



September 2022 – Newsletter



“Renew.” The term means to “give fresh life or strength to; revive.” This word came to mind during The Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation’s Board of Directors Meeting on August 18th at the beautiful SkyOne Center at the Tampa International Airport – a location teeming with energy and innovation. Given the hiatus taken from in-person events due to COVID, I was pleased that our board could meet in person to give a renewed purpose and vision to the mission and goals of the Foundation.

The Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation’s (FRPF) Tampa Bay Regional Sustainability and Recycling Summit was held the next day and began with an address by Tampa Mayor Jane Castor highlighting the city’s environmental sustainability initiatives and encouraging Floridians to continue their efforts to improve recycling. The sold-out event showcased that Floridians are energized to attend meetings in person again and renew their efforts around recycling in the communities where they live, work, and play.

Seeing familiar faces and meeting new individuals engaged in recycling has renewed my commitment to sharing recycling best practices with stakeholders and learning how each of us has the responsibility to future generations to help Florida be a leader in environmental sustainability.

Want to learn how you can make a difference and renew your energy and drive to improve sustainability? Mark your calendars to attend our next event in Plant City at the NuCycle Energy facility on September 23. Check out the feature article on NuCycle in this newsletter to learn more.

For more “renewing” events, be sure to participate in Florida Recycles Week, a FRPF Signature Event, on November 14-18. As a part of our commitment to partnering with like-minded organizations, we are proud to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in efforts to promote recycling across the State. This year’s event will feature both virtual and in-person events making it the perfect opportunity to engage no matter where you are located.

I hope to see you at these events. The Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation and its members are always developing and adopting sustainable business practices that reduce waste, encourage reuse, increase diversion and recycling, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We believe the best way to impact change is through educational initiatives that encourage Florida businesses and individuals to maximize existing recycling programs and expand opportunities wherever possible.

If you would like to help us in our mission to impact change, please contact me or our Executive Director, Keyna Cory, at keyna@flrecycling.org or 850.728.1054.

Please join us as we look to “renew” efforts to improve recycling in your communities and across the Sunshine State.

Cheers,

Elizabeth Castro DeWitt, Chair – Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation
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Tampa Bay Regional Sustainability and Recycling Summit features initiatives at Tampa International Airport

The Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation and the Tampa International Airport hosted a summit Friday, August 19 to highlight regional sustainability and recycling efforts.

City of Tampa Mayor Jane Castor kicked off the summit at SkyCenter One, a LEED Platinum building, and outlined the City’s sustainability successes. During her administration, Tampa has seen major success in enhancing workforce development, establishing sustainability & resilience, improving infrastructure & mobility, increasing housing affordability, and strengthening community-centric services.



Tampa International Airport, the 28th busiest in the nation, handles 59,078 passengers daily. **Eric Caplan**, Sustainability and Resilience Program Director, said under the airport’s Sustainable Management Plan the facility has converted more than 35 percent of its service fleet to alternative fuel vehicles, uses 100% reclaimed water for irrigation water, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent and energy consumption by 3 percent.



The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, which manages the four regional airports, also diverts more than 1,500 tons annually through its recycling program which includes paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, and aluminum.



Shelby Lewis, City of Tampa Recycling Coordinator, highlighted the city’s composting program which has diverted 83 tons of organic waste from the landfill through its successful Composting Drop-Off program. Tampa Bay is also home to the world-famous Gasparilla Parade which generates a lot of beads! Through its “Bead-Free Bay” program, the city has collected approximately 10,000 pounds of beads or 333,000 individual necklaces which are cleaned and reused.

Another city project, the Litter Skimmer, collects litter on local waterways.



OUTREACH

Travis Barnes, Manager of Sustainable Materials Management for Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department, gave an overview of the County’s sustainability initiatives at the summit. In 2020, Hillsborough County was certified LEED Platinum under the US Green Building Council’s Leaders for Energy and Environmental Design Cities and Communities program. At the time, Hillsborough was the only county government in Florida, and one of three in the United States, to earn the top honor for committing to sustainability and improving the lives of its residents, visitors, and businesses.

Hillsborough County is being creative and utilizing partnerships whenever possible, according to Barnes. Recent examples of regional collaboration include the www.TampaBayRecycles.org campaign focused on reducing recycling contamination and the www.ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org campaign that focuses on waste reduction targeting single use plastics and is a partnership between Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Pinellas County, the City of St. Petersburg, and the City of Tarpon Springs.

Christine (Angel) Danger of the USF Sustainability Superheroes Program concluded the summit. Sponsored by Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, the program helps children learn about sustainability, water and energy conservation, and gardening with a focus on a world without waste. A recent event at the Clearwater Aquarium saw students create toys for dolphins using trash as part of the Superheroes Program.

