

7.9.1 – Recycling and/or Zero Waste Plan

Standard: There shall be a recycling and/or zero waste plan for park and recreation facilities and administrative offices that is systematically monitored and periodically reviewed. The plan shall also include an educational component for both users and employees. The recycling and/or zero waste plan should include all major products suitable for recycling in the given region with an emphasis on making the recycling process easy and convenient for park and recreation users.

Suggested Evidence of Compliance: Provide a description of the recycling and/or zero waste plan for facilities and administrative offices and provide the last review with statistics on the amounts of materials recycled or the percent of total waste recycled for the most recent reporting period.

Informational reference in the *Management of Park and Recreation Agencies*, (2016), 4th Ed., Chapter 10 - Managing Maintenance Operations, pp. 282-283

The City of Coral Gables Community Recreation Department works in conjunction with the Public Works Sustainable Public Infrastructure Division to increase recycling within our city facilities and to provide alternative waste solutions with a focus on zero waste. See attached memo summarizing all the city's recycling and zero waste initiatives. (Page 2) Regular updates and public input are provided through the appointment of the Sustainability Advisory Board. See attached most recent board agenda with minutes. (Page 5)

One of the many initiatives that have been implemented is the centralized garbage can policy. Individual garbage cans were removed from offices and each facility is equipped with centralized garbage cans to dispose of food and other non-recyclables. Each office is equipped with recycling bins only. In addition, each facility was given a recycling flyer to be posted above all recycling bins to properly educate on what is and is not recyclable. See attached flyer. (Page 13) For electronic and hazardous waste, the city provides several annual event opportunities for the city and community members to safely dispose of any electronic and hazardous waste. See attached recycling drive-through numbers which includes pounds of waste collected at each of those events. (Page 14)

Another zero-waste initiative is that of the Christmas tree recycling program. Recycling a Christmas tree helps to preserve landfill space and provides the opportunity to repurpose this valuable resource as mulch and ground cover in parks and planting areas throughout the community. See attached report. (Page 15)

The City of Coral Gables continues to work within its own Departments as well as businesses within the City to promote an increase in recycling and zero waste through various ordinances such as the ban on plastic bags and expanded polystyrene at special events. See attached flyer. Additional public education efforts are disseminated through initiatives such as the Help Reduce Carbon Footprint campaign. See attached flyer. (Page 22)

The newest zero waste campaign launched in 2024 is the NexTrex Plastic Film Recycling Program, which focuses on providing community drop off locations in several of the city facilities in an effort to collect film and plastic bags and recycle and reuse them to manufacture composite decking and railings. See attached campaign flyer. (Page 26)

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: FRED COUCEYRO
Community Recreation Director

DATE: 6/5/2024

FROM: MATT ANDERSON
Assistant Director for Parking and
Sustainability – Parking and Mobility Services

SUBJECT: City- Recycling Initiatives
Review Memo

In pursuit of the City's goal to provide exceptional services that enhance local and global environmental quality, enrich our local economy, and strengthen the health and well-being of our community, the city has advanced several initiatives, including promoting increased recycling within our city facilities and throughout our community through the following initiatives:

- In 2012, the City established a centralized garbage can policy. Individual garbage cans were removed from offices and each facility is equipped with centralized garbage cans to dispose of food and other non-recyclables. Each office is equipped with recycling bins only. The City continues to implement this policy throughout all City facilities. Attached please see the updated City Facilities recycling flyer that includes the acceptable items for recycling. The flyers are posted in common areas/hallways/breakrooms etc. and above recycling bins for employees and visitors to see.
- Coral Gables was the first city in Florida to ban single use plastic bags in 2017. In addition, the city has also banned expanded polystyrene "Styrofoam" (2016) and prohibits single use plastic straws (2019). The City of Coral Gables is also encouraging local businesses to "Skip the Straw." The City continues to prohibit the use of single use plastic bags, plastic straws and stirrers and expanded polystyrene in City facilities (includes city buildings, Community Recreation, golf courses, and any other city property), by City contractors/vendors/concessionaires and by anyone who is issued a special event permit. Please see the attached educational flyer.
- Waste Management continues to service recycling in all our city facilities.
- The city coordinates with our contracted janitorial company, South Florida Maintenance, on proper recycling and reducing recycling contamination throughout all our city facilities/parks.
- The city has developed a virtual employee sustainability video training series that will be released soon to all City employees. One portion of the training is dedicated to educating employees on proper recycling methods.
- The city provides electronic waste services in all our city facilities through our

Information Technology Department. Our IT Department coordinates with our contracted electronic waste company E-Scrap to collect and recycle any old electronics. To date, we have recycled over 37,873 pounds of electronic waste from our city facilities.

