

Waste Diversion Report June/July 2026

NOTABLE:

Oyster Shell Initiative over 17,000 lbs. in <5 months



Thriving Earth Exchange

AGU THRIVING EARTH EXCHANGE

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Florida Keys Oyster Shell Recycling and Repurposing Project

Florida Keys, Florida, United States



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Brief Description

The Florida Keys Oyster Shell Recycling and Repurposing Project will turn oyster shells discarded by local restaurants into a valuable resource for potential restoration and reuse efforts. Led by a collaborative Community Team of county, municipal government, and Department of Environmental Protection staff located in the Florida Keys, the project aims to create a plan that can evolve into a self-sustaining, community-supported initiative delivering lasting benefits for both people and coastal ecosystems, while promoting local reuse, reducing environmental impact, and supporting area businesses. The Community Team seeks assistance from scientist(s)/researcher(s) on oyster shells, preferably in oyster shell recycling programs, to help shape the project plan.

Description

About the Community

The Florida Keys are a 220-mile island chain extending off the southern tip of Florida, situated between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The Keys lie

Homeowners were mailed a notification letter to inform them that the solid waste assessment is increasing by \$19.65 per residential unit. It will go from \$393.08 in FY26 to \$412.73 in FY27. This fee is what pays for weekly garbage, recycle and yard waste service and is charged through a non-ad valorem tax.

CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA
CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 1409
KEY WEST, FL 33041

CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND
PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS
NOTICE DATE: JULY 16, 2026

«OwnerName»
«OwnerAddress1» «OwnerAddress2»
«OwnerUnit»
«OwnerCity», «OwnerState» «OwnerZIP»

Property Address: «Situs»
Alt Key #: «AltKey»

***** NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER *****

Dear Property Owner:

As required by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and the direction of the City Commission, notice is given by the City of Key West, Florida that annual assessments for solid waste services using the tax bill collection method may be imposed and levied on your property. The use of an annual special assessment to fund solid waste services benefiting improved residential property located within the City of Key West is fair, efficient, and effective. The annual solid waste assessment is based on the number of residential dwelling units contained on each parcel of property.

The above parcel is subject to the solid waste assessment.

The total number of residential dwelling units on the above parcel is «GarbageUnits».

The maximum annual solid waste assessment for Fiscal Year 2026-27 is \$412.73 per dwelling unit or \$«GarbageAsmtAmt».

The maximum annual solid waste assessment for future fiscal years is \$491.35 per dwelling unit or \$«GBMaxAsmtAmt».

The total annual solid waste assessment revenue to be collected within the City of Key West is estimated to be \$6,007,343 for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

A public hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2026, at City Hall, 1300 White Street, Key West, FL 33040 for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. You and all other affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the City Commission within 20 calendar days of the date of this notice. If you decide to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. It is the policy of the City of Key West to comply with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please call the TTY number at 1-800-955-8771 or for voice 1-800-955-8770 or the ADA Coordinator at 305-809-3811 at least five business days in advance for sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or materials in accessible format.

Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of City Commission action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

Copies of the legal documentation for the assessment program are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office, located at City Hall - 1300 White Street, Key West, FL 33040.

The solid waste special assessment amount shown on this notice and the ad valorem taxes for the above parcel will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill mailed in November of each year that the assessment is imposed. Failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If there is a mistake on this notice, it will be corrected. If you have any questions, please contact the City at 305-809-3721, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