The Summit was sponsored by **Commercial Plastics Recycling, NuCycle Energy, Florida Recyclers Association, Florida Beverage Association, Publix Super Markets, Niagara Bottling, PepsiCo, and the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA).**



Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation Seeks Nominations for Recycling Champions Awards Program

The Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2022 Recycling Champions Awards that will recognize companies, organizations, governmental entities, and individuals that have made a significant impact in recycling. The group will also recognize and celebrate new innovative programs in water reuse and recycling, energy efficiency, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Nominations are now open and self-nominations are welcomed.

Suggested Award Categories include:

- Communication and Education
- Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling
- Water Reuse and/or Recycling
- Energy Efficiency
- Environmental Stewardship

- Innovation
- Recycling Market Development

Applicants can be a non-profit; large business (over 100 employees); small business; governmental entity; or educational organization.

Applications can be found on the Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation website – www.flrecycling.org and the deadline to submit is October 1, 2022.

Notification of award decisions will be made in November, with the awards presented during Florida Recycles Week November 14 – 18, 2022.

Last year's winners included:

- Green Works Orlando – Best Overall
- Publix Super Markets – Environmental Steward Super Star
- Florida Power & Light – Trailblazer in Waste Reduction, Recycling and Reuse
- Rehrig-Pacific – Innovation in Manufacturing
- Universal Orlando – Waste Reduction, Recycling and Reuse
- Keep Brevard Beautiful – Innovation in Communications
- Dream in Green – Innovation in Education
- Abigail Wright Chamberlin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution – Innovation – Community Action

Judges will be from the Sustainable Business Club of the sustainable business program in the Department of Economics of the Miami Herbert Business School at the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

Upcoming events ...



See How Hard to Recycle Materials Find a New Life as Fuel at NuCycle Energy on Friday, September 23

Join us on Friday, September 23 at 10 am in Plant City as a panel of top Florida companies and organizations share how they turn their hard to recycle materials into useful feedstock.

The NuCycle Energy team will then explain their process of manufacturing fuel from hard to recycle plastics along with a tour of their facility.

During a networking luncheon, CEMEX team members will explain how they use NuCycle's Enviro Fuelcubes® in their process.

NuCycle Energy is located at 2067 County Line Road in Plant City, FL 33566

The cost of the event is \$50 per person and space is limited.

To register visit- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hard-to-recycle-materials-find-a-new-life-as-fuel-at-nucycle-energy-tickets-407459621697>

Hope to see you on September 23!

Membership News...

Collier County, FL Study Promotes Higher Recycling Rates

Residents of Collier County will soon be asked to share their recycling habits through a pilot study in collaboration with **WM**, and The Recycling Partnership. Collier County recently achieved a recycling rate of 75% in 2021, recycling 1.5 million tons of the 2 million total waste collected. Read More here:

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/collier-county-fl-study-promotes-higher-recycling-rates/>

NuCycle Takes on Election Sign Challenge

Through September 6, NuCycle Energy is partnering with the City of Orlando, Winter Park, Orange County, and The League of Women Voters of Florida to recycle local political signs by turning them into EnviroFuel Cubes.

“The signs are processed into fuel cubes that will actually replace coal,” said Kyle Pukylo, Director of Sales and Procurement at NuCycle Energy.

There are several drop-off locations throughout Orlando and Winter Park that will be available until September 6 at 12 noon.

The program will begin again on November 4.

Three Coke Florida manufacturing facilities hit “zero waste” milestone



Coke Florida, the third-largest privately held and sixth-largest Coca-Cola bottler in the United States, announced that its Broward Manufacturing Facility has obtained GreenCircle’s Zero Waste to Landfill certification, joining its Tampa and Orlando facilities in reducing its carbon footprint. The Tampa manufacturing facility was the first location certified in 2019 followed by the Orlando manufacturing facility in 2021.

That means seventy-five percent of Coca-Cola Beverages Florida’s manufacturing facilities in the state hold a GreenCircle certification.

“Coke Florida’s commitment to reducing waste is not new,” shared Erin Black, Vice President, Sustainability, Risk Management and Facilities for Coke Florida. “In fact, the large majority of the waste produced at Broward was already being recycled. GreenCircle’s comprehensive evaluation process provides transparency that validates our commitment to a World Without Waste.”

GreenCircle Certified, LLC was established to ensure specificity in third-party certification after encountering many unsubstantiated claims in the marketplace. GreenCircle’s rigorous evaluation process provides independent verification that claims of sustainable aspects of products and operations are valid.

“We have been certifying Coke Florida since 2019 and we commend their ongoing commitment to transparency and continuous improvement,” stated Michelle Bonanno, Director of Operations at GreenCircle. “Coke Florida’s Broward Manufacturing facility is one of three Coke Florida facilities that have achieved this milestone, in just three years, making them a leader in their industry.”

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220829005397/en/75-of-Coke-Florida%E2%80%99s-Manufacturing-Facilities-Are-GreenCircle-Certified>

Be safe, stay healthy and keep recycling!

Keyna Cory

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