- Information Technology also coordinates the recycling of Xerox printing cartridges which can be sent via Inter-office to the Public Works 72nd Ave Facility.
- The city provides metal recycling services at our Public Work Maintenance facility. Community Recreation and other City departments can drop off metal to be recycled at the back of our Public Works maintenance yard in the designated metal recycling bin.
- Any landscape waste generated at parks by our landscape division is taken to our Public Works facility and chipped and turned into mulch.
- The sanitation department has installed 20 trash bins/recycling bins in the City Right of Way near Ponce/City Hall as a part of a pilot project. The bins are installed caddy-corner to one another and include can slots openings. The city is using clear bags to help reduce contamination.
- Community Recreation began a pilot at William H. Kerdyk Jr. & Family Park (aka Riviera Park) in Feb. they currently have several recycling receptacles throughout the park and considered Kerdyk Park a good candidate because of its large size and different types of uses, both commercial and leisure traffic. They have also created a centralized recycling deposit location at the Granada Golf Course maintenance area giving the much-needed infrastructure for staff to deposit recycling moving forward. They hope that this experiment will prove fruitful over the next 6-8 months, they plan to monitor contamination and request additional funding in the budget for added receptacles in our larger parks.
- Since its inception in 2020, the City's Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program (a local affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful Program) has diverted 213,575 pounds of household hazardous waste, 222,701 pounds of electronic waste, and collected 14,300 pounds of clothing to be donated. In addition to that, the program has also recycled 125,994 pounds of batteries.
- In May 2024 the Nextrex plastic bag and film recycling program was unveiled. The city will collect the materials in 3 locations then staff will drop them off at a local partner where they will be sent for recycling.
- In May 2022, the City of Coral Gables received a grant from the Florida Beverage Association to implement the Reverse Vending Machine Recycling Incentive Program, which would accept plastic water bottles and aluminum cans. Participants could make and account and get rewards for being the top recyclers each month. The machine was up from November 2022 to May 2024 and a total of 21,023 containers were recycled.
- Since 2016, the City of Coral Gables has partnered with Covanta Dade Renewable Energy to keep prescription drugs off the street and dispose them in an environmentally safe manner. The drop-off bin is in the lobby of the new Coral Gables Police and Fire Headquarters located at 2151 Salzedo Street. Individuals can drop off their expired or unwanted prescription drugs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The pharmaceuticals collected will be incinerated for safe destruction. To date, the city has collected and safely destroyed over 1,759 pounds of prescription drugs.
- The Keep Coral Gables Beautiful also coordinates a Christmas Tree Recycling Program

each year. This past holiday season the city collected over 7,794 Christmas trees for recycling. This generated roughly 389,700 pounds of mulch that will be used in our city parks and planting areas throughout the community. The Christmas Tree drop off location for our multi-family residents is located at our Coral Gables Youth Center in partnership with our Community Recreation Department.

- On Earth Day, April 2019, the city, in partnership with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce launched a Green Business Certification Program. The goal of the program is to educate, recognize and reward local businesses for all their amazing sustainability efforts including a focus on waste reduction and recycling. To date, the city has certified 8 local businesses. The city is working to update this certification program and launch the summer of 2024.

For more information on the City's recycling initiatives and services please visit

www.coralgables.com/recycling

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024, 5:00 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – CMR-A
2151 SALZEDO ST

ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82049614201>
MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Roll Call / Introductions**
- 2. Public Comment: 2 minutes each guest**
- 3. Approval of April SAB Meeting Minutes**
- 4. Environmental Appreciation Award**
 - a. Dania Mustelier, George W. Carver Middle School**
- 5. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates: 5 minutes**
 - a. Recent Events**
 - i. Commercial Beautification Awards – March 1st to April 30th*
 - ii. Pinewood Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal – Wed, April 10th*
 - iii. Baynanza – Sat, April 13th*
 - iv. UM Earth Day Fair – Mon, April 22nd*
 - v. Take Your Child to Work Day – Thurs, April 25th*
 - vi. Climate in Crisis Film Screening – Thurs, April 25th*
 - vii. Bi-Annual Recycling Drive-Thru – Sat, May 4th*
 - viii. EcoExpressions: Guided Art Walk – Fri, May 17th*
 - b. Upcoming Events**
 - i. NexTrex Program Launch & Unveiling – Fri, May 31*
 - ii. Ingraham Park Cleanup – Fri, June 7th*
 - iii. Fewell Park Invasive Removal & Native Planting – Fri, June 14th*
 - c. Grant Updates**
 - i. Keep America Beautiful – Cigarette Litter Prevention Program*
- 6. Presentation: 15 minutes**
 - a. Coral Gables Tree Canopy – Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant Director of Public Works for Landscape Services**
- 7. Sustainability Related City Commission Items: 5 minutes**
 - a. [Proclamation declaring April 2024 as "Earth Month" in Coral Gables](#)**
 - b. [Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the acceptance of a Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup Grant](#)**
 - c. [Update regarding PACE Green Corridor and Resolution supporting S.B. 770](#)**
- 8. Standing Agenda Items**
 - a. Sea Level Rise Update**
 - b. Water Quality Update**

9. Member Comments

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Additional Zoom Meeting Call-In Information Below

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82049614201>

Meeting ID: 820 4961 4201

Phone Number: 305-461-6769

For more information on the Sustainability Advisory Board please visit:

CoralGables.com/SAB

Email Sustainability@coralgables.com

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

PARKING & MOBILITY OFFICE (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024, 5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
Nicolas Eterovic	P	P	*	P									Mayor Lago
Jasper Brock	P	P	*	P									Commissioner Menendez
Martin Pinilla	P	A	*	P									City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	P	E	*	P									Sustainability Board-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	P	*	P									U.M. Representative
Gabriela McGrath	E	P	*	P									Youth Appointment
Dipak Joshi	P	P	*	P									Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
James Covey	P	E	*	E									Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Anabella Smith	P	P	*	P									C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Katrina Erwin	E	P	*	P									Commissioner Melissa Castro
Tiffany Troxler	E	P	*	P									F.I.U. Representative

A – Absent
P – Present
E – Excused
R – Resigned
* – No Meeting

STAFF:

Matt Anderson, Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability
Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager
Nicole Gautney, Sustainability Coordinator
Diego Cancel, Sustainability & Resiliency Supervisor

GUEST:

Deter Manstien – Coral Gables resident and is a junior at Ransom Everglades Upper School
Irela Bague – Director of Governments & Water Resilience at Black & Veatch

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:15 P.M. by Teddy Lhoutellier.

MOTIONS:

February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Martin motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Nicolas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (10): Teddy, Tiffany, Dipak, Gabi, Jasper, Anabella, Nicolas, Kartrina, Joe, and Martin

Quorum was met at 5:15 P.M.

Public Comment:

- i. Deter Manstein is interested in the meetings and has no comments during this meeting.
- ii. Irela Bague wanted to learn about the most recent updates on the city's sustainability initiatives.

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates (KCGB):

i. Recent Events:

1. A Cleaner Planet Cleanup – Friday, March 8

- a. KCGB held a cleanup in partnership with A Cleaner Planet at Coral Gables Preparatory Academy and Philips Park. There were 61 volunteers and 65 pounds of debris collected.

2. Coral Gables High School Tabling Event – Thursday, March 14

- a. KCGB staff went to Gables High School to participate in their tabling event to share with the students the different Earth Month events that are planned for April. There were 294 students at the tabling event.

3. Gables Bike Tour – Living with Water – Saturday, March 17

- a. Matt, Diego, and Jim Murley, County Office of Resilience, guided the 62 bike tour participants and presented on flooding, sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion. They visited the FIU buoy that collects water quality data, Ruth Bryan Owens Waterway Park and saw the waterway, and the Riviera Outfall.

4. Farmers Market Sustainability Village – Saturday, March 30

- a. There were 120 participants that came out to the first ever Sustainability Village held during the last Farmers Market of the season. Nine local sustainability groups were present to educate the

visitors on what they specialize in. It was a great success and will become an annual event.

5. Spring Downtown Community Cleanup – Monday, April 1

- a. 42 volunteers came out to the first Downtown Cleanup of the year and the kickoff to Earth Month. They collected 342 pounds of trash from the downtown area. After the cleanup portion of the event, KCGB staff had the volunteers tour the new interactive art installation, The Water Below Us, and went to Sweetgreen to enjoy some light bites.

6. The Water Below Us Ribbon Cutting – Wednesday, April 3

- a. There were 80 participants who came to view the unveiling of the newest art installation on Giralda Plaza. This interactive art piece was in partnership with BLUE Missions. The art piece is meant to educate the public about the importance of the Everglades Watershed and Aquifers by using virtual reality.

