

# Curbside Recycling in Miami Dade County

## Course:

EAP 0420 – Level 4 Reading

## General Goal:

Students will recognize the need to recycle and will understand exactly how to use the new recycling bins that have been issued to Miami Dade County residents. Students will also improve their reading and vocabulary skills.

## Specific Objectives:

- Students will practice the skill of learning new vocabulary based on context.
- Students will be able to use new vocabulary related to the recycling program.
- Students will differentiate between what is and is not recyclable in Miami Dade County.
- Students will recognize their impact on the environment.

## Anticipatory Set:

Professor brings in a cardboard box with various articles that may be recycled including an aluminum can, a plastic bottle, a glass jar, and an old newspaper. Using these objects, the professor lists a few facts for students to ponder. Choose from the attached facts compiled from various sources including the National Recycling Coalition, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Earth911.org.

## Step by Step Process:

- Do a quick survey to see how many students regularly recycle at home.
- Ask students if they've received their new recycling bins from Miami Dade County and find out if they read the pamphlet that came with it. (Show yours if possible.)
- Give each student a copy of the "Curbside Recycling Handout" and go through the underlined vocabulary words using context strategies to determine the part of speech and the definition.
- Discuss the content of this website with students.
- Give students a few days to study the material before they return again.

## Assessment:

- Do another quick survey to find out how their recycling habits may have changed in the last few days.
- Assess students' vocabulary and understanding with the attached quiz.

# Aluminum Recycling Facts

- ♻️ A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That's closed loop recycling at its finest!
- ♻️ Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled.
- ♻️ Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- ♻️ More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.
- ♻️ Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within six weeks.
- ♻️ Because so many of them are recycled, aluminum cans account for less than 1% of the total U.S. waste stream, according to EPA estimates.
- ♻️ An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!
- ♻️ There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.
- ♻️ We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.
- ♻️ At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!
- ♻️ A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!



## Paper Recycling Facts

- ♻️ To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- ♻️ Recycling a single run of the Sunday *New York Times* would save 75,000 trees.
- ♻️ If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year!
- ♻️ If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25,000,000 trees a year.
- ♻️ If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are in the U.S.!!!
- ♻️ The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
- ♻️ The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- ♻️ Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- ♻️ Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.
- ♻️ The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.
- ♻️ In 1993, U.S. paper recovery saved more than 90,000,000 cubic yards of landfill space.
- ♻️ Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill

space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution!

- ♻️ The 17 trees saved (above) can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper would *create* 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- ♻️ The construction costs of a paper mill designed to use waste paper is 50 to 80% less than the cost of a mill using new pulp.



## Plastic Recycling Facts

- ♻️ Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!
- ♻️ Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year!
- ♻️ Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic beverage bottles every hour!
- ♻️ Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- ♻️ American throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.



## Glass Recycling Facts

- ♻️ Every month, we throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper. All of these jars are recyclable!
- ♻️ The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.
- ♻️ A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.
- ♻️ Mining and transporting raw materials for glass produces about 385 pounds of waste for every ton of glass that is made. If recycled glass is substituted for half of the raw materials, the waste is cut by more than 80%.



## Solid Waste and Landfills

- ♻️ About one-third of an average dump is made up of packaging material!
- ♻️ Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.
- ♻️ The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.
- ♻️ The highest point in Ohio is "Mount Rumpke," which is actually a mountain of trash at the Rumpke sanitary landfill!
- ♻️ The US population discards each year 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades, 220,000,000 car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the US commercial air fleet four times over.
- ♻️ Out of ever \$10 spent buying things, \$1 (10%) goes for packaging that is thrown away. Packaging represents about 65% of household trash.

- ♻️ On average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$65 to \$75 to incinerate it.



## Miscellaneous Recycling Facts

- ♻️ More than 20,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using 133 square miles of aluminum foil. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.
- ♻️ Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!
- ♻️ A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
- ♻️ Motor oil never wears out, it just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, re-refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil.
- ♻️ On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a ton of trash per person, per year.
- ♻️ A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!

These recycling facts have been compiled from various sources including the National Recycling Coalition, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Earth911.org.

<http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>

# New Curbside Recycling Program!



Miami-Dade County is launching a new recycling program!

This new curbside recycling program will use convenient "single-stream" recycling, which means that you'll no longer have to separate your recyclable materials. You'll be issued one 65-gallon wheeled cart where you can place all of your recyclable materials, together. You will also be able to recycle more types of paper than before, and you'll only have to set the cart out every other week.

