

# RECYCLE CHALLENGE

## FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS



### The “Recycle Challenge” worksheet is recommended for grades 9-12.

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

LA.910.2.2.1; LA.1112.2.2.1: Analyzes and evaluates information from text features.

LA.910.2.2.2; LA.1112.2.2: Uses information from the text to answer questions.

LA.912.4.3.2: Includes persuasive techniques (Brain Teaser advertising slogan activity).

LA.912.4.2.2: Records information and ideas from sources accurately.

SC.912.L.17.14: Assesses the need for adequate waste management strategies

The “**Recycle Challenge**” 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](mailto:recycle@pinellascounty.org) to request hard copies of the directory. Students can also 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 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](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.

### Side 2: “Recycling Quiz”

- 1. Recycling rate** - pg. 16 shows that Pinellas County’s recycling rate is about 30%.
- 2. Statewide recycling goal** - pg. 16 shows the statewide goal is to recycle 75% by 2020.
- 3. Plastic bottles** - pg. 4 lists milk and mouth-wash bottles. Students should be able to think of additional examples such as shampoo, ketchup, window cleaner or detergent bottles.

4. **Mulch** - pg. 14 lists 20 mulch sites. The student should select the one closest to home.
5. **Beach recycling** - pg. 17 (top right) lists an FAQ about beach recycling. The correct answers are aluminum cans and plastic bottles.
6. **Events** - pg. 18 lists 2012 events and workshops. The student should pick one.
7. **WTE** - pg. 16 says that our garbage is burned at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility.
8. **Close the loop** - pg. 17 defines “close the loop” as buying a recycled product. Students can look for the recycle logo when they shop and look for labels saying “made with recycled materials” or “post-consumer recycled content”. They can find recycled paper goods, such as notebook paper, facial tissue, or notecards, most anywhere (Target, Publix, etc.).
9. **Mobile collection** - pg. 21 lists the 2012 mobile collection events. Students should list the next event closest to home. For items to bring, any item listed under “What to bring” on pg. 21 is okay (batteries, paint, cell phones, VCRs, motor oil, etc.)
10. **Mixed paper** - See examples on the flip side of the student worksheet under “mixed paper” (notebook paper, cereal boxes, shoe boxes, toilet paper rolls, and junk mail). Also see pg. 4 of the directory for more ideas such as catalogs or wrapping paper. The rule of thumb is *any clean, dry paper that tears* may be recycled with mixed paper.
11. **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.
12. **Largest percentage** - pg. 16 pie chart shows that answer “c” paper comprises the largest percentage of our waste stream at 26%.

## BRAIN TEASERS:

Time permitting, students can tackle these two thought-provoking items:

- 1) What are the top 3 reasons you think teens don't recycle?
- 2) Develop an advertising slogan to promote recycling to teens.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

1. Invite a **speaker** from Pinellas County Solid Waste to talk to your class about recycling: [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm)
2. 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)
3. **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](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/tours.htm)
4. Learn more about recycling with the **Recycling FAQs** at [www.pinellascounty.org/recycle-faq.htm](http://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.
5. 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](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/school-recycling.htm) for ideas.