7. 4th Annual Plogging at Matheson – Saturday, April 6

- a. 41 participants came to the 4th annual plogging event at Matheson Hammock Park and removed 100 pounds of debris from the mangrove trails before the rainy season came in.

ii. Upcoming Events & Updates:

1. Pinewood Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal – Wednesday, April 10

- a. This event will be the third invasive removal done at the historic Pinewood Cemetery. This event will be held during a teacher planning day during Earth Month.

2. Baynanza – Saturday, April 13

- a. The 42nd annual Baynanza cleanup, hosted by Miami-Dade County's DERM, will be held at three Coral Gable's locations – [Chapman Field Park](#), [Matheson Hammock Park](#), and [R. Hardy Matheson Preserve at Bella Vista Point](#).

3. Bi-Annual Recycling Drive-Thru – Sat, May 4th

- a. The Recycling Drive-Thru event will be on May 4. This event will be taking place at City Hall and participants can bring household hazardous waste materials, paper shredding, old electronics, and clothing for Camillus House.

4. Commercial Beautification Awards – March & April

- a. The Commercial Beautification Awards serve to recognize businesses that have gone above and beyond with the beautification and

maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas. Nominations are received from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Code Enforcement Division, Economic Development Department, and the Coral Gables community at large. Nominees must meet all nomination criteria and winners are selected by the SAB as the acting KCGB Board of Directors. Nominations end on April 31.

iii. Grant Updates

1. KAB Great American Cleanup

- a. KCGB was awarded the Great American Cleanup grant. This grant is a cash grant that would allow KCGB to purchase essential supplies for the upcoming GAC season that will be from March 19 to June 20. The grant was for \$2,500. One hundred cleanup kits will be sent to continue KCGB's Litter Kit Program. With this grant, enough supplies, marketing materials, and native plants will be purchased for the many events planned throughout Spring.

Sustainability City Commission

i. Discussion Regarding State Legislation Concerning Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

1. The State Senate just passed a one-year preemption/moratorium until July 2025, no municipality or city is allowed to ban gas powered leaf blowers. The city's residents and companies may continue to use gas powered leaf blowers if they choose to. It was attached to an appropriation of \$100,000 and is going to be used for a life cycle analysis of gas-powered blowers. The results will be published January 2025 and will be used as a recommendation for any future regulations.

Standing Agenda

i. Sea-Level Rise Update

1. Diego and Matt updated the Board on the city's plan to submit the second quarter report to Hazen, the consultant, who is assisting with the Resilient Florida Grant to update the Vulnerability Assessment. The U2 report will go to the state once it is finished. A third meeting is coming up to discuss data collection. Additional infrastructure has been added to the report. Once the report has been drafted, Matt plans on having Hazen come to a meeting and provide a comprehensive update on the latest data and report.

ii. Water Quality Update

1. FIU is continuing to collect data and will have a report towards the end of the year. The data collected within that report is very valuable as it is used to apply for grants and as justification for the fact that this is important to the city. The data also acts as a roadmap on what needs to be done on land to help mitigate the nutrient levels seeping into the waterways.
2. Tiffany is interested in any septic-to-sewer updates. Matt stated that there is a grant that the city has received, and Public Works is working on this grant. The septic-to-sewer study and the Stormwater Master Plan is still being worked on and should be completed sometime next year. Both Stormwater Master Plan and Vulnerability Assessment are being worked on in tandem.

Member Comments

A. Teddy:

- i. Teddy updated the Board on the upcoming Earth Month events at UM. UM had an event this last Saturday and Vice Mayor Anderson attended. They planted mangroves on a 200-foot strip of canal in front of a small local business who sponsored the event.

B. Anabella:

- i. The Green Business Certification Application was sent to Anabella because she is assisting in this program. She and Mark Trowbridge will be reviewing and providing input.

C. Nicolas:

- i. Interested in any Dashboard update, staff are working on getting the energy and water data through Energy Cap and will be finished around summertime. Once it is drafted, staff will share it with the Board.
- ii. Was interested in the small amount of electric charging stations found throughout the highway rest stops. A discussion took place on why this is affecting EV sales and companies are looking towards hydrogen cars.

D. Katrina:

- i. Brought to the Board's attention a bill that was passed a few years ago by the State of Florida regarding the Biscayne Bay license plate for Miami-Dade County. All of the proceeds will be given to helping the Bay. Not many have been ordered yet, so the Miami Foundation will pay for the license plate orders and will be free to the public. This is not well publicized, so it is important to spread the word.

E. Martin:

- i. Has been making progress on his project with the former City Manager and has a meeting with the new City Manager. Martin will report the progress in the next meeting.

