

Waste Diversion Report February/March 2026

Visit to new WM Recycling Facility in Pembroke Pines

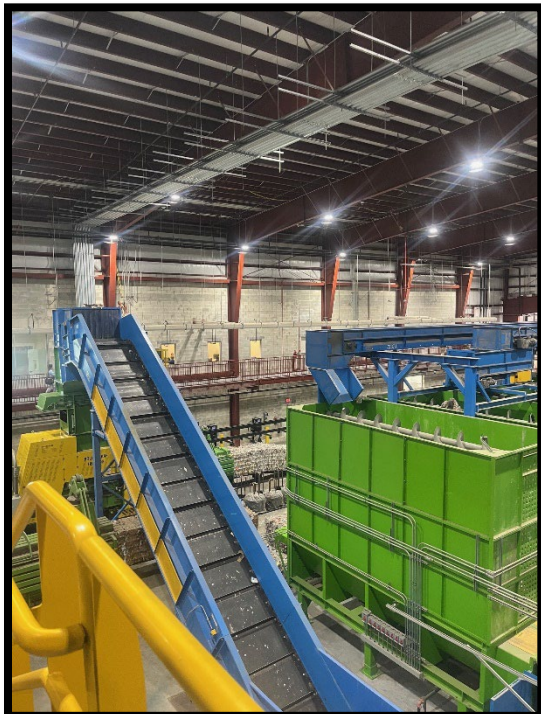


Plastics

Paper



Miles of conveyor belts and sorters



Built enclosure for Oyster shell pilot program



Oyster Shell recycling pilot w/ Hyatt Centric

205 lbs.



Shucking for a Cause

Half Shell Raw Bar to recycle oyster shells for environmental repurposing

ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ
Keys Citizen

Get ready for a happy hour that makes a change because Half Shell Raw Bar is leading the way in a new oyster recycling program.

Half Shell Raw Bar, located at 231 Margaret St., recently announced they will recycle oyster shells as an effort to keep them out of landfills and to repurpose them in



Half Shell Raw Bar 1225 lbs. so far



Botanical Gardens- working the compost village

Let's explore COMPOST VILLAGE

What is compost?
Compost is a mixture of decayed organic material used to fertilize and amend soil.

How does it work?

Compost needs:

- Carbon and nitrogen-based materials (food stack)
- Oxygen/Water/Heat

Microorganisms digest and breakdown the material, breathe the oxygen, utilize moisture to access nutrients, the heat helps promote decomposition.

A 3 to 1 mix of carbon and nitrogen-based materials is essential for all composting.

Composting needs food scraps and all kinds of scraps!

Vermicompost (worm bins)

What is vermicomposting?
Red wiggler worms consume food scraps and produce castings (worm poop). These nutrient-rich castings are used to amend soil or make worm tea for watering plants.

Is it different from regular compost?
Yes, compost consists of decomposed organic matter. Vermicompost contains a high concentration of castings.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ONE!
Worm bins can be large or small and kept indoors or outdoors.

What can I compost?
Most composting methods use a 3 to 1 ratio of carbon (browns) and nitrogen (greens).

Browns provide carbon & aeration

Dead leaves, Wood Chips, Small twigs and branches, Shredded paper, Shredded cardboard, Leaf mulch/straw grass, Crumpled card.

Greens provide nitrogen & moisture

Leafy greens, Fresh and vegetable scraps, Banana peels, Fresh grass and yard clippings, Coffee grounds & paper, Tea bags, Egg shells.

These are the basics; other composting methods, like hot composting, allow for a wider variety of materials.

Tumblers

What is tumbler composting?
Tumbler composting uses its rotating action to aerate and mix the contents. They are naturally designed to retain heat and keep excess water out.

Benefits of Tumblers
Tumblers are easy to use and space saving. The dual-sided models are designed to allow you to add to one side while the full side "cooks". The benefit of this method is continuous composting and harvesting.

Tumblers should be rotated a few spins every other day

Hot Bin

The insulated bin traps heat, with internal temperatures between 104°-140°, allowing for quick decomposition.

Benefits of hot composting
A hot bin can produce rich compost in 30-90 days. Because of high temperatures, a wider variety of materials can be added. Unlike other methods, hot bins can accept cooked food, meat, small bones, dairy scraps, and weeds.

Adding a bulking agent like wood chips and small twigs keeps hot bins aerated.

Stationary bins

Stationary bins offer a low-cost, tidy way to compost in your backyard.

Stationary bins are placed directly on soil to allow for proper drainage and beneficial organisms.

Benefits of stationary composters
You can continuously add scraps and garden waste to the top while harvesting finished compost from the bottom.

Worms and microbes naturally migrate to stationary bins.

Windrow

What is a windrow?
Windrow composting is an aerobic method of breaking down organic waste by stacking it in long, managed rows that are turned periodically to aerate, control temperature, and hasten decomposition.

Benefits of a windrow
Windrows require no container. They can be as large or small as space allows. Windrows are the most common method of composting in the U.S.

Brown (carbon-rich) and Green (nitrogen-rich) materials are essential for all composting.

Remember don't touch your eyes, but we'll keep you safe in your windrows.

Hyatt is now contributing food waste to the compost village 150 lbs. so far

Taste of Key West

- Event was a huge success. Recycling efforts yielded 1285 lbs. mostly glass and cardboard. Dumpster method was not a good fit; glass bottles made too much noise being thrown in empty dumpsters. Rethinking our process for next year. Volunteers collected 221 Wine glasses/22 large pint glasses/20 tasting glasses and over 200 plates for repurposing and reuse

Schools:

- Follow ups
- Montessori bins so healthy and productive we had to make more bins
- High School AP class bins acclimating and doing fine.

Community Events and Outreach Flyers:

- Battery Awareness
- Compost resources on Utilities web page
- Food scrap collection flyer
- Recycle cups flyer
- Residential waste collection simplified flyer
- Recycling minute in the newspaper with Plogging
- Recycle minute on social media
- Junk in the Trunk community yard sale
- Artisan Market
- Green Market
- Botanical Gardens compost collection weekend

In Progress:

- Earth Day Planning
- Weekly recycle minute
- Working with Ambassador class on their project(s)- beach stations / Duval trash cans
- 5k registration Runsignup willing to accommodate for trees not tee's
- Help KWFD with recyclable items and proper hazardous waste disposal
- Botanical Gardens Compost Village- signage installed
- Installation of 20 new cigarette butt containers around town
- Record numbers of Ploggers. 100+ for 8 weeks. Trumans Little Whitehouse 135 volunteers

