. This plan addressed the needs for recycling, resource recovery to promote waste reduction and renewable energy, and disposal needs for the county. The goal was to create a system that is sustainable and capable of minimizing landfill requirements.

The county started with franchise collection services and the development of an industry leading waste-to-energy facility. Lee County has improved the system with a change of the collection of recyclable materials by implementing a single stream recycling collection system, and operating a single stream MRF, a composting facility that uses horticultural waste and biosolids and pending start-up of a construction and demolition debris recycling facility. Household chemical waste is managed with a permanent facility and satellite drop off events as well as curbside collection of discarded electronic equipment. Renewable energy from waste produced at the waste-to-energy plant was increased to 59 megawatts with a plant expansion in 2007. The addition of a third combustion unit has allowed Lee County to be the first U.S. waste-to-energy facility to validate and verify carbon emission reductions under the Voluntary Carbon Standard Program.
As concern about climate change grows, any renewable source of energy—even a pile of garbage—seems appealing...incinerating a ton of trash emits at least 35% less greenhouse gas and yields 10 times as much electricity as burying it.  
Wall Street Journal, New York Daily  
May 15, 2009

System Elements
A model for effective solid waste management, Lee County has created a state-of-the-art system. The solid waste system manages several facilities designed with complementary functions, significantly reducing the amount of solid waste discarded in the landfill.

The main components of Lee County’s integrated solid waste system include:

1. Resource Recovery Campus
   i. Waste-to-energy facility (WTE) with metal recovery facility (ferrous & non-ferrous)
   ii. Material recycling facility (MRF)
   iii. Transfer station
   iv. Vegetative waste processing
   v. Construction and demolition debris recycling facility
   vi. Scale house
   vii. Fleet maintenance facility
   viii. Tire processing

2. Satellite Facilities
   i. Household chemical waste facility (HCW)
   ii. Lee/Hendry Landfill (LHLF)
   iii. Compost facility
   iv. Hendry County transfer stations (2)

3. Supporting System Components
   i. Solid waste collection and recycling ordinance (08-10)
   ii. Mandatory business recycling ordinance (07-25)
   iii. Franchised collection services
   iv. Right Of Way program
   v. Inter-local agreements with a neighboring Hendry County as well as all five municipalities within the county
Each component of the system builds on Lee County’s efforts to reduce and recycle solid waste and minimize landfill disposal, and supports several other features. For example, the HCW facility helps provide a central location for e-waste and unwanted chemical waste that is not ideally suited for waste-to-energy or landfill disposal. Residuals from this operation, such as steel aerosol cans or plastic paint containers, are processed through the materials recycling facility to be returned to use as new products. The material recycling facility is the primary recycling component of the system and manages all residential curbside recyclables collected by the county’s franchise collection contractors. While recyclables are returned to commodity markets, residuals are processed through the waste-to-energy facility to reduce their volume and provide renewable energy.

An exceptionally successful waste management system, Lee County’s solid waste program manages Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for Southwest Florida’s Lee and Hendry Counties. The five municipalities in Lee County have all elected to utilize Lee County’s facilities for solid waste processing, a clear indication of community support for the system. The county’s system features a full-service approach, beginning with regular curbside pick-up or waste drop-off and includes solutions for solid waste, recycling, composting, construction and demolition debris, and household chemicals.
Lee County Integrated Solid Waste Management System
Lee County, Florida

System Components – Resource Recovery Campus

Currently, all of the solid waste that is collected in Lee County and Hendry County is brought to the Lee County resource recovery facility. This facility, known as the waste-to-energy plant, combusts waste using a mass burn combustion system. The heat energy created during the combustion process generates steam, which turns a turbine generator, creating electricity. Once the waste is combusted, only an inert ash residue is left, which is approximately 10 percent of the original waste volume. In addition, the waste-to-energy facility is equipped with an automated recovery system that efficiently removes ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the ash, recycling over 13,000 tons per year. The remaining ash is then disposed at the Lee/Hendry Landfill. All system components located on the resource recovery campus are powered by electricity generated onsite.

Commercial operation of the plant began on December 1, 1994. The initial construction included two boilers, each rated at 600 tons per day (tpd) coupled with one 39.7 megawatt generator. The facility was expanded in 2007 by adding a third boiler with a 636 tpd capacity and second turbine generator rated at 20 megawatts. The facility uses the effluent from a nearby wastewater treatment plant (reclaimed water) for all process water needs, including boiler makeup water, which saves millions of gallons of potable water every year.

The waste-to-energy plant is equipped with extensive air-pollution control systems. It is the first operational plant in the United States to be built with a permanent activated carbon injection system for controlling mercury emissions. The environmental control systems were designed with stringent Clean Air Act amendments in mind, and emissions have met those standards without any modification. Facility emissions are continuously monitored and strictly regulated by state and federal agencies.

Recently converted to single-stream operation, the 86,000 SF material recovery facility (MRF) manages all residential curb-side recycling for Lee County residents. The only publicly-owned single-stream facility in the state of Florida, customers place recyclables into a single bin for curbside collection. Simplicity and convenience drive this 30 ton per hour, 550 ton per day recycling facility, which processes newspaper, mixed paper, office paper, junk mail, catalogs, cardboard, plastic (#1 - #7), metal, aluminum and mixed glass.
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Lee County benefits from several advantages of the recently improved recycling system. Reduced separation effort results in greater program participation and residents placing a greater amount of recyclables at their curb for collection. Data from the first six months of implementation indicates an approximate 16 percent increase in recycling tonnage receipts. The previous program was a dual stream system in which the resident and/or the collection hauler were required to separate paper products and containers at the curbside. All recyclable materials processed at the MRF are segregated, baled and shipped to manufacturers to turn the materials into new products. Non-recyclable items identified and separated at the material recovery facility are transported to the waste-to-energy plant and converted into renewable energy by combustion.

In addition to single-stream recycling, Lee County’s MRF includes a paper shredding program for processing confidential documents. The paper shredding program, staffed by HIPAA trained personnel and carried out with secure transfer and processing, includes document pick-up and onsite drop-off. Making disposal simple for customers, Lee County can process two tons of paper per hour, including staples, binder clips and metal clips. After the paper is shredded, it is bundled for reuse in the paper recycling industry.

With the conversion to single-stream operation, the county has seen reduced system costs. Single compartment trucks cost less to operate, collection can be automated and routes are serviced more efficiently.