April 8, 2024

F. Tiffany:

- i. Likes the new meeting room but wants to know what will happen if there is a large number of people from the public interested in attending. Matt said that this meeting was a trial and will be meeting in a larger space for the next meeting.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 6:36 p.m.

DRAFT



City of Coral Gables RECYCLING PROGRAM

Items that ARE Accepted

Narrow neck plastic bottles & Containers



Flattened cardboard boxes and paper



Glass bottles and containers



Aluminum, steel and tin cans



Items that are NOT Accepted

Plastic bags

It is recommended to use reusable bags instead of single use plastic bags when shopping.



Expanded polystyrene (styrofoam)

It is recommended to use items that are reusable or recyclable.



Additional Tips

- Keep recyclables clean, dry and empty but do not bag them.
- Keep food waste and liquids out of the recycling bin.
- When in Doubt, Leave it Out.



For any questions or for more information on the City's Recycling Program please contact Matt Anderson at extension 5008 or email manderson@coralgables.com

Please also visit www.coralgables.com/recycling

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THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



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Date of Event	Cars	Attendees	Pounds of E-Waste Collected	Pounds of HHW Collected	Pounds of Paper Shredded	Pounds of Clothing Collected	E-Waste Cost (N/A)	HHW Event Cost (Clean Harbors)	Cost of paper Shredding
2016									
1/4/2016	200	400	9,764	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4/25/2016	200	400	7,942	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7/18/2016	200	200	4,518	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11/14/2016	200	400	11,042	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2017									
4/22/2017	200	400	17,864	8,397	3,500	N/A	\$0.00	\$14,441.15	\$550.00
11/18/2017	200	400	15,832	18,006	3,500	N/A	\$0.00	\$13,897.71	\$550.00
2018									
4/21/2018	450	900	13,700	9,000	3,800	N/A	\$0.00	\$13,749.36	\$550.00
11/17/2018	450	900	11,943	7,718	8,420	N/A	\$0.00	\$12,842.97	\$550.00
2019									
5/4/2019	800	1,600	12,000	12,454	4,860	N/A	\$0.00	\$17,094.37	\$550.00
11/16/2019	525	1,050	11,824	10,732	8,320	N/A	\$0.00	\$16,729.00	\$650.00
2020									
11/14/2020	615	1,230	17,154	17,558	9,180	N/A	\$0.00	\$23,353.02	\$1,050.00
2021									
4/24/2021	400	800	8,804	13,959	8,000	N/A	\$0.00	\$18,237.26	\$1,050.00
11/6/2021	553	1,100	12,979	17,073	4,500	4,400	\$0.00	\$20,707.22	\$1,050.00
2022									
4/23/2022	580	1,150	12,397	21,151	5,780	2,800	\$0.00	\$21,325.35	\$1,050.00
10/22/2022	425	850	10,074	10,467	5,000	2,400	\$0.00	\$16,849.80	\$1,050.00
2023									
4/22/2023	525	1,050	16,061	16,930	5,000	2,000	\$0.00	\$21,544.90	\$1,050.00
11/4/2023	400	800	9,091	26,670	10,200	1,300	\$0.00	\$17,514.26	\$700.00
2024									
5/4/2024	485	970	19,712	23,460	7,653	1,400	\$0.00		\$975.00
11/9/2024									
Totals	7,408	14,600	222,701	213,575	87,713	14,300	0	228,286	11,375
Totals	HHW & E-Waste		436,276	87,713		9,600			
533,589									

Christmas Tree Recycling Program



Keep Coral Gables Beautiful

Prepared by: Nicole Gautney

On behalf of Matt Anderson & Solanch Lopez

Date: Finalized on March 30, 2024



KEEP CORALGABLES *Beautiful*

Keep America Beautiful Affiliate

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Program Information

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful encourages residents to recycle their natural Christmas trees after the holiday season. Recycling a Christmas tree helps to preserve landfill space and provides the opportunity to repurpose this valuable resource as mulch and ground cover in parks and planting areas throughout the community.

