



# Business Waste Reduction

Cutting waste helps the environment—and your bottom line!

## Why should my business cut waste?

Cutting waste has economic and environmental benefits:

- Save money by reducing waste disposal costs.
- Demonstrate your commitment to sustainability.
- Promote environmental awareness in the workplace.
- Recycle reusable materials.

Both employees and customers will appreciate your company's recycling efforts.

## What items should my business recycle?

Businesses are re-examining what they have traditionally "trashed." Many businesses in Pinellas County recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, toner cartridges, metals and other items.

## Are waste audits available?

Yes. Pinellas County staff is available for on-site waste audits and custom recommendations. This service is part of the [free Cutting Waste at Work program](#). Businesses can save on their bottom line while helping the environment (see box below).

## How can I sign up?

To sign up for the free Cutting Waste at Work program, e-mail [recycle@pinellascounty.org](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org), or call 464-7500.

## What about online help?

Visit [pinellascounty.org/cutwaste](http://pinellascounty.org/cutwaste) for valuable online resources for businesses such as the A to Z Guide for Recycling and Disposal (see page 15), Eight Steps to Cutting Waste at Work, posters, tip sheets, brochures and more.

## Green Business Partnership

### What else can I do to make my business "green"?

Pinellas County Extension offers the [Green Business Partnership program](#) which is a voluntary assessment that recognizes businesses and local governments for environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. The program encourages conservation of resources, waste reduction, energy conservation and cost savings. A waste audit provided by Pinellas County staff is included in this program.

### What services are provided?

A variety of services are available to Green Business Partners, including:

- Green Office assessment and customized recommendations
- Educational and promotional materials
- Informative presentations and Webinars
- Green Business Partnership recognition (fee)

### How can I sign up?

To sign up for the Green Business Partnership, contact Pinellas County Extension at 582-2100, or visit [pinellascountyextension.org](http://pinellascountyextension.org) and select Sustainable Living.



## Success Story: PSCU Financial Services

PSCU Financial Services in St. Petersburg boosted its green initiative by completing the Cutting Waste at Work program, followed closely with Green Business Partnership certification. Using Cutting Waste at Work techniques, PSCU streamlined its garbage hauling schedule, saving several thousand dollars. Pinellas County's Haz-to-Go trailer was on-site at PSCU to collect electronics and chemicals from employees, and the company's paper shredder donated time

for employees to bring personal papers for shredding. PSCU staff work hard to do the right thing by ordering green certified paper products, utilizing reusable cleaning materials and installing motion detection lighting controls where possible. The company's "going green" efforts have also played a role in its community outreach. During the past three years, in concert with its recycler, PSCU donated \$8,000 to the Ronald McDonald House as a result of increased recycling efforts.