

RECYCLE TODAY

FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS



The “Recycle Today” worksheet is recommended for grades 6-8.

The activities are keyed to the Florida State Sunshine Standards for language arts, science, and social studies:

- LA.6-8.2.2.1: Analyzes and evaluates information from text features.
- LA.6-8.2.2.2: Uses information from the text to answer questions.
- LA.6-8.4.2.2: Records information and ideas from sources accurately.
- SC.7.E.6.6: Big Idea 6 Earth Structures—Identifies the impact humans have had on Earth.
- SS.8.G.5.1: Describes human dependence on the physical environment and natural resources to satisfy basic needs.

The “**Recycle Today**” worksheet was developed for Pinellas County Solid Waste staff to use in classroom presentations. Staff use the worksheet and the Pinellas County Recycling Directory to encourage students to recycle.

Educators (teachers, parents, etc.) are welcome to use the worksheet. You will need copies of the 2012 Pinellas County Recycling Directory for each student.

Call Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500 or e-mail recycle@pinellascounty.org to request hard copies of the directory. Students can also access the directory online at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle. The goal is for students to learn about recycling by searching for answers in the Recycling Directory. The students should then take the worksheet and directory home to discuss recycling with their families.

ANSWERS:

All page numbers refer to the 2012 Pinellas County Recycling Directory:

Side 1: “Recycling Plan” - see pgs. 5-13 for local recycling programs (alphabetical by city)

or look online at www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/recycle-waste.htm. Notice that “yard waste recycling” is usually listed separately from curbside or drop-off recycling. If there is no listing, that city does not recycle yard waste. Most cities collecting yard waste pick it up at curbside, but some cities, such as St. Petersburg, offer drop-off centers.

Time permitting, discuss with the students the items that are recycled locally, and ask them to bring samples from home. Some questions your students may ask are:

- 1) “What’s the difference between aluminum and steel cans?” Aluminum is lighter, softer, able to be crushed, and does not stick to a magnet.
- 2) “What plastic can be recycled?” Most cities offer recycling for plastic BOTTLES, but there are now three cities that offer recycling for plastics #1-7 (Gulfport, Oldsmar, and Tarpon Springs). Programs for bottles only do not include items with “no neck” such as yogurt cups or margarine tubs, but programs for #1-7 accept all plastic containers. Items must be empty with no food or liquid inside.

3) “What is mixed paper?” See pg. 4 of the directory for recycling guidelines. The rule of thumb is that any clean, dry paper that tears may be recycled.

4) “How do I know if it’s paperboard or cardboard (especially if it’s brown)?” Check the edge to see how many layers it has (paperboard = 1, and it should be recycled with mixed paper; cardboard = 3 with a wavy middle layer, and it should be recycled with corrugated).

Side 2: “Other Ways to Recycle”

1. **Recycled mulch** - pg. 14 lists 20 sites in Pinellas County where free mulch is available. Students can look for their city on this listing, or look at the map on page 3 which indicates mulch sites with blue dots.
2. **Electronics & chemicals** - pg. 21 lists the 2012 mobile collection events. A student living in Dunedin would write down “Feb. 4 Dunedin High School” or if that event has passed “Oct. 27 Palm Harbor Home Depot”. For items, any of the “What to bring” items shown on pg. 21 are acceptable (batteries, paint, cell phones, TVs, computers, etc.).
3. **Beach recycling** - pg. 17 (top right) has information about the new beach recycling program. The correct answers are “aluminum cans” and “plastic bottles”. For more info, visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/beach.
4. **Close the loop** - pg. 17 (left column) defines “closing the loop” as buying a recycled product. The photo on the worksheet shows a recycled-content label. Students can look for the recycle logo when they shop and look for labels saying “made with recycled materials” or “post-consumer recycled content”. It should be easy to find recycled paper goods, such as notebook paper, facial tissue, or notecards (Target, Publix, etc.).
5. **Recycling events** - pg. 18 lists 2012 Recycling Events. Students should write down an event they’d like to attend such as the April 28-29 Green Thumb Festival.

6. **School recycling** - There is no information in the recycling directory on this item. Students will need to find out what your particular school collects. Your school is probably recycling paper, but may also recycle newspaper, printer cartridges, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, etc.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

1. Try some of the **recycling games** at Just for Kids www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/kids. The site is targeted to elementary age students, but some of the games are appropriate to middle schoolers.
2. Print **worksheets**, such as the recycling crossword puzzle, at Just for Teachers www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/worksheets.htm. You can also request hard copies of the Recycling Activity Book (call 727-464-7500 or e-mail recycle@pinellascounty.org).
3. Invite a **speaker** from Pinellas County Solid Waste to talk to your class about recycling: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm
4. Watch the entertaining and educational 13-minute **video** “No Such Place As Away” to see where our trash goes: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/audiovisual.htm
5. **Tour** Pinellas County’s Waste-to-Energy facility and landfill. Free bus transportation is available for qualifying educational groups: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/tours.htm
6. Learn more about recycling with the **Recycling FAQs** at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle-faq.htm. There are FAQs on local Pinellas County recycling and FAQs on recycling in general. Students that submit a new FAQ may win a free gift.
7. Challenge the students to initiate a **new recycling program at your school** such as aluminum cans. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/school-recycling.htm for ideas.

