



OFFICE OF RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

PEOPLE FOCUSED

Leon County Solid Waste Management provides an integrated solid waste management system dedicated to excellent public service and responsible fiscal and environmental stewardship. The division is comprised of the Solid Waste Management Facility (the landfill), Transfer Station, Rural Waste Service Centers, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, and Recycling Services and Education.

The division's success depends largely on strong community partnerships to accomplish its goals and objectives. One partnership includes the Sharing TREE, a collaborative effort of the County, City of Tallahassee, Leon County School Board, Sustainable Tallahassee, and Goodwill Industries that donates new and reusable high-quality classroom supplies and materials to teachers. Through a partnership with Marpan Recycling, the County has significantly increased the recycling of construction and demolition-related debris.

Director Norm Thomas has led the division since 2004 and has 30 years of experience in the solid waste industry. He holds a certificate in Natural Areas Management from the Nature Conservancy, is a graduate of Leadership Gainesville, and he is a Certified Manager of Solid Waste Systems, Landfill Operations and Transfer Station Operations.



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PERFORMANCE DRIVEN

CUSTOMER SERVICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & INNOVATION

- Leon County continues to seek innovative ways to increase recycling in the community. One approach led to a partnership with HDR Engineering to conduct a pilot composting project at the Apalachee Solid Waste Management Facility. The compost is made by combining food waste, cardboard, paper, yard debris, and biosolids in an air-tight container. An objective of this small-scale project is to determine if enough methane could be produced on a large scale to generate electricity. The project is currently on-going.
- Through cooperative efforts, the County, the City of Tallahassee, and Sustainable Tallahassee successfully worked to expand the types of plastics that are recyclable within our community. Leon County recycling staff worked with the materials processor company which receives many of the areas recycled goods in order to identify current barriers limiting the types of plastics accepted.
- In a continued effort to educate the entire community on the importance of recycling, the division created Leon County's "Rhonda Renee Recycles" Show for elementary students. This free show incorporates music and games to teach children about waste reduction and recycling. Rhonda's skirt is made out of detergent bottles, and she sports jewelry made from aluminum cans.
- The Leon County Transfer Station processes over 180,000 tons of Class I (household) waste a year. Recognizing the impact of this operation on the surrounding community, an improved wheel washing system was installed to better clean the tires of garbage collection vehicles as they exit the facility.



Did You Know

On average, the Hazardous Waste Center processes approximately 1,750 pounds of hazardous material per day.

- The Swap Shop, which promotes the reuse of household products, continues to be a popular feature of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. The program provides the opportunity to exchange new or partially used household products such as paint, pool chemicals, and polishes at no charge.



Setting the Standard in Public Service

Solid Waste was recognized at the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association Florida-Caribbean Chapter



Annual Workshop with the "Picric Acid" award for successfully and safely handling two WWII-era DDT aerosol canisters and the "Pickled Skunk Brains" award for the most unusual material handled by a Florida HHW during the year.



Did You Know

In 2011, the Leon County Recycling Program recycled 12,631 lbs of Styrofoam.