Lee County has consistently been one of the state’s highest performing recycling counties. It has been ranked as one of the top five recycling counties in Florida for nine of the last 12 years. In four of the nine ranking years, the county was ranked first or second. In 2008, the most recently ranked year, Lee County ranked first with a 43% recycling rate based on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection criteria.

A 1,000 ton-per-day transfer station located at the resource recovery campus, in operation since 2004, consists of a 25,000 square foot steel building with a reinforced concrete tipping floor, 10 foot high push walls, three refuse transfer chutes and three transfer tunnels. This facility has recently been utilized for management of construction and demolition debris as the waste-to-energy facility has not bypassed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) since the addition of the third combustion unit. Construction and demolition materials are hand sorted for metals and inert materials such as concrete, brick and block with the remaining material segregated for combustion to create renewable energy at the waste-to-energy facility or disposal in the county’s Class III cell at the Lee/Hendry Landfill. This operation will be discontinued upon start-up of the county’s construction and demolition recycling facility, anticipated to begin operation in May 2011.

Lee County’s main waste campus, which houses the transfer station, is centrally located in the community. The county’s main landfill, the Lee/Hendry Landfill, is located 25 miles away in neighboring Hendry County. Use of the transfer station reduces the number of fleet trucks making trips to the landfill by utilizing transfer trailers instead of residential route trucks. This decreases fleet truck mileage and fuel costs, and increases load volume.
A **fleet maintenance facility**, completed in 2009, plays a critical role in Lee County’s self-sufficient vehicle maintenance. The county has first-hand control of their vehicles which enables them to proactively perform maintenance and consistently keep trucks in operation. This self performance enhances the cost effectiveness of Lee County’s integrated solid waste management system.

Scheduled to open in May 2011, a **construction and demolition debris recycling facility** will enable the county to sort concrete rubble, brick, roofing tile, wood, ferrous/non-ferrous metal, cardboard and select plastics from incoming construction and demolition debris loads. The concept for the facility was developed in 2008 when Lee County began utilizing the transfer station as a pilot construction and demolition facility to hand-sort metal, block and brick. This process prevented materials that could be used for aggregate or land recovery from entering the waste-to-energy facility or landfill. The success of this program stimulated interest for a dedicated construction and demolition facility.

The **vegetative waste processing** operation provides a means for managing yard waste in a manner that reduces disposal. The operation is located on a five acre asphalt area to provide all weather access. Lee County directs incoming trucks to the designated area to unload, segregate the yard waste and non-processible materials, and maintain the unprocessed and processed yard waste stockpiles. A contractor is used to grind the yard waste to meet certain size specifications, and Lee County staff hauls the mulch for use in their compost operations. Additional mulch is placed in five bunkers located near local parks and offered to Lee County residents free of charge.

The new facility was designed to handle future growth in Lee County. With a 500 ton per day capacity and flexible number of drop-through bins, the facility will evolve with county recycling and disposal needs. One of the collected materials created at the construction and debris facility is residual screened material (RSM), consisting of construction and demolition debris fines which Lee County will utilize as an alternative daily and weekly cover at the Lee/Hendry Landfill to preserve soil resources. The construction and demolition facility is designed to substantially exceed the county’s 50 percent diversion requirement established by Lee County’s construction debris ordinance.

A small but critical component of the system, Lee County operates four **scale houses** located at the resource recovery campus, Lee/Hendry Landfill and two Hendry County transfer stations. The scale houses weigh, assign, record and direct all inbound and outbound loads at the disposal and transfer sites. This data is required as it provides a basis for the waste system’s fiscal and regulatory reporting (tonnages and waste materials), including billing, payment, record keeping and contractual obligations.
System Components – Satellite Facilities

Centrally located in Lee County, a permanent household chemical waste facility (HCW) collects and processes household hazardous waste. Open five days per week and select Saturdays, this facility accepts household electronics, paint, light bulbs and expired chemicals such as fertilizers, used oil, pool chemicals, insecticides and pesticides.

By weight, approximately 90 percent of the materials brought to the household chemical waste facility are recycled. Compact florescent light bulbs are grouped together to reduce shipping costs and transported to a light bulb recycling company, metal paint containers are processed at the material recovery facility and plastic paint containers are processed at the waste-to-energy facility. Paint, vegetable oil, car and other vehicle batteries, and all motor vehicle fluids are also recycled. Aerosol cans are pierced to drain and treat remaining liquid and the cans are then recycled. Offering residents a convenient location to dispose of hazardous waste prevents the waste from being disposed of in sewer drains, or entering the surface or ground waters of the county due to improper disposal.

A Lee County resident recently commented on the HCW facility:

“Like the convenience and not waiting in line. Very clean place.”
Lee County’s operates the **Lee/Hendry Landfill**, located in adjoining Hendry County. This landfill accepts inert ash residue generated at the waste-to-energy facility, bypass refuse from the solid waste transfer station and residuals from the construction and demolition debris recycling facility. The facility consists of a 30 acre Class I (MSW) disposal area, a 16 acre Ash Monofill and a 25 acre Class III (construction and demolition debris) area. Each area has not been developed to its full extent. The total acreage available for development for each area is 90 acres (Class I), 35 acres (Ash Monofill) and 128 acres (Class III). The Class I and Ash Monofill landfills are double composite high-density polyethylene (HDPE) lined areas with leachate detection as well as leachate collection zones. Although not required under current regulations, the Class III area is lined with a single composite liner. To support the disposal areas, three sets of leachate ponds collect and store leachate from the individual areas. Total storage capacity is approximately nine million gallons. Leachate is hauled via tanker trucks to offsite treatment plants for treatment and disposal.

The Class I and Ash Monofill disposal areas incorporate environmental safeguards in their design. These include detection layers between the liners which are monitored continuously and monitoring wells around the site which are sampled semi-annually to test ground water quality. The Class III landfill is also part of the ground water monitoring network. Landfill practices minimize leachate production through effective daily and intermediate cover methodologies.

Designed to minimize environmental impact, great attention was given to landscaping, gas and water pollution control at the landfill. Operational procedures require covering refuse, which reduces the possibility of fire, odor and gas migration. No burning is allowed onsite. Although there are no odor or gas issues and the facility is below the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) threshold for a gas collection and control system, Lee County has developed initial plans for landfill gas management in the event that landfill gas must be addressed in the future.