Program Time Frame: **Dec. 27, 2023, through Jan. 12, 2024**

The City of Coral Gables is a full-service city and handles trash, garbage, and recycling in-house for single-family homes. These properties will have their trees collected during specified collection days (see schedule below). Multi-family properties will have the option of dropping their tree off at a specified drop-off area located at the War Memorial Youth Center's (405 University Drive) west parking lot (south end), parallel to Segovia Street. **All trees being recycled must have the following items removed: tree stand, lights, ornaments, tinsel and other decorations.**

Single-Family Placement & Collection Schedule:

Residents living in the area from	Collection Dates
Coral Way to north city limits	Tuesday – January 2, 2024 Monday – January 8, 2024 Monday January 15, 2024
Coral Way to Bird Road	Wednesday – December 27, 2023 Tuesday – January 2, 2024 Tuesday – January 9, 2024
Bird Road to Sunset	Thursday – December 28, 2023 Thursday – January 4, 2024 Thursday – January 11, 2024
Sunset to south city limits	Friday – December 29, 2023 Friday – January 5, 2024 Friday – January 12, 2024

- Trees must be placed out after 5:00 P.M. the day before the scheduled tree collection day specified above.
- Trees must be kept separate from the trash/yard waste pile. If the tree is placed in the trash pile with other debris, it won't be recycled.

Multi-Family Drop-Off Area:



Christmas tree drop-offs are open from Dec. 27 through Jan. 12.

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Internal Procedures

Sanitation Division staff will collect trees from single-family homes as per the collection schedule citywide. Trees at the multi-family drop-off area will be collected once a week or as needed. Trees are taken to the Public Works Facility located at 2800 S.W. 72 Avenue, Miami, FL 33155.

Once at the Public Works Facility, the city's landscape contractor Superior will convert the trees to mulch. A handheld counter will be provided to the contract. This will be used to keep track of the number of trees that are recycled into mulch.

Logistics:

- Single-Family residences trees will be collected by either the clam truck or by extra collection crew if resident calls in with a request.
- Trees will be placed in the back of the Public Works Yard by the left (south) of the back gate (SW corner of the back gate (SW corner)).



- City's tree trimming company, Superior, will chip trees after all the collection dates are completed. (Approx. 1-2 days to chip trees). If there is a large tree pile before collection completion, contractor may begin chipping beforehand when times allows. City is charged hourly rate to have trees chipped. Estimated cost: \$1,000-\$1,500.
- Trees will be counted prior to being chipped.
- Mulch will be used on City Parks/properties and at the Public Works nursery
- Trees left in the Youth Center Parking Lot will be collected once a week by sanitation staff.
 - Youth Center Staff can call any of the following sanitation coordinators if the Christmas Tree pile gets too large prior to the weekly pickup.
 - Frank Rodriguez 305-733-0174
 - Robert Fernandez 305-906-1937
 - Marlon Ruiz: 786-459-0213

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Advertisement

Program advertisement will encompass inclusion in the city's weekly electronic newsletter and social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Two Facebook Ads will also be utilized to increase awareness in the program and encourage participation.

E-News Content & Schedule:

Beginning Dec. 27, the City of Coral Gables is offering free Christmas tree recycling for residents in our continued effort to *Keep Coral Gables Beautiful*. Recycling your tree helps to preserve landfill space and provides the opportunity to repurpose this valuable resource as mulch. Prior to recycling your natural Christmas tree please remove the tree stand, lights, ornaments, tinsel and other decorations.

To view the Christmas tree recycling collection schedule and instructions, find the drop off location for multi-family residences, and/or to find additional holiday recycling tips please visit: www.coralgables.com/kcgb.

- Inclusion in the following E-News: Dec. 23, Dec. 30, Jan. 6, Jan. 13.

Facebook & Twitter Post Copy:

Recycle your natural #ChristmasTree this holiday season! Starting Dec. 27, the City is offering free Christmas tree recycling for Coral Gables residents. To view the collection schedule and requirements visit: www.coralgables.com/KeepCoralGablesBeautiful

- Post Scheduled for Dec. 26, 2023.
- Post will also be included on Instagram Stories on Jan. 4, 2024.

There is still time to recycle your natural #ChristmasTree! The City is offering free Christmas tree recycling to Coral Gables residents through Jan. 12. To view the collection schedule and requirements visit: www.coralgables.com/KeepCoralGablesBeautiful

- Post Scheduled for Jan. 4, 2024.

Graphic:



Christmas Tree Recycling

Starting on Dec. 27, 2023, the City of Coral Gables will offer free natural Christmas tree recycling to residents.

Recycling Christmas trees helps preserve landfill space and provides the opportunity to repurpose this valuable resource as mulch and ground cover in parks and planting areas throughout the community. Please review the collection schedule and placement requirements to ensure we can provide the most efficient service possible.

A drop-off location is available at the [Coral Gables Youth Center](#) for multi-family dwellings.

