

Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

Be in the know with current waste info

There are new items that can be recycled in Melbourne and many of the surrounding cities and towns. The materials placed in curbside recycling containers no longer need to be separated. Items that can be recycled curbside include newspapers, magazines, junk mail, including envelopes

with windows, phone books, plastic and glass bottles, milk and juice cartons, paper bags, paperboard from cereal boxes, and aluminum and steel cans. Following is additional information about recycling and garbage that are common questions received by the City.

Recycling plastic or glass bottles: Be sure to remove caps. If they are left on, they can become mini missiles when they are crushed at the recycling plant and be a danger to the workers. To prevent contamination, try to rinse bottles before placing them in your bin.

Needles: Needles used by people who inject medication at home can pose a tremendous hazard to workers and by law are not allowed to be placed in household garbage. Approved sharps

containers are required and are available to residents free at most pharmacies and from collection sites.

Collection sites in Melbourne include:

- Brevard County Public Health Unit, 2275 S. Babcock Street



container. Use only approved containers. If no one is available at the collection site to assist you, do not leave your container unassisted. Bring it to a different location or return at a different time.

Grocery Bags: You can now place paper grocery bags in your bins for curbside recycling. Plastic bags, however, are not accepted and if they enter the regular curbside stream, can foul up machines at the recycling center. If you use plastic bags, save them to deposit into the plastic bag recycling container the next time you visit the grocery store.

Electronic Waste: Residents can bring computers, televisions, printers, scanners and other e-waste for recycling or to be refurbished to:

- AERC.Com, Inc., 4317 Fortune Place, West Melbourne (call 952-1516 for cost)
- Astro Marketing, Inc., 6939 Vickie Circle, West Melbourne, 727-8817
- Astro Too, 6949 W. Nasa Blvd., West Melbourne (fee for monitors if not reusable), 727-9010
- Central Disposal Facility Household Electronics Recycling Center, 2250 Adamson Road, Cocoa (free for Brevard County homeowners), 633-1888
- Sarno Transfer Station, 3379 Sarno Road
- City of Melbourne Fire Station #75, 151 E. University Blvd.
- City of Melbourne Fire Station #76, 2470 Croton Road
- Holmes Regional Medical Center Corporate Services Bldg., 450 E. Sheridan Ave.
- Lake Diabetes Supply, 508 N. Harbor City Blvd.

There are many other facilities throughout the county that can accept sharps containers. When dropping filled containers at these sites avoid overfilling and make sure to securely seal the

Printer/Fax Cartridges:

- Advanced Lazer Technology, 1923 N. Wickham Road, #112, 242-7735
- Cartridge Mart, 1788



City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities
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Environmental Community
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2885 Harper Road
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Phone: (321) 953-6302
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Waste Info ... continued from page 1

Canova Street, SE, Palm Bay, 952-8177

Corrugated Cardboard:

- Fire Station #71, 1865 W. Eau Gallie Blvd.
- Fire Station #72, 2937 Sarno Road
- Fire Station #75, 151 E. University Blvd.
- Fire Station #76, 2470 Croton Road
- Melbourne Library, 700 E. Hibiscus Blvd.
- SP Recycling Corp., 2850 Harper Road

Propane Tanks:

- Tru-Gas Commercial, 206 E. New Haven Ave., 636-8880 or 723-0626 (\$5 disposal fee)
- Sarno Transfer Station, 3379 Sarno Road, 255-4365



Discarded fishing line can harm wildlife — be sure to recycle



Most monofilament fishing line is not biodegradable and can last 600 years. Because it is thin and often clear, it is very hard for birds and animals to see. They can easily get entangled in it and as a result, get injured, drown, become strangled, or starve to death.

Many animals ingest

fishing line. One recovered sea turtle was found to have consumed 590 feet of heavy-duty fishing line.

To protect our wildlife, make sure to place any used fishing line into monofilament recycling containers, such as the one

shown in the photo. Note that only single filament made of nylon can be accepted. Fishing line that is braided or contains wire cannot be recycled.

In addition to the containers found at many fishing piers, marinas, and boat ramps in Brevard County, bait and tackle shops often participate in monofilament recycling. If you spool your line at home, save it up in a box and bring it to a drop off location.

If you do throw it out, you can still help the environment. Be sure to cut the line into short lengths of six to 12 inches. Then securely bag it before putting it into the trash. Once it goes to the landfill, this will ensure that it won't be scavenged by animals trying to use it to build nests or eat it.

If you discover a marine animal or bird that has been entangled in line, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Alert Program at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922). Some birds can be untangled after first throwing a blanket over its head to limit its eyesight.

Environmental outreach events held to encourage good practices

The City's Environmental Community Outreach (ECO) Division has been participating in a number of programs recently to educate residents about water conservation and other positive environmental practices.

Most recent events included an open house for teachers held at the Brevard County Zoo. Participating teachers were able to pick up ideas to use in their classrooms. Other recent events have included a program for employees at the Kennedy Space Center to provide them with water conservation information and to increase environmental awareness; and a water conservation and recycling program as part of the Melbourne Citizen's Academy. Participants



Michelle DeVillo (left) and Jennifer Wilster of the ECO Division present the popular Wheel of Water at the recent event at KSC held for employees.

received in-depth City government information.

Upcoming events will include a Better Living Showcase at the Melbourne Square Mall in February and a Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar next spring.

The new school year is underway, and with it brings opportunities to educate children about water conservation. A new program is being developed that will be aimed at third graders. It will utilize the Great Water Odyssey. Developed by the St. Johns

River Water Management District, the program is an interactive, animated computer based program. For more information, call the ECO Division at 953-6302.