The biggest advantages of this new program are that you no longer have to separate your recyclables and you can now recycle more types of paper products. Recycling has never been easier!

## What materials can I place in the new recycling cart?

- Paper Products: newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, printer paper, copier paper, mail, all other office paper without wax liners
- Cardboard: packing boxes, cereal boxes, gift boxes, corrugated cardboard; flatten all boxes prior to placing them in your cart
- Plastic Containers (narrow necks only): bottles (without caps or lids), milk, water, detergent and shampoo containers (without caps)
- Aseptic Containers: polycoated drink boxes, juice cartons, milk cartons
- Glass: glass food & beverage containers (clear, brown and green)



- Metals: aluminum & steel food and beverage containers.
- \*Only plastic containers with the triangle label symbol #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 can be recycled at this time. You'll find these numbers on the base of the container. (narrow necks only)

## What is not allowed in the cart?

- Garbage or other non-recyclable waste such as gas cylinders, tanks, rocks, dirt, building debris, flammables
- Batteries - dry cell batteries, lead acid batteries
- Certain glass products - window or auto glass, light bulbs, mirrors, glass cookware or bakeware, ceramics
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Home chemicals -- paints, pesticides
- Medical waste and pharmaceuticals
- Electronic waste and accessories- PCs, monitors, televisions, printer cartridges, keyboards, cell phones, CDs and DVDs
- Other non-recyclables - Coat hangers, small appliances, microwave trays



# FAQ's about New Curbside Recycling Program

## **Will I ever need to separate recyclables?**

No. All your recyclables go together in your blue recycling cart. Just be sure to empty and lightly rinse all containers, and remove and discard all lids. All aerosol cans must be emptied to hold less than 5 percent content, and all paper should be dry and free of food debris or other contamination.

## **What are other big changes with the new recycling program?**

With Miami-Dade County's new recycling program, more types of paper will be recycled.

## **When will the recyclables be collected?**

Your recyclables will be collected every other week on one of your garbage collection days.

\* You will receive a calendar that will show you what your "every other week" recycling day is.

\* Some municipal customers will be collected on Wednesdays.

## **Where do I place the cart for collection?**

Just roll your recycling cart out to the curbside by 7 a.m. on your recycling day. Place your recycling cart within 3 feet of the street and at least 5 feet from mailboxes, parked cars or other obstacles. The wheels must face your home. If you use a Miami-Dade EZGo cart or other automated cart for garbage collection, be sure to leave at least 3 feet between the two carts. After collection, return your recycling cart to its storage place.

## **Are recycling carts available in sizes other than the 65-gallon cart?**

Yes. You can exchange your 65-gallon cart for a smaller 35-gallon or a larger 95-gallon cart. Call 3-1-1 to request a cart exchange.

## **Can I purchase an additional recycling cart?**

Before you purchase an extra cart, we'll ask you to exchange your 65-gallon for a larger 95-gallon recycling cart.

However, if the larger cart still doesn't accommodate all of your recyclables, you can purchase an additional cart for a one-time fee. Call 3-1-1 to place your additional cart order.

## **May I use another container other than the recycling cart provided by the County?**

No. The automated recycling truck can only collect recyclables placed in the County-issued blue recycling cart.

## **What if my recycling cart is damaged?**

If the cart is damaged in the collection process, the County will repair or replace your recycling cart free of charge. If the cart is damaged due to neglect, abuse, or modification, you will be responsible for purchasing a replacement cart.

## **What if my recycling cart is stolen?**

You must report the theft to the police department. The County will replace a stolen cart free of charge if you provide a police case number.

## **What happens if I move?**

The recycling cart is the property of the County. It must remain with the house for use by the next resident.

## **What if I cannot roll the recycling cart to the curb?**

If you are disabled or have difficulty moving your recycling cart to the curb, you may apply for special assistance recycling service by calling 3-1-1.

## **What do I do with my old blue and green curbside recycling bins?**

The new cart will replace your old recycling bins. You can reuse them for storage or drop them off at one of the 13 Neighborhood Trash & Recycling Centers and they'll be recycled.