With the closure of the Gulf Coast Landfill, owned and operated by Waste Management of Florida, Inc., in Ft. Myers, Lee County had limited disposal area in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane, which is not uncommon to the Florida peninsula. Part of the design capacity consideration in constructing the Class III disposal area was to ensure the availability of disposal space in the event of a need for quick community debris management.
Co-located at the Lee/Hendry Landfill, Lee County operates a compost facility to manage biosolids from local wastewater treatment facilities. Completed in February of 2009 with partial operations beginning in December of 2008, this facility was one of only eight permitted compost facilities in the state of Florida. Permitted for 2,850 dry tons of biosolids per year, the eight acre site is comprised of six 20,000 square foot buildings, a paved curing and storage area, and a paved mulch storage area. Each building includes catch basins for collection of process liquids or runoff during the composting process. Storm water around the facility is collected and controlled within the storm water collection network for the landfill facility. Considering future needs of the county, the compost facility proactively addresses changes to 62-640 Florida Statutes (F.S.), which will limit land application of Class B biosolids in three to four years. The facility operation consistently meets all requirements of the pathogen and vector reduction requirements of EPA’s 503 standards.

The compost facility combines mulched yard waste from the Lee County vegetative waste processing operation with biosolids from the city of Ft. Myers and Lee County Utilities’ wastewater treatment plants to create a Class AA biosolid compost product. The facility uses passive windrows to treat the biosolids and process all feedstock materials. Windrows are turned using straddle-type windrow equipment and wheeled loaders to manage and move materials. Monthly testing is conducted to ensure the materials meet EPA 503 standards, metals concentrations are below ceiling levels and to measure standard nutrient information such as N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium), pH, soil conductivity and stability/maturity. Materials are not released for distribution or sale unless all applicable regulatory requirements are met. The facility operations incorporate specific procedures to maintain quality and avoid cross contamination of materials.

The finished compost product is sold to area farmers and local residents as a soil amendment product marketed as OrganicLee™ Compost. In order to comply with the revisions to 62-640 F.S., Lee County obtained a fertilizer license and pays per ton inspection fees for all sold materials. The county also follows state-mandated labeling requirements.

As part of an inter-local agreement with neighboring Hendry County, Lee County operates two Hendry County transfer stations to manage Hendry’s waste stream. Materials are generally directed to the waste-to-energy facility with the exception of horticultural waste and white goods, which are used for composting and metals recycling respectively.
Other Supporting Components - Ordinances and Contracts

The foundation of the Lee County system is the ordinances and service contracts that Lee County has procured in support of the system. Lee County Ordinance 08-10 (originally adopted in 1988) defines solid waste collection and disposal for Lee County and creates a municipal service benefit unit within the county known as “Mandatory Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Units for Service Areas.” This ordinance establishes residential and commercial collection and disposal guidelines for municipal solid waste (MSW), recyclables, horticultural waste and levy of assessments, unlawful disposal, abatement and enforcement.

Lee County Ordinance 07-25 relates to mandatory recycling of commercial and multi-family residential solid waste, and landfill diversion and recycling of construction and demolition debris. Currently the county has over 99 percent participation by businesses and multi-family properties and over 75 percent of applicable building project permits have opted to comply with the construction and demolition diversion requirements. The ordinance requires that over 50 percent of debris from applicable projects be diverted from landfill disposal by reuse, reduction or recycling. Businesses are required to maintain service for their number one recyclable material, at a minimum, and to educate employees annually regarding their recycling program components.

The franchise collection service agreements with the franchise haulers provide the operational considerations in delivery of the collection services. These agreements dictate how and when collection services can be performed, what services are offered and where regulated materials are to be delivered. As allowed under Florida statutes, Lee County directs all residential MSW and recyclables (including multifamily properties) to the county’s disposal and recycling facilities. Curbside service includes once a week MSW, recycling and horticultural collection as well as bulky items and electronics waste.

The county is divided into six franchise service areas (Ordinance 08-10). Franchise areas are partitioned to balance the number of residential dwellings and geographical features between areas. The scope of the franchise collection contract was developed by the Lee County’s Solid Waste Division with the input from a community advisory committee.

As a complement to curbside service, the division’s Right Of Way program helps to clean county right of ways and abandoned properties, and provides container service for several of the resource recovery campus activities such as the public drop off area, MRF residue disposal, scrap metal recycling, and vegetative and tire pad operations. Right of Way activities include removal of illegally dumped waste and clean up of code compliance violations. When possible this group works with local law enforcement to identify and build evidence for the prosecution of individuals involved with illegal dumping.

The county maintains interlocal agreements with the five municipalities within Lee County as well as neighboring Hendry County. These agreements have helped to add stability to the solid waste system while providing consistent and cost effective service to residents of these municipalities.
Pertinent Design Strategies

The goal of the solid waste division is to “Ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Lee County by providing a responsible and economical solid waste management system.” The division uses strategic planning in a systematic manner and progression to accomplish this goal. Each component was developed to ultimately enhance or complement existing components. The expansion of services and operations has maintained a high standard of fiscal responsibility as residential rates have been relatively stable over the course of the last ten years. Maintaining this economic connection is just one part of the strategic planning. Service need is also a key metric when evaluating enhanced services. Lastly, operating as a business unit, investment in services is viewed with a “return on investment” perspective. Being stewards of the ratepayers supporting fees, Lee County seeks to manage capital expansion not only for today’s ratepayers but also tomorrow’s.

Population & Service Area

Lee County is located along the Gulf of Mexico in scenic Southwest Florida. The county stretches over an 804-square-mile area that includes rural farming areas and several urban municipalities consisting of the cities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs. Lee County has over 600,000 residents that call the beautiful area home. The population of the county is projected to climb by nearly 12 percent by 2015, showing its continued reputation as a great place to live.

Tourism is a significant industry in Lee County. Sandy beaches, mild weather, palm tree-lined boulevards and inviting shopping, dining and recreational activities make the area a popular retreat for winter visitors seeking an escape from blizzards and snow banks. The influx of visitors and growing population in the county have been a motivating factor in designing a solid waste system that will efficiently sustain the area for future generations of residents and visitors. This area’s seasonal attraction is also an operational challenge for the integrated solid waste management system as the population swells from December to April with an increasing demand for services during this period.

In addition to Lee County, the waste system also serves inland Hendry County. With a population of nearly 40,000 people and land area of 1,190-square-miles, Hendry County has a much lower population density than Lee County. In a cooperative agreement worked out between the two counties, waste is processed in Lee County and any remaining residue is disposed of at the landfill in Hendry County.

Technological Effectiveness of the System

The technological effectiveness of the system is dependent on the design and improvements to the individual components. As many components are interrelated, they depend not only on the effectiveness of the components themselves but also the interrelationship with other components. While all the components of the system meet the industry standard for operational functionality, many have improvements that exceed industry norms.

The waste-to-energy plant is equipped with extensive air-pollution control systems. It is the first operational plant in the United States to be built with a permanent activated carbon injection system for controlling mercury emissions. The environmental control systems were designed with stringent Clean Air Act amendments in mind, and emissions have met standards without any modification. Facility emissions are continuously monitored and strictly regulated by state and federal agencies. This facility also features ferrous and non-ferrous metal recovery.

“...it is my pleasure to advise you that your nomination of Lee County, Florida for the WTERT 2010 Awards has been selected to receive the Sustainable Waste Management in the U.S.” Award by the Advisory Board of the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council “

Prof. Nickolas, Chair WTERT Columbia University Waste To Energy Research and Technology

The MRF, a single stream facility, uses optical sorting for PET (water/soda bottles) to reduce the burden on container sorting resulting in decreased staffing and increased throughput. The compost facility and construction and demolition debris recycling facility use equipment specifically suited for operations such as a straddle-type windrow turner and an air density separator for light/heavy fractions, respectively. Lee County uses industry-specific software for management of scale activities and customer service support.

As part of measuring performance, Lee County uses tools such as compliance testing for stack emissions and quality control testing on compost. Materials from the MRF are judged by commodity markets and their quality is measured in financial value for the materials. As a measurement of the system, during the past 16 years, the county has established itself as one of the country’s most successful and sustainable recycling and solid waste management systems. Lee County has consistently reported from 35 percent to 42 percent of documented recycling activities for more than 12 years and is listed as the state’s top county for recycling success in 2008 (latest DEP reporting year).
Long Term System Availability

Lee County’s waste system was designed to serve the county well into the future. The many components of the system work together in complementary roles to reduce landfill waste. The result is a system designed to operate well into the future. The material recovery facility, construction and demolition facility, waste-to-energy facility and compost program will operate indefinitely with proper maintenance and updating as these facilities incorporate mechanical components that can be repaired or replaced while maintaining their original capacity. The landfill is at approximately 40 percent of build-out and ongoing efforts to enhance waste diversion, reduction and recycling continue to enhance the life estimate for this facility.

In order to effectively address current needs while positioning for the future, Lee County has a system-wide master plan. This plan addresses four designated areas of the system including municipal solid waste, ash monofill, construction and demolition debris, and recycling/composting. At the Lee/Hendry Landfill, a clear plan outlines future cell development and construction sequencing. The county also regularly monitors landfill gas and storm water control to determine optimal installation dates.

Customer Service Approach

Lee County is committed to serving the area residents and businesses. The solid waste staff strives to make themselves accessible to the community, proactively communicating services upgrades and changes. The county distributes informational materials to educate stakeholders and assist in streamlining the waste disposal process for its users.

An informational website provides instant access for residents and businesses in search of an answer. There they can easily locate explanations of the purpose of each facility and answers to frequently asked questions. A detailed summary of which facility processes specific waste materials ensures residents save time by bringing items to the correct facility the first time.

A Civicall® system is used to generate “requests for action” that are immediately communicated to the necessary environmental inspector at Lee County and the operations manager of the franchise hauling company. As many requests are associated with collection and clean-up services, haulers are connected to the system, enabling them to provide expedient response to inquiries. This system requires haulers confirm within the electronic ticket that the requests have been resolved and what is done to prevent reoccurrence. When Lee County’s operations manager is satisfied with the hauler responses and it is established that the occurrence was acceptably taken care of the ticket is closed out. Common requests include missed pickups and recycle bin delivery. The county prides itself on its customer service, providing residents and businesses a “live” person in a timely, accurate, and professional manner.

To obtain direct feedback from customers, Lee County administered a county survey in 2010. The survey addressed the county’s performance for core services. Residents rated the Lee County Solid Waste Division as above average compared to other communities in the 2010 draft benchmark report “The National Citizen Survey™” performed by the International City/County Management Association and the National Research Center Inc. in the categories of yard waste pick up, recycling and garbage collection.

Lee County takes customer service into account with all system changes, striving to impact customers as little as possible. When converting the recycling program to single-stream operation, the county strategically aligned resetting hauling contracts for the same time. This prevented customers from adjusting to successive major changes – residents received new recycling collection bins and collection days simultaneously.

Environmental Protection & Regulatory Compliance

Lee County has maintained a high standard for protection of the environment. All facilities are designed and operated for full compliance with state and federal regulations. To date, the county has not been cited for a violation of these regulations. In addition to regulatory compliance, the county values training of personnel to perform these regulatory responsible operations. Spotters and operators have specific training as do employees managing household hazardous waste. County staff is also actively involved with several statewide organizations such as SWANA, Recycle Florida Today and the American Public Works Association. Part of any quality operation is an adherence to good housekeeping practices. To round out the county’s regulatory performance, it employs several staff members whose priority is environmental compliance. These individuals are responsible for permit applications, modifications and adherence.
Trash Plant Outlives Controversy
“We complain when government fails; let’s celebrate when it succeeds.”
Fort Myers News-Press

Section 2
Financial & Business Management

Financial & Operational Goals
The Lee County Solid Waste Division mission statement is:

“Ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Lee County by providing a responsible and economical solid waste management system.”

The Lee County Solid Waste System and personnel perform this mission by operating as an enterprise fund in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The intent of the county is that the cost of providing services to the general public is financed or recovered primarily through user fees. The system’s financial and operational goals are consistent with this directive. Moreover, Lee County management and staff strive to maintain the financial integrity of the system and adjust to changing conditions in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner through the development and operation of a fully integrated waste management system.

The major facilities of the system - WTE, landfill and transfer stations - were financed by the issuance of revenue bonds in 1991, 1995 and 2006. Two of these bond series have since been refunded in order to reduce debt obligations. One of the system’s goals is to maintain a reputable credit rating, a significant factor in obtaining reduced debt service through refunding or refinancing.

