

# 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 Utilities Solid Waste Operations staff to use at 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 2009 Pinellas County Recycling Directory for each student.**

Call 464-7500 or e-mail [recycle@pinellascounty.org](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org) to request hard copies. Students can access the directory online at [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle](http://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 2009 Pinellas County Recycling Directory:

**Side 1: “Recycling Plan”** - see pgs. 6-13 for local recycling programs (alphabetical by city)

or look online at [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/recycle-waste.htm](http://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?*” You don’t need to look for a number 1 or 2 on the bottom. If it’s a plastic BOTTLE, you can recycle it! If in doubt, check if it has a neck (opening smaller than the body). Items that have no neck (such as yogurt cups) cannot be recycled.
- 3) “*What is mixed paper?*” See pg. 5 of the directory for a listing—the rule of thumb is that any clean, dry paper that tears can be recycled with mixed paper.

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 4 which is keyed to the listing.

**2. Electronics & chemicals** - pg. 19 lists the 2009 mobile collection events. A student living in Palm Harbor would write down “Apr. 11 Palm Harbor University High School” or if that event has passed “Oct. 24 Palm Harbor Home Depot”. For items they could bring, any item under “What to bring” on pg. 19 is acceptable (batteries, paint, cell phones, etc.).

**3. Give your trash a new life** - pg. 18 lists many of the 250 items found in the online *A to Z Guide*. The idea is for students NOT to write down items commonly recycled such as aluminum cans, but to list 3 items that they may not have thought about recycling such as CDs, plastic bags, hair, packing peanuts, or DVDs. Time permitting, have students research how they would reuse or recycle those items (such as CDs can be sold/traded at a music store, swapped with friends, or donated to a thrift store or library) by looking them up online at: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit)

**4. Close the loop** - pg. 17 defines “closing the loop” as buying a recycled product. The photo on the worksheet shows a sample 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. 23 lists 2009 Recycling Events. Students should write down an event they’d like to attend such as the April 25-26 Green Thumb Festival in St. Petersburg.

**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 activities online at **Just for Kids** [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/kids](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/kids). The site is targeted to elementary age students, but includes activities relevant to middle schoolers. You can print worksheet pages (such as a crossword puzzle) from the Recycling Activity Book at [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/worksheets.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/worksheets.htm). If you prefer, you can request hard copies of the book (call 464-7500 or e-mail [recycle@pinellascounty.org](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org)).
2. Invite a **speaker** from Pinellas County Utilities to talk to your class about recycling: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm)
3. Use the **One Person’s Trash newsletter** as a classroom activity (includes teacher guide keyed to the Sunshine State Standards): [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/newsletters.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/newsletters.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](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/audiovisual.htm)
5. **Tour** the Solid Waste Operations facility (including the Waste-to-Energy plant and landfill) or the Clearwater recycling facility: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/tours.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/tours.htm)
6. Learn more about recycling with the **Recycling FAQs** found at [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle](http://www.pinellascounty.org/recycle). Students that submit a new FAQ may win a free gift: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/recycle-faq.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/recycle-faq.htm)
7. Challenge the students to initiate a **new recycling program at your school** (such as aluminum cans). Call 464-7500 or e-mail [recycle@pinellascounty.org](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org) for ideas.