MDW 6222026

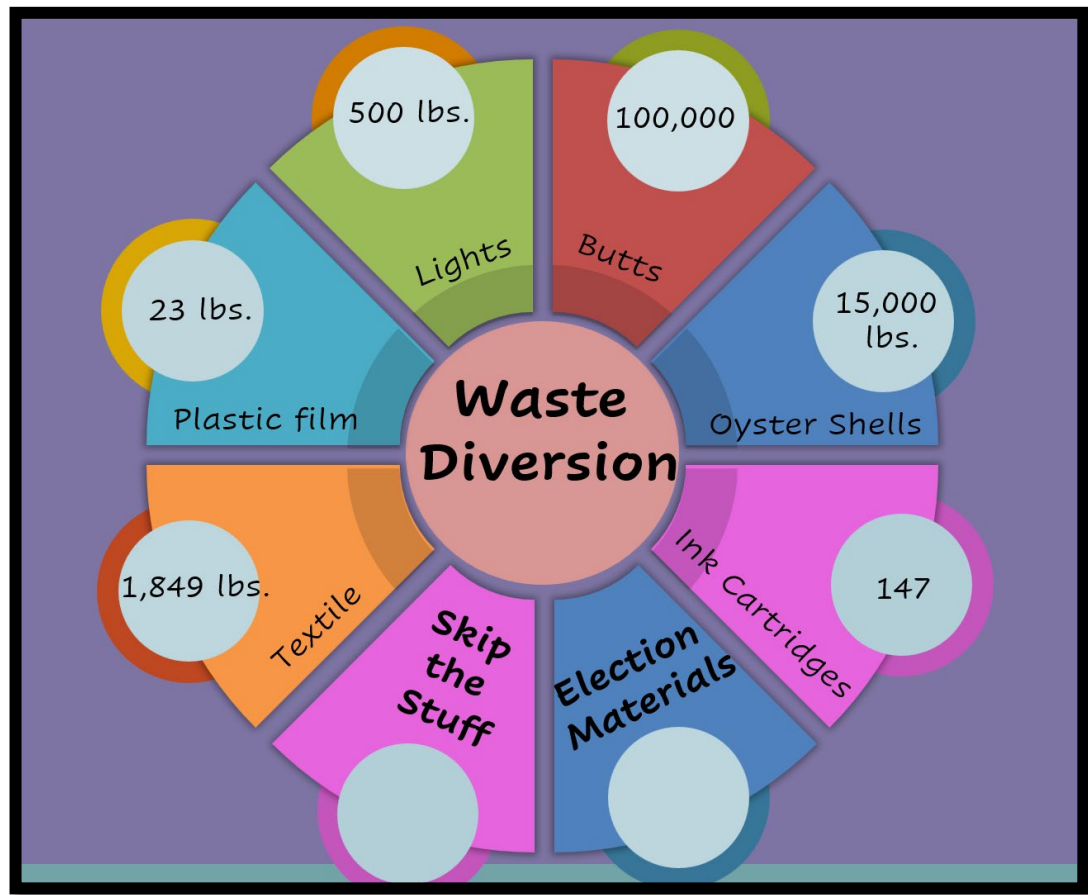
***** THIS IS NOT A BILL *****



Refurbished trash cans
placed at Duval Pocket Park.
A collaborative project
with Ambassador Class



Commission
Presentation



COMMUNITY OUTREACH:



Weekly Recycle Minute on social media

Botanical Gardens compost village -new signs- 24 hour drop off will be in place soon

1,400lbs.

4 months



SCHOOLS:

Back to School

**GET CRUNCHY
GET COOL
GET READY
4 SCHOOL**

HOW CRUNCHY ARE YOU?
ADD UP POINTS FOR ALL YOU DO

LUNCH ITEMS

- 5pts reusable water bottle
- 5pts reusable lunch box/bag
- 20pts reusable silverware
- 10pts reusable snack bags & containers

CLOTHING

- 5pts using clothes you already have
- 20pts buying vintage clothes secondhand
- 10pts sell or donate your extra clothes

SUPPLIES

- 5pts using supplies that you already own
- 10pts buying supplies made from recyclable materials
- 10pts purchasing items made from sustainable materials