The credit rating also assists in the issuance of additional bonds if required. This goal is accomplished by maintaining market based fees, competitive operating contracts, positive cash flow and dependable deliveries of waste and recycling materials.

These fundamental business practices were summed up by Fitch Rating Services, Inc. in its October 2009 routine surveillance report, by stating, “The system has consistently generated operating surpluses since the mid 1990s. The system has a long record of sound operating history, and has sizeable cash and fund balances due to revenue stability.”

The Lee County Solid Waste Division understands that financial stability is dependent on operational stability (or the lack of system upsets). County employees take pride in operating and managing a system that routinely demonstrates improvements in its operations and is recognized for such improvements.
## Timeline of System Improvements & Expansions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Initiated the curbside recycling collection program</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Initial operation of the Lee County two-stream MRF in a leased warehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Initial operation of Hendry County transfer stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Initial operation of the WTE facility with 1,200 tpd capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Completed construction of the new Lee/Hendry landfill</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Commenced routine bypass of the WTE due to capacity limitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Initial operation of the new, expanded two-stream MRF at the WTE campus (portions of existing equipment relocated to new facility)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Initial operation of the new county owned Class I Lee/Hendry landfill</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Commenced permit preparation for WTE expansion</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Initial operation of the Lee transfer station for bypass waste</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Received permit for the construction of a third combustion unit at the WTE</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Initiated detailed engineering for the WTE expansion</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Began in-house transport operation of for ash and bypass waste due to reduced dependability of private contract trucking (hurricane events)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Issued revenue bonds for the WTE expansion project</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Permanent household chemical waste facility opens</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Initial operation of the WTE expansion project</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Landfill expansion project for ash and Class III disposal cells</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Initial operation of the biosolids and yard waste compost facility</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Initial operation of the MRF expansion and retrofit for single-stream processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Initial operation of construction and demolition debris recycling facility</td>
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Lee County, Florida

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENTS

The Average Residential Assessments chart indicates the annual cost to the average homeowner in Lee County for the system during most of the time period. It is apparent that even with the development of major facilities, during the past 15 years, the system cost to Lee County citizens has remained stable and is currently trending downward. The system’s goals are continuously being met.

Cost Effectiveness of the System

Lee County’s integrated solid waste management system is very cost effective. The residential costs for collection, recycling and disposal have been extremely stable for many years. Comparing cost factors to other cities and counties poses certain difficulties due to variable programs and structures. Regardless, the chart to the right compares several solid waste systems in the south and west region of Florida.

Lee County compares very favorably when considerations are made related to the debt burden of sustainable (WTE) facilities and other effective programs. Lee County is anticipating an approximate $15 per year reduction in its annual residential cost next year as the debt burden will be reduced. As expected, systems that rely on landfills for disposal are usually less expensive than systems with waste-to-energy facilities.
Planning & Forecasting Methods

Lee County’s employees ensure the system’s programs and facilities are planned and developed in a judicious and timely manner. Staff is continually in tune with population growth (or non-growth) trends and also trend changes in recycling and disposal practices. On the larger scale, the county plans landfill expansions using growth and generation projections on a seven and 11 year cycle. This provides for the advance collection of capital for such expansion projects. The waste-to-energy expansion project encompassed a planning/permitting/design phase of approximately eight years that allowed for an appropriate volume of waste to be diverted to the landfill in order to have sufficient waste available for the WTE when construction was completed.

The decision to convert to a single stream MRF (from the existing dual stream) was made primarily due to the industry trend. It was clear, however, that such transition is only practical when coupled with a change in recycling collection practices, i.e. using automated trucks with compaction in order to reduce collection cost. Thus, the system’s MRF transition was implemented coincidently with competitive bids for the system’s franchise collection contracts.

The county also uses a financial (spreadsheet) model to project potential additional elements of the system. The model accepts estimated capital and operating costs, coupled with existing revenues and expenses, and determines the financial impact to system users. This model is also used to determine all user rates that are typically adjusted annually.

The county’s planning program emphasizes the potential for changes that are anticipated or unexpected. County staff maintains interest in the solid waste business and routinely announces various programs or events they have learned about through a myriad list of publications, conferences and regulatory agencies. These examples may be considered (or perhaps avoided) by Lee County. Flexibility is a key component stressed in all of the system’s planning processes.

Employee Relations

The measurement of employee satisfaction and working conditions is periodically obtained by Lee County through the disbursement of an employee opinion survey. This is an effective tool to determine the workplace climate, employee morale, working conditions and any workplace issues. Lee County’s last employee satisfaction survey was administered in 2008. The county’s survey was confidential and anonymous to employees. A total of 800 employees out of 2,595 responded to this survey (31% response rate). County management has used this information to identify strengths and weaknesses within employee relations and as a tool to improve upon perceived deficiencies.

Quarterly employee meetings with the county manager encourage employees to bring a wide range of issues to the table. Having the county manager directly address concerns has received positive feedback from county employees. Managers and supervisors support the county’s employee compensation and benefits package. Personal recognition of engaged and goal-oriented employees by managers is very much alive in the Lee County Solid Waste Division. Managers and supervisors encourage staff to attend cost saving training and/or safety courses. Quarterly onsite employee recognition barbecues hosted by the division director and his managerial staff round out stellar employee performance recognition. The solid waste division’s retention rate of 99% over the past several years exemplifies management’s commitment to the employees.
Change Management Processes

The system’s staff is cognizant of pressure to “defend and justify itself” that is routinely placed on public solid waste systems by both county policy makers and the general public. Certain private sector elements often claim a “cheaper” alternative. Lee County has learned that such “claims” generally do not include a full disclosure of needs for long-term community-based sustainability. However, such requests or claims can induce unexpected changes to the system through self-review of the system.

As mentioned in the “planning and forecasting” section, Lee County maintains a philosophy of flexibility for both existing operations and planned future operations. In the solid waste business, there is a fine line between being prepared for “business-as-usual” and “a new direction” for solid waste management. Lee County has successfully responded to events such as the “Carbone Decision,” and “EDF vs. City of Chicago,” which impacted the system elements of flow control and ash disposal. Recent state legislative action now requires a 75 percent recycling goal that could impact the system's overall design.

Lee County’s system is designed for flexibility. For example, operating contracts for the MRF, WTE, collection services and the landfill all include sections designed to implement contract changes if required. Such changes may either add or reduce system cost. The county’s “Disposal Facilities Assessment” can be adjusted for flow control variables. Ownership and control of the WTE, landfill and MRF provides the county more flexibility for regulatory and other operational changes than if the facilities were privately owned. The franchise collection contracts can be adjusted to add or reduce collection components.

The county has also been proactive in its program and facilities development in anticipation of changes as discussed previously. Staff follows smaller events that impact the system’s integrity. For example, almost 10 years ago, with new HIPAA regulations being implemented, the county added a commercial paper shredding facility to the MRF. With a three-year payback, this service provided assurance to institutions for document destruction and generated revenue for the system through processing fees and material sales.

A similar business decision was made relative to the compost facility development. Local waste water companies were faced with ever-tightening regulations for biosolids disposal. The county determined that composting was more economical and sustainable than other disposal methods. The county’s compost facility has ten-year agreements with two waste water utilities for biosolids disposal/composting providing for delivery of material and revenue.

Lee County’s ability to “manage changes” relies primarily on the initiative and resourcefulness of staff and the foresight contained in the various operating contracts and ordinances. These elements of “staff and documents,” recognized by other solid waste systems and organizations, are the basis for the continued successful operations of the Lee County Solid Waste System.
Environmental Citizen Award - Department of Environmental Protection, South District

"Awarded for continuing dedication to improving air quality while reducing our municipal solid waste and our dependence on fossil fuels for the production of electricity."

Section 3 Community Relations

Community Outreach & Feedback

Lee County’s solid waste team reaches out to the community through a variety of venues. In person, students and businesses are invited to participate in open houses and educational tours of the waste campus facilities. This facilitates an interactive environment that effectively communicates the importance of solid waste facilities in the community and provides a face-to-face channel for residents and businesses to give feedback on their waste disposal experiences.

Residents are invited to dispose of household hazardous chemical waste at the HCW facility. While at this facility, county employees engage residents in conversation and provide them with information material about recycling hazardous chemical waste.

Annually, the county distributes a calendar to its customers. This calendar includes important service dates such as collection day changes due to holidays as well as information about each component of the Lee County Integrated Solid Waste Management System.

To communicate to business accounts, the county has provisions within the franchise hauling contracts to allow for inserts with billing statements. Each franchise hauling contract includes a postage offset for specific educational materials that the county feels may be timely in communicating program changes or updates. This was especially effective when the mandatory business recycling ordinance was implemented. A series of postcards and mailers were used to alert businesses to workshops to explain the ordinance and how to become compliant with ordinance provisions. Lee County maintains a good relationship with local media and uses press releases to assist in the dissemination of information to the community.

When the mandatory business recycling ordinance was passed, the county allowed for a yearlong “grace period” for businesses and contractors to modify their practices to integrate recycling. During this year, Lee County administered educational workshops to foster understanding and participation in the program. County employees personally visited businesses to educate employees on compliance. This dedication to communicating to customers has resulted in high participation rates for both contractors and businesses.
County staff attends various community expos and conferences to educate attendees about the community's solid waste programs. These have included construction and demolition debris recycling education at the Lee Builders Association showcase and compost education and sales at a sustainability expo.

Taking advantage of a unique opportunity to positively impact the community, Lee County donates OrganicLee™ Compost to local community gardens and gardening education groups for use as an amendment to garden soil while cultivating a greater level of interest in gardening across the region.

Public Education

Lee County highly values the importance of public education. Commitment to this endeavor is evident in the fact that community education rooms were designed into the waste campus. The community education rooms feature large flat-screen televisions and seating for 40 people. Educational visits include an overview of operations complemented by information explained by a solid waste employee, and a driving and walking tour of the resource recovery campus. To foster solid waste education and understanding from a young age, each sixth grade student in Lee County takes a tour of the campus. Additionally, the county has assisted local universities with the incorporation of site tours of the resource recovery campus into their environmental studies curriculum.

More than 1,400 students and residents visited the resource recovery campus in 2010. The campus has also been host to numerous international visitors based on the reputation of Lee County's system in the solid waste industry. These individuals represented governments and private interests in Europe, South America and Asia.

In an effort to provide residents with an understanding of the solid waste system, Lee County participates in Lee GROWS, a program that provides a “behind the scenes” look at the services county government provides. The program consists of five one day sessions running consecutively each Thursday. Each class is comprised of about 40 participants that visit county government locations such as libraries, the medical examiner’s office, 911 dispatch, the tax collector, parks and recreation, animals services and the airport. Taking part in this program shows residents how the solid waste system works collaboratively with other county services and gives insight into the extensive services offered by Lee County.

Host Community Considerations

The Lee County Integrated Solid Waste System has provided residents and businesses with a local full service system within the confines of Lee County. Coupled with select services provided by private companies such as scrap metal dealers, local residents and businesses do not have to rely on distant service providers to meet their recycling and disposal needs. As the next largest metropolitan areas are over 100 miles from Lee County, this helps to lessen the financial impact to residents and businesses. Many of Lee County Solid Waste Division’s contracted services employ Lee County residents and provide a balance to the public-private dynamic. The Lee County Solid Waste Division is active in organizations such as Keep Lee County Beautiful which complement the goals of the county’s solid waste system. The county’s Right of Way program works with code enforcement as well as the county’s franchise area inspectors to identify and remove illegally disposed materials in county right of ways.

Sensitive to community input, Lee County takes pride in working collaboratively with local residents and businesses. This spirit of cooperation has cultivated beneficial relationships with the cities in Lee County and neighboring Hendry County. Inter-local agreements contracted in 2000 expired in 2010. Pleased with the established services and relationships, all communities participating in the Lee County System renewed their contracts for another 10 years. Inter-governmental synergy has resulted in a system that utilizes the county’s “waste” resources efficiently and significantly reduces the amount of waste placed in the landfill.
To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Horticulturist at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. When Thomas Edison spent his winters in Southwest Florida he knew the importance of growing his food in what he called his truck garden. He then sold fruit and vegetables to the locals and surrounding areas out of the back of a truck.