PICK-UP SCHEDULE



Cardboard Recycling

This holiday season, please keep the environment in mind. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful wants to remind all of our residents and businesses of the common holiday items that can and cannot be recycled.

To help with the increase in cardboard boxes as the holiday shopping season kicks off, a container for excess cardboard drop-off is now available at the [Coral Gables Youth Center](#) through Jan. 12, 2024. Please make sure that all boxes are broken down before drop-off.

This helps keep cardboard boxes out of landfills and clears up space in your recycling bin!

LEARN MORE

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Collection Pictures

Youth Center Parking Lot – Christmas Tree Dropoff & Excess Cardboard Recycling:



Curbside Pick-Up Collections:



Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Mulching Process Pictures



Lessons Learned

For future years, language on website stating single family home collection dates will be adjusted to include a clause. The clause will consist of language stating that tree collection might take place on to two days after scheduled date depending on crew availability.

Program Results

Total Trees Collected: 1,180

On average a six to seven foot Christmas trees weighs around 50 pounds. Taking that into account, we can estimate an average of 59,000 pounds of mulch was collected.

Savings In Tipping Fees:

This program resulted in savings between \$1,253.75 to \$2,138.75 in tipping fees depending on disposal location.

- Breakdown: Estimated 59,000 lb. ÷ 2,000 lb. = 29.5 tons
 - o 29.5 tons x \$72.50 fee per ton at County facility = \$2,138.75
 - o 29.5 tons x \$42.50 fee per ton at Waste Management facility = \$1,253.75



SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS/STRAWS/EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE ORDINANCES

#PlasticFreeCG

The City of Coral Gables is a leader in sustainability efforts. The goal of these ordinances (Chapter 62 - Article VII, and Chapter 2 - Article VIII) is to eliminate **single-use plastic bags/straws/stirrers and expanded polystyrene** (Styrofoam) and replace them with more environmentally friendly alternatives in order to reduce waste, litter, and pollutants from ending up in landfills on streets, parks, public spaces and in waterways.

Who Does These Ordinances Apply To?

- City Facilities: Includes buildings, parks, city golf courses, or any other city owned property.
- City Vendors, Contractors, Concessionaires, and/or Operators.
- Special Event Permittees and their subcontractors which includes any person/entity issued a special event permit by the City for a special event on City property, in a City facility or in the City's right-of-way.

Exceptions

- Special events of 100 people or less (such as a birthday party or family reunion).
- Not-for-profit corporations, school district, and county/state/federal governmental entities.
- ADA requests.
- Pre-packaged food items and/or items used to store meat, pork, seafood or poultry.
- Exempt Bags: Produce bags, Prescription Medicine bags, Dry Cleaning bags, Door Hanger bags, Newspaper bags, Garbage bags, Pet Waste bags, Yard Waste bags; and bags brought in by the customer.

Sustainable Alternatives

- Reusable (Designed for Long-Term Use: Cloth, Glass, Metal, etc.) Bags, Bottles, Cups, and Mugs
- Compostable Bags: Must meet ASTM D6400 Standards or equivalent
- Paper Bags and Cups: Made from at least 40% Post-Consumer Recycled Material
- Metal, Bamboo, Paper, and Sugar Cane Straws/Stirrers

Enforcement/Penalties

- Compliance with ordinances is a special event permit condition of approval.
- Enforcement begins immediately. If violation is found, permittee will be asked to cease use.
- Failure to do so will subject permittee to revocation of the Special Event Permit.
- For City contractors, a violation is deemed a default under the contract.

Continues on other side...

CORAL GABLES ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO ELIMINATE SINGLE USE PLASTICS AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

The City is strongly encouraging all local businesses to eliminate the use of single use plastics and expanded polystyrene (most commonly know as Styrofoam). Single use plastics and expanded polystyrene often are not readily recyclable. They take hundreds to thousands of years to degrade in the environment. According to studies, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. To help lead by example, the City has ceased purchasing single use plastic bags, straws and stirrers along with products made of expanded polystyrene.

Recommendations

- Conduct a supply chain audit.
- Work with suppliers on identifying sustainable alternatives.
- Reach out to other similar local businesses to learn how they switched.
- Market the switch to sustainable alternatives to your customers (website, social media, etc.).
- Do not automatically provide a single-use item to every customer. Make available upon request.
- Encourage use of reusable items: provide incentives for customers to bring their own.

Recognition Opportunities

Did you know that by going plastic free that it can help your business qualify as a Coral Gables Green Business?

