

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:

LA910.2.2.1; 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.

LA912.4.3.2: 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 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 to request hard copies. Students can 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 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. 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 currently has a recycling rate of 30%.

2. Statewide recycling goal - pg. 16 shows the statewide goal is to recycle 75% by 2020.

3. Plastic bottles - pg. 5 lists examples in addition to water and soda—such as juice, ketchup, milk, window cleaner, or detergent. 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.

4. Mulch - pg. 14 lists 20 mulch sites. The student should select the one closest to home.

5. Countywide recycling - pg. 17 (top right box) shows that the countywide curbside recycling program will begin in early 2010.

6. Items to recycle - 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. Ask the students to 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 on our online A to Z Guide at:

www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit

7. Events - pg. 23 lists 2009 events and workshops. The student should pick one.

8. WTE - pg. 15 says that our garbage is burned at the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility.

9. Closing 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”. They can find recycled paper goods, such as notebook paper, facial tissue, or notecards, most anywhere (Target, Publix, etc.).

10. Mobile collection - pg. 19 lists the 2009 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. 19 is okay (batteries, paint, cell phones, VCRs, pool chemicals, etc.)

11. 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. 5 of the directory for more ideas such as soda cartons and brown paper bags. The rule of thumb is *any clean, dry paper that tears* can be recycled with mixed paper.

12. 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.

13. 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 Utilities to talk to your class about recycling: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/speakers.htm
2. Watch the 13-minute **video** “No Such Place As Away” to find out where our trash goes: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/audiovisual.htm
3. **Tour** the Solid Waste Operations facility (including the WTE plant and landfill) or the Clearwater recycling facility: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/teachers/tours.htm
4. Learn more about recycling using the new online **Recycling FAQs** found at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle. Students that submit a new FAQ may win a free gift: www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/recycle-faq.htm
5. 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 for ideas.