When we wanted to recreate this truck garden for demonstration purposes at our historical landscape, gardens, and museum, we knew the importance of growing in rich organic material. The organic material we chose was horse manure, ORGANICLEE COMPOST, worm castings, and sterilized crab shell. We have a garden that is 40x30 feet full of tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, beans, peas, beets, lettuce, peppers, and radishes.

We could not have had the success without the amendments we used for our mounds. When we planted, we dropped the 9 yards of ORGANICLEE COMPOST on the top of the existing poor Florida soil (mostly sand) along with the others amendments. We proceeded to mound up rows with the organics just leaving room in between the 8 rows of planting space for maintenance between rows.

Without the compost material our tomatoes would have tasted the usual tasteless tomatoes Florida usually seems to produce. We were able to allow our employees plenty of salad material, and we were happy to sell vegetables at the Farmers Market in downtown Fort Myers.

We owe Lee County Compost team a big thank you for making their product using existing materials, and turning trash into treasure. Our vegetables thank us too.

Kind Regards,

Debbie Hughes
Horticulturist at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates
To whom it may concern:

Please forward this to Senior Management:

Thank you very much for your 2011 calendar. It is very informative and, may I say, impressive, what you are doing. As an Engineer, I appreciate what we have been able to achieve technologically, and I’m impressed by what your organization has done.

I have retained your information in a reference file and pledge to support your efforts in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lee County now recycles fiberboard

BY PAMELA SMITH HAYFORD
phpayford@news-press.com

Lee County Solid Waste now recycles thin cardboard material called fiberboard, boosting the demand for the program's signature blue bins.

More than 3,000 people have requested the bins since a week ago Wednesday, when the county sent postcards telling Lee residents of the new addition.

Lots of stuff comes packaged in fiberboard: crackers, cereal, shoes, action figures, plastic toys, even kitty litter.

Until now, the county specifically asked residents not to put the thin cardboard in the recycling bin. Compared to newspaper, office paper and the corrugated version, fiberboard was poor quality and had no market.

"That kind of cardboard is a very low-grade material," said Lindsay Sampson, the county's solid waste director. "The fiberboard, cereal boxes and that nature, has generally already been recycled about three or four times. And they use a little bit of clay in producing that product.

"Because of the clay, it has limited use in the recycling business," however, enough people put fiberboard in their bins to spur waste managers to sort through the trash and find out how much was in there. The estimate: 240 tons a year, said Emory Smith, Lee’s recycling coordinator.

"We were getting it and having to pay disposal on it," Smith said. The county paid $54 a ton to haul it to the incinerator. That’s nearly $13,000 a year.

A North Carolina-based marketing firm found Lee County a buyer in January. Now fiberboard can be recycled — likely into other fiberboard products.

Just break down the packaging, fold it flat and put in the bin — or under the bin, if it’s large.

About 33 percent of Lee County’s 1 million tons of trash a year is recycled, Smith said.

While fiberboard won’t make money for the county, it will bring in a little, making it cheaper than hauling it to the incinerator, officials said. The recycling center doesn’t make enough money to pay for its $900,000 budget yet, but officials credit recycling with helping to keep trash bills from skyrocketing.

Smith estimates the county will get at least 1,000 tons of fiberboard a year now.

The county isn’t stopping there. It now shreds and recycles sensitive documents for companies such as medical offices, law firms and insurance agencies.

Lee also is looking into what else it can recycle, such as fabric.

"We’ve been looking to get that for a couple of years, but we just can’t seem to find a steady market," Sampson said.

WHAT TO RECYCLE

■ All types of cardboard, including the thin fiberboard, such as cereal boxes
■ Magazines
■ Newspapers
■ Paper bags
■ Telephone books
■ Computer and office paper
■ Junk mail
■ Shredded paper
■ Cans
■ Foil
■ Aluminium p/ve pans
■ Empty aerosol cans
■ Plastic containers marked 1-7 on the bottom
■ Green, clear and brown glass

NEED ANOTHER BIN?
Call 338-3302
Recycling to be a heap easier

No more separation for Lee residents

BY MARY WOZNIAK
mwozniak@news-press.com

A revamped Lee County recycling system that lets residents recycle more conveniently and saves the budget-crunched county and city of Fort Myers thousands in tax dollars is going online six weeks early.

About $4.5 million in new machinery will rev up during the first two weeks of August instead of the targeted date of Oct. 1, said Lindsey Sampson, county solid waste director.

"I expect by early September we will have all the bugs worked out and we should be on a roll," Sampson said.

The move will switch the county to a system that lets residents mix items together in one bin, instead of separating them out into paper/plastic/glass/metal.

"Oh, that's easier indeed," said Barbara Peterson, a Fort Myers resident. "I'm happy to hear that."

It also means that Fort Myers can stop paying $348 per truck to haul its recyclables to the east coast.

It's been trucked since April because the city switched to the new recycling method in April 2009, 18 months before the county's target launch date.

The city saved $300,000 by bringing the recycling in-house instead of contracting it to a private company and converting

See RECYCLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PHOTOS BY JOHN DAVID EMMETT/THE NEWS-PRESS

Recycling Facility Information

- The revamped facility on Buckingham Road will be the first publicly owned "single stream" recycling facility in the state.
- Lee County is No. 1 in the state in percentage of trash that is recycled—42 percent, according to the latest available statistics from 2008.
- The county has consistently been in the top five for 12 years.
- The county recycles 55,000 to 60,000 tons per year.
- The city is paying about $30,000 to truck its recyclable material to the Fort Lauderdale area from April to August. Since the city saved $300,000 by going to single stream early, the net savings is $270,000.