From: [http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm/new\\_curbside\\_recycling.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm/new_curbside_recycling.asp)

**Use context clues to help you define these underlined vocabulary words.**

- curb \_\_\_\_\_
- curbside \_\_\_\_\_
- launch \_\_\_\_\_
- issue \_\_\_\_\_
- cart \_\_\_\_\_
- every other week \_\_\_\_\_
- no longer \_\_\_\_\_
- recyclable \_\_\_\_\_
- wax \_\_\_\_\_
- corrugated cardboard \_\_\_\_\_
- flatten \_\_\_\_\_
- prior \_\_\_\_\_
- narrow \_\_\_\_\_
- caps \_\_\_\_\_
- lids \_\_\_\_\_
- steel \_\_\_\_\_
- gas cylinder \_\_\_\_\_
- tank \_\_\_\_\_
- rocks \_\_\_\_\_
- dirt \_\_\_\_\_
- debris \_\_\_\_\_
- flammable \_\_\_\_\_
- dry cell battery \_\_\_\_\_
- cookware \_\_\_\_\_
- Styrofoam \_\_\_\_\_
- hanger \_\_\_\_\_
- tray \_\_\_\_\_
- FAQ's \_\_\_\_\_
- rinse \_\_\_\_\_
- discard \_\_\_\_\_
- roll \_\_\_\_\_
- obstacles \_\_\_\_\_
- face \_\_\_\_\_
- accommodate \_\_\_\_\_
- one-time fee \_\_\_\_\_
- replace \_\_\_\_\_
- neglect \_\_\_\_\_
- stolen \_\_\_\_\_
- theft \_\_\_\_\_
- remain \_\_\_\_\_
- drop off \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

curb	launch	issue	no longer	wax
flatten	prior	narrow	lid	steel

1. Read all of the vocabulary words \_\_\_\_\_ to answering these questions.
2. Honda plans to \_\_\_\_\_ its new line of automobiles in a special ceremony in Tokyo.
3. The children waited at the \_\_\_\_\_ for their school bus to come.
4. The streets in old Spain are very \_\_\_\_\_. They were made for horses, not cars.
5. The state government will \_\_\_\_\_ you a driver's license if you pass the test.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is commonly used in construction because it is such a strong material.
7. Make sure you \_\_\_\_\_ all of your cardboard boxes before putting them in the cart.
8. It's getting warmer in our city, so we \_\_\_\_\_ need to wear jackets when we go out.
9. I can't close the jar of mayonnaise because I can't find the \_\_\_\_\_ !
10. Candles are made of \_\_\_\_\_ .

flammable	hanger	tray	rinse	face
replace	neglect	stolen	theft	drop off

1. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ your kids at the front entrance of school or at the side entrance?
2. The batteries in this camera are dead. We'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
3. Would you please put away your coat using the \_\_\_\_\_ in the closet?
4. We were tempted by the huge \_\_\_\_\_ of desserts that our waitress brought to the table.
5. My father taught me to \_\_\_\_\_ my problems and not run away from them.
6. Did you know that liquid oxygen is very \_\_\_\_\_ ? It has caused many accidents.
7. Before you jump into the pool, it's a good idea to \_\_\_\_\_ off under the shower.
8. My car was \_\_\_\_\_ last night! I can't believe it! What should I do?
9. Call the police! You must report a \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as possible.
10. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ your health. You must take time to take good care of yourself because no one else will.

**Answer the following questions based on the reading.**

**True or False**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. You no longer need to separate recyclable materials. You can put paper, glass, aluminum and plastic together in the new carts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Someone will collect your recyclables every week.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There is only one size cart available for everyone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The county will replace your cart if it is stolen and you have reported it to the police.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If you move to a new home in the county, you must take the cart with you to the new house.

**Here are ten pairs of items. One item in each pair is recyclable in Miami Dade County – the other is not. Put a checkmark in front of the recyclable item.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ cardboard                      \_\_\_\_\_ Styrofoam
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ steel cans                      \_\_\_\_\_ CDs
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ coat hangers                      \_\_\_\_\_ juice cartons
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ telephone books                      \_\_\_\_\_ plastic bags
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ plastic bottles                      \_\_\_\_\_ plastic caps and lids
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ glass cookware                      \_\_\_\_\_ glass bottles
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ cell phones                      \_\_\_\_\_ catalogs
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ light bulbs                      \_\_\_\_\_ cereal boxes
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ aluminum cans                      \_\_\_\_\_ rocks
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ batteries                      \_\_\_\_\_ magazines

**List five ways that a recycling program helps the community.**

---

---

---

---

---