The City of Coral Gables in collaboration with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce have developed a Green Business Certification Program. The goal is to recognize/reward our businesses for all their amazing eco-friendly efforts. This FREE program also aims at educating local businesses on additional sustainability initiatives they can implement. The program focuses on the following areas:

- Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Energy and Water Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Transportation Alternatives
- General Environmental Policy and Education



Together - the City of Coral Gables and our local businesses can build a more resilient and sustainable Coral Gables.


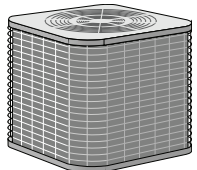


For more information please visit www.coralgables.com/sustainability
or call 305-460-5008

HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

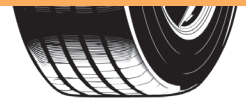


Public Works Department

AT HOME

- **Change a Light:** Replace frequently used incandescent light bulbs with LED Light bulbs. 30 LED light bulbs account for only 451 pounds of CO₂ per year as opposed to 4500 pounds for 30 incandescent light bulbs. 
- **Use Less Hot Water - Wash Only Full Loads in Your Washing Machine & Take Shorter Showers:** The water heater is a large user of energy in most homes. About 90% of the energy used to wash clothes is from heating the water. Saves more than 100 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
- **Adjust Your Thermostat:** Cool your home at 78° or warmer with the thermostat fan set to "auto." Raise the temperature to 82° or warmer when you are away from home. It saves 2,000 lbs. of CO₂ per year. 
- **Clean Air Conditioning Filters:** Clean your A/C filters monthly to save energy and money on cooling costs. It saves 350 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
- **Purchase Energy Star® Appliances:** Look for Energy Star® rated products in more than 40 categories, including televisions, refrigerators, dishwashers, and air conditioners. 
- **Unplug Unused Electronics:** When electronic devices are turned off, but still plugged in, they continue to use energy (vampire power). It saves over 1,000 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
- **Limit the Time You Run Your Pool Pump:** In summer months, no more than six hours a day. In winter, no more than four hours a day.
- **Avoid Using Multiple Refrigerators:** If you have an extra refrigerator that is not kept full or is hardly used, turn it off or dispose of it properly. 
- **Reduce Garbage:** Buy products with less packaging. Practice recycling (paper, plastic, cardboard and glass) and composting. It saves 1,000 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
- **Take an Online Home Energy Survey:** Visit FPL's website (www.fpl.com) to take a home energy survey and to receive a guide for an energy efficient home.
- **Plant Native Drought-Resistant Plants:** Xeriscape landscaping conserves water and protects the environment. Trees absorb and use carbon dioxide for energy and produce oxygen for us to breathe. 

ON THE ROAD

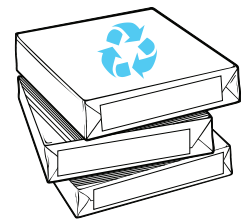


- **Inflate Your Tires:** Keep the tires on your car properly inflated and check the pressure monthly.
- **Change Your Car's Air Filter:** Check your car's air filter monthly and change it when needed.
- **Give Your Car a Break:** Leave your car at home. Walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit (such as the Coral Gables Trolley).
- **Drive a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle or Alternative Fuel Vehicle:** Getting a few extra miles per gallon makes a big difference. Saves thousands of pounds of CO₂ and a lot of money per year.



IN THE OFFICE & AT SCHOOL

- **Use Recycled Paper & Print On Both Sides:** Be sure to purchase 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
- **Shut down Computers at Night:** Shut down or turn off computers, monitors, printers and speakers each night.
- **Use Power Strips:** Plug all electronics into power strips and turn them off each night to save more energy.
- **Program Copy Machines:** Have them enter sleep and shut-down modes after a selected time (set to Energy Saving Mode). Additionally, set copy machines to print double-sided by default.
- **Purchase Green Products:** Including green cleaners, fuel-efficient vehicles, and Energy Star® rated electronics and vending machines.
- **Receive an Energy Audit:** An Energy Audit will identify cost-beneficial improvements for your facility. FPL provides free on-site energy evaluations.
- **Conserve Water:** Check all faucets, water fountains, toilets, and urinals for leaks and running water.



Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Energy; Interacademy Panel on International Issues; Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) project; Stopglobalwarming.org; Greenpeace; designrecycleinc.com.



For more information, visit us online at:
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Recycle your household bags &
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composite decking and railing!



Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex

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**WAR MEMORIAL
YOUTH CENTER**

405 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

**PARKING & MOBILITY
SERVICES**

204 MINORCA AVE.

Visit coralgables.com/kcgb
for more information.



Keep America Beautiful Affiliate