Garbage/Recycling Pickup Coverage Areas

- The city of Fort Myers Solid Waste Department covers Incorporated Fort Myers.
- Waste Management covers Lehigh Acres, east Fort Myers.
- Waste Pro covers the largest area, including Page Field to Gladiolus, south Fort Myers, San Carlos Park, FGCU, The Brooks, Coconut Point, Matlacha and Pine Island, North Fort Myers and, as of Oct. 1, Cape Coral.
- Veolia Environmental Services' coverage includes Fort Myers Beach, Mediterra, Bonita Springs, the Whiskey Creek-McGregor area, and the area south and west of Gladiolus Parkway.
- The new recycling program will replace 16-gallon containers with 30,000 85-gallon containers in Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, and the Iona-McGregor area. Cape Coral will get 85,000 66-gallon containers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Received the 2009 Waste To Energy Gold Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Received ‘Recycle Florida Today’s’ award for the Lee County Mandatory Business Recycling Program in the category of Outstanding Urban County or City Program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Received the Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award in the category Public Private Partnership for the Resource Recovery Facility Expansion Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Received Project of the Year Award (Renewable Energy Category) from Power Gen Magazine, an internationally recognized trade magazine of the electric utility industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Received Project of the Year Award in the category Structures/Environment from the Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association for the Resource Recovery Facility Expansion Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ award for having the “Outstanding Solid Waste Processing Facility” for 2001. (Lee County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility - Large Plant Waste-to-Energy Facility)</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for having the highest recycling rate in the State (2000).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Received the “1999 Gold Excellence Award” for outstanding solid waste and waste to energy operations from the Solid Waste Association of North America.</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Received national recognition by winning the first and second place awards for the production of television commercials encouraging recycling participation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Waste To Energy Facility awarded “Environmental Citizen Award” by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>WTE facility awarded 1995 Project of the Year Award by Power Engineering and Power Engineering International (Power Gen Magazine).</td>
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NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR IMPORTANT CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please, No Trash in your Recycling Container!

Recycle This:

Aluminum: soda & beer cans, aluminum foil, aluminum pie pans
Glass: soda, beer, liquor and wine bottles, jelly, salsa, mayo jars, any other clear, brown, and green glass bottles and jars (please rinse out food)
Metal: soup, fruit, juice, pet food, tuna, vegetable cans, empty aerosol cans
Paper: Newspaper, magazines, brown, white, and colored paper bags, phone books, junk mail, catalogs, office and computer paper, contoured cardboard (like moving boxes), and cardboard (like cereal boxes, gift boxes, and pasta boxes, etc.)
Plastic: containers marked #1 - #7, including water bottles, milk jugs, detergent & bleach bottles, soda bottles, shampoo bottles, butter or whipped topping tubs, also accepted are #2 black nursery plant pots

Aluminum: Pots and pans, cookware (like Pyrex or Corningware), cookware (like Pyrex or Corningware)
Glass: Medicine bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors, cookware (like Pyrex or Corningware)
Metal: Tools, car parts, listening devices
Paper: Shredded paper and no more than 2 boxes of wax paper and waxed cardboard
Plastic: Plastic bags, plastic drinking cups, produce bags, toys, water bottles, milk jugs, and detergent containers, household chemical waste containers, flower pots (except black nursery plant pots), aerosol cans, Styrofoam, polystyrene trays, newspaper sleeves, egg cartons, polystyrene foam

Do Not Recycle:

Aluminum: Medicine bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors, cookware (like Pyrex or Corningware)
Glass: Medicine bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors, cookware (like Pyrex or Corningware)
Metal: Tools, car parts, listening devices
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Attention Contractors!

Lee County Solid Waste is Hosting A C&D Recycling Workshop

When: Wednesday, 5/28/2008, Between 1 PM And 3 PM
Where: Lakes Regional Library 15290 Bass Rd., Ft. Myers

The workshop will include a brief overview of the ordinance requirements by County staff followed by a general question and answer session.

Construction projects that are still active after June 1, 2008 must comply with the newly adopted ordinance. This Ordinance requires contractors to divert debris materials from landfills in the form of salvaging, reusing and recycling.

The Solid Waste Division will be available to guide you in this endeavour. For additional information call our office at (239)533-8000.

New and Existing Businesses in Lee County Must Recycle Their Most Generated Recyclable Material!

YOUR ROAD TO COMPLIANCE BEGINS WITH:

1) A service agreement and convenient, sufficiently sized, outside containers from a recycling service company that YOU select.
2) Education that YOU provide to newly hired employees regarding the materials that your business recycles and the location of the indoor recycling containers. Additionally, to sustain the recycling program YOU refresh all of your employees once a year on your company’s recycling program.
3) YOU provide your employees convenient indoor collection containers.

Gardeners & Growers: this growing season make sure to use OrganicLee Compost for your plant needs.

OrganicLee compost is available in bulk (cy) sales at the Lee County Resource Recovery Facility at 10500 Buckingham Road off S.R. 82 for $2.00/bag. For more information call the Lee County Solid Waste Division @ (239)533-8000.

Notice to Residents, Businesses, and Builders

Lee County Solid Waste Division Holiday Observance For Independence Day 2009:

Residents in unincorporated Lee County, the City of Fort Myers, Town of Fort Myers Beach, and the City of Bonita Springs, please note that all garbage, recycling, and yard waste collections are performed on the regularly scheduled collection day.

The Lee County Solid Waste Division announces the following facility closings in observance of the 4th of July holiday:

- The Lee County Resource Recovery Facility located on 10500 Buckingham Road and the Lee County Landfill off S.R. 82 near Felda are closed on July 4.
- The Household Chemical Waste Drop Off Facility on Topaz Court will be closed from Friday, July 3, through Sunday, July 5.
- Regular operating schedule resumes on Monday the 6th.

Make up day for the holiday is Saturday July 11 from 8 am to Noon.

Lee County offices are closed on Friday, July 3rd. Solid Waste Division permit sign off for permitted construction and demolition recycling projects resumes on Monday, July 6th.

The Lee County Solid Waste Division wishes you a safe and happy holiday as we celebrate the United States of America.

Lee County Solid Waste Division
10 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Lee County Waste To Energy Facility August 7, 2004, 9 AM to 1 PM 10500 Buckingham Rd. Fort Myers, Florida

This Award Winning, Worldwide Recognized Facility, With its State-of-Art Air Pollution Controls, Has Been In Operation Since 1994 And Processed 4 Million Tons Of Garbage

Guided Tours of the Waste To Energy Plant and Recycling Facility, as well as bus tours are offered between 9 AM and 10 AM and again from 10:30 AM to 1 PM

Plaque Presentation Ceremony starts at 10 AM

Bagged Organic Lee Compost can be purchased at the Lee County Solid Waste Annex at 6441 Topaz Ct. off Metro Parkway for $2.00/bag.

For more information call the Lee County Solid Waste Division @ (239)533-8000.

Make OrganicLee Compost your choice for healthy plants.

Lee County Solid Waste Division
www.leegov.com/solidwaste

Independence Day 2009: Notice to Residents

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Gardeners & Growers: this growing season make sure to use OrganicLee Compost for your plant needs.

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