

Governor Charlie Crist  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Senate President Jeff Atwater  
111 West Madison Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

House Speaker Larry Cretul  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

March 10, 2010



Governor Crist., Speaker Cretul, and President Atwater,

Pinellas Partners in Recycling would like to thank Senator Constantine for his advocacy of recycling in Florida. We support a 75 percent recycling goal by the year 2020. While this is an ambitious goal, as skilled professionals we are confident that it can be achieved – given the correct tools.

Since 1989, Pinellas Partners in Recycling has been a coordinated voice and force for recycling and waste reduction Pinellas County, Florida. The group's membership includes recycling professionals from 24 municipalities and the county, plus private companies, non-profit organizations, and citizens who truly care about conserving resources and protecting the state's environment. **By reducing waste, citizens, businesses, state and local governments can save money.** And on a larger scale, recycling more means disposing less in landfills – helping to protect Florida's natural environment that drives our tourism economy.

**Floridians could be put to work** planning, building and operating material recovery facilities that our state desperately needs. The development of in-state markets for recycled materials will support a **broad range of "green" jobs** from recycling collection and processing, to manufacturing and management, as well as research and design. These **investments in recycling are needed now to serve the state's long term economic** and environmental interests.

With state support and coordinated efforts, local governments and private firms will be able to **develop recycling into a truly sustainable industry in Florida.** As professional recyclers, we understand all too well that recycling requires behavior changes for all of our citizens and visitors. In order to reach our goal Florida must make **it cheaper and easier to recycle than to waste resources.** By investing in state-of-the-art infrastructure, committing to progressive policies *and enforcing them*, we believe that 75 percent recycling can be accomplished by 2020.

It is essential that we approach this new goal with both caution and commitment. Reasonable time frames with clearly-articulated intermediate goals should be established and enforced. Likewise, enforcement of *existing* statutory requirements (e.g., mandatory recycling and use of recycled materials by all state agencies) is long overdue.

On behalf of all the members of Pinellas Partners in Recycling, thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response to our attached recommendations.

Sincerely,

Marissa Segundo, Chair  
Pinellas Partners in Recycling

**Recommendations for inclusion in Senate Bill 570 (Florida's 75% Recycling Goal)**  
**Pinellas Partners in Recycling**  
**March 10, 2010**

**Develop recycling infrastructure and markets in Florida**

**1. Create an equitable and self-limiting funding mechanism**

- a. Enact a disposal surcharge for every ton of waste disposed in landfills, including waste-to-energy and recycling residues.
- b. Ban the following materials from landfill disposal, and enforce fees for all who disregard the ban. Materials recommended for a landfill ban include: yard waste\*, tires\*, paper, corrugated cardboard, metals, bottles and cans (including glass, metal, and plastic), electronics and hazardous chemicals.  
*\*Yard waste and tires are presently banned from landfills.*
- c. Specify that revenues from a disposal surcharge or fees can only be spent to develop recycling facilities or markets.

**2. Provide incentives for state and local coordination to develop infrastructure**

- a. Return the majority of revenues from landfill surcharge and/or fee directly to local governments to develop their own recycling infrastructure.
- b. Reserve the remaining revenues for state support of regional market and infrastructure development.
- c. Give tax credits to firms that build recycling processing facilities or develop markets for recycled materials in Florida.

**3. State and local governments must lead by example**

- a. Clarify and enforce *existing* mandates for recycling and purchasing recycled-content materials in state agencies.
- b. Add recycled mulch and organic compost to the list of recycled-content products to be used by state agencies (e.g., Department of Transportation and state park projects).
- c. Require all state facilities to perform waste assessments and track what is recycled and disposed
- d. Require all state facilities to achieve 75 percent recycling by 2020
- e. Extend above requirements to local government facilities
- f. Require state and local government contractors to meet same recycling requirements

**Support additional recovery of recyclable materials from waste generators**

**1. Enact Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework legislation**

- a. Prioritize the most problematic materials: electronics, batteries, hazardous chemicals, and other materials to be added as needed
- b. Require retailers to assess an advanced recycling fee for EPR-covered items.
- c. Retailers can either refund the advanced recycling fee when customers return EPR-covered wastes, or transfer all funds from advanced recycling fees to local government hazardous waste collection programs.

- 2. Enforce rules consistently among districts**
- 3. Require the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to provide certified tonnage reports from processors of organics, electronics, and hazardous materials to county recycling coordinators.**
- 4. Provide funding to assist schools with establishing comprehensive recycling and composting programs.**
- 5. Mandate commercial recycling for counties and cities with populations over 100,000 and 50,000, respectively.**
- 6. Mandate residential pay-as-you-throw disposal rate structures.**
- 7. Maintain and enforce current landfill bans on yard debris and tires.**
- 8. Stop permitting unlined landfills and set 2020 as the expiration date for all existing permits for unlined landfills.**
- 9. Mandate pre-processing (recycling) of construction and demolition debris.**
- 10. Require solid waste haulers to offer recycling, and require them to report set-out and participation rates to local governments where they operate.**

***About Pinellas Partners in Recycling:***

Since 1989, Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) has been a coordinated voice and force for recycling and waste reduction Pinellas County, Florida. The group's membership includes recycling professionals from 24 municipalities and the county, plus private companies, non-profit organizations, and citizens who truly care about conserving resources and protecting the state's environment. PPR was created by and acts in an advisory capacity to the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee of Pinellas County concerning recycling issues.

**The mission of the Pinellas Partners in Recycling is as follows:**

To increase public awareness of the importance of waste reduction, reuse and recycling at home, work and throughout the community.

To enlighten the public on appropriate ways to recycle and available recycling resources, including recycling of electronics, hazardous material, yard waste, etc.

To emphasize the purchase of recycled products and to research and support possible end markets for recyclables.

**To learn more about current recycling programs in Pinellas County, please visit [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle](http://www.pinellascounty.org/recycle).**