SCORE

earth conscious	40-60
granola	60-85
super crunchy	85-100

TOTAL

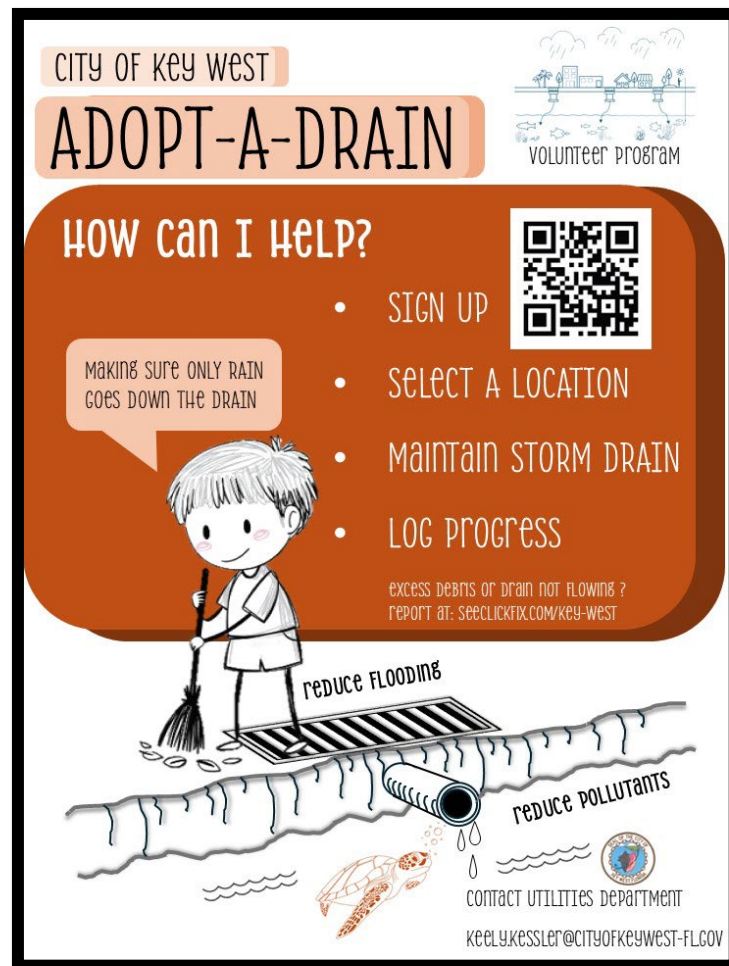
100 MILLION disposable silverware are used in the USA EVERY DAY!!

One truckload of textiles gets thrown away every SECOND of every minute of every hour of every day

Think before you buy and keep recycling

IN PROGRESS:

Adopt-a-Drain



Campaign
material
recycling

ELECTION SIGN RECYCLING

5 drop off locations

The diagram shows five locations for recycling election signs, each with a sign on a stand:

- Key Largo Transfer Station**
11180 CR 905
- Long Key Transfer Station**
MM 68 Long Key
- Cudjoe Transfer Station**
MM 21.5 Blimp Road
Cudjoe Key
- WM building**
125 Toppino Industrial Dr.
East Rockland Key
- Lions Club parking lot**
2405 N. Roosevelt
Key West

Recycle election signs, metal stands, and paper materials for **FREE**

Look for marked bins

Election signs should never be placed in your recycle bin

Collections dates 8/19 through 12/15

Questions:
tuschel-melody@monroecounty-fl.gov
keely.kessler@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

The poster features a green background with a blue sky and green hills. It includes logos for the City of Key West, Monroe County, and WM (Waste Management).



PLUS!

SKIP THE STUFF

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO REDUCE SINGLE USE WASTE IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

WHAT IS IT?

1. Businesses provide single use products upon request only:
 - Utensils
 - Napkins
 - Straws
 - Condiment packets
 - Bags
2. Businesses follow recycling or waste diversion procedures for their area
3. Individuals commit to plastic reduction choices in everyday activities

WHY JOIN?

- Businesses save on supply costs
- Reduce single use waste
- Prevent debris from entering the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Contribute to a cleaner, healthier Keys community

HOW TO JOIN:

Scan the QR code or visit:
floridakeys.surfrider.org/skip-the-stuff



The Florida Keys & Key West
come as you are®
MONROE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL