



Manatee County Government
Financial Management Department
Utilities Customer Service Division

(941) 792-8811

Summer 2008



Think Ahead

Tips on Preparing for the Storm Season



As the peak of storm season approaches, here are some handy tips and reminders about things we all need to do but sometimes leave until the last minute.

Trim your trees early so the dead materials will be off the tree in case of a storm. Trim dead fronds from palm trees. For more information about proper trimming techniques for palm trees, see article at right. When you have large amounts of yard waste and tree trimmings, make arrangements for special debris removal. Plan to do this as soon as you are done trimming so that the debris is off the ground and away from your property before a storm hits.

Almost anything can become a high-speed projectile during a hurricane or tropical storm. Garbage cans fly in the wind and can cause injury to people and damage to property. Please remember to remove cans from the curb and secure them. Remove yard ornaments and tables

and chairs from your yard as they can also become flying objects during a storm.

If you have a business with a dumpster, remember that dumpsters and their contents can cause damage. Make sure the lids are down, secure the lid in place, and close the gates on the trash enclosure. Secure all debris at construction sites. If you have a roll-off box that is almost full, call for an early removal before the storm arrives.

When winds reach a high speed and create unsafe conditions, all solid waste operations will cease. Watch the TV stations for storm information and listen to the radio for updates. The Manatee County website, www.myanatee.org, will have updated information with regard to debris pickup after an occurrence. Call 792-8811 for assistance and questions.

When you think ahead, you will be more comfortable and prepared during the storm season.

Pruning Palms

Pruning your palm trees regularly to remove dead and dying fronds will improve the looks of, and lead to better health for, your plants. In addition, removing these dead or dying fronds also improves safety. On windy days, and especially during severe storms, dead and dying fronds can fall from the trees, hitting people or damaging property.

To ensure that your palms are properly pruned before storm season, remove lower fronds that are dead (brown) or dying (yellowing). For more information, go to <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruningpalms.html>. Or, you can call the Manatee County Extension Office at 722-4524 for assistance.

Answers to your most important recycling questions!

Who should recycle?

Everyone—you, your family, friends, and roommates!

When and where do I recycle?

The unincorporated areas of Manatee County have curbside recycling. Two blue bins are supplied by the county.

What can be recycled?

In one blue bin, put all of your paper products, including newspaper, office paper, junk mail, shredded paper, and magazines. Corrugated cardboard can also be recycled at the curb with your other papers. (Please flatten boxes and cut them down to no more than 2' by 2'.) The other blue bin is for commingled containers, such as glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and steel cans. Recyclable containers include clear, green, or brown glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, steel soup and vegetable cans, steel jar lids, soft drink bottles, milk bottles and jugs, juice bottles, liquor bottles, water bottles, detergent and bleach bottles, and other bottles marked with #1 PETE or #2 HDPE on the bottom.

How do I recycle?

Recycling is easy to do. You simply separate clean recyclables from trash. You empty, rinse, and drain recyclable containers. Turn them upside down to let

them drip-dry. Don't put the cap or lid back onto the container—toss the cap or lid, as well as any soap pumps or spray nozzles, in the trash. Paper should be clean and dry.

(Food-stained paper and wax-coated paper need to go into the trash.)

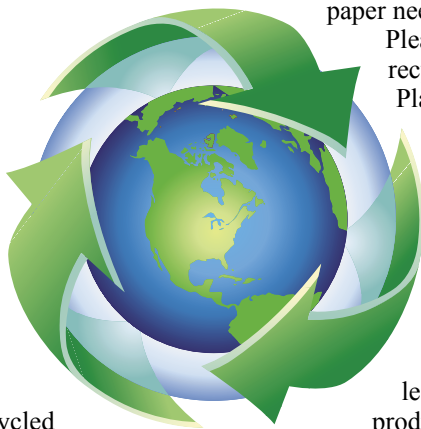
Please, don't put your recyclables into plastic bags. Place your recyclables loose into the bins.

Why should I recycle?

- Recycling keeps us from wasting the resources that were used to make the product.
- Recycling creates less pollution than making products from new resources that come directly from nature (called "virgin materials").
- Recycling creates less pollution than disposing of trash.
- By making new products from reused materials, recycling uses less energy, including fuel and electricity, than making the same products from virgin materials.
- Recycling creates jobs.
- Recycling helps keep our planet cool by creating fewer of the "greenhouse gases" that are warming it up.

Where do I get more information?

Visit our website, www.myanatee.org, or call us at 792-8811.



Don'ts!

Please do not place any of these items into your recycling bins. These items are not recyclable with your curbside materials:

- PAPERS** ♦ Phone Books ♦ Pizza Boxes ♦ Gift Wrap ♦ Egg Cartons ♦ Paper Towels ♦ Milk/Orange Juice Cartons ♦ Tissues ♦ Tissue Paper ♦ Paper Plates or Napkins ♦ Paper Cups ♦ Cereal and Tissue Boxes ♦ Food Wrap ♦ Brown Bags ♦ **GLASS** ♦ Windows ♦ Eye Glasses ♦ Mirrors ♦ Ceramics and Dishes ♦ Windshields ♦ Drinking Glasses ♦ Plate Glass ♦ Crystal ♦ Coffee Pots ♦ Vases and Pottery ♦ Light Bulbs ♦ **METALS** ♦ Paint Cans ♦ Aluminum Siding ♦ Toxic Material ♦ Window Frames ♦ Aerosol Cans ♦ Metal Building Materials ♦ Aluminum Pie Pans ♦ Tools ♦ Deli Trays ♦ Machines ♦ Aluminum Foil ♦ Appliances ♦ Kitchen Utensils ♦ Auto Parts ♦ Tin Roofs ♦ Lawn Furniture ♦ **PLASTICS** ♦ Pool Supply Containers ♦ Toxic Materials ♦ Toys ♦ Herbicide and Pesticide Containers ♦ PVC ♦ Diapers ♦ Meat Trays ♦ Styrofoam Packing Material ♦ Foam Cups ♦ Microwave Trays ♦ Clothes Hangers ♦ Cellophane ♦ Flower Pots ♦ Lawn Furniture ♦ Plates and Cups ♦ Plastic Silverware ♦ Plastic Bags

Reduce your home energy bills during the warm months

- ◆ Close your house tightly during the heat of the day. If outdoor temperatures at night are a little cooler, open windows to cross-ventilate rooms. Place a simple box fan in a window facing out and it will pull out warm air from inside.
- ◆ Take advantage of the shade and reduce the load on your air conditioner by shading east, west, and south windows. Shade trees would be ideal

and you may want to consider planting some. However, in the meantime, ventilated awnings also screen the sun. Inside, pull the drapes closed or lower blinds. Tinted window film is also an alternative, as it screens the sun and lets you enjoy a view.

- ◆ Turn on the ceiling fan to create enough of a breeze to feel cool even if you raise the setting on your thermostat. Be sure to turn off the ceiling fan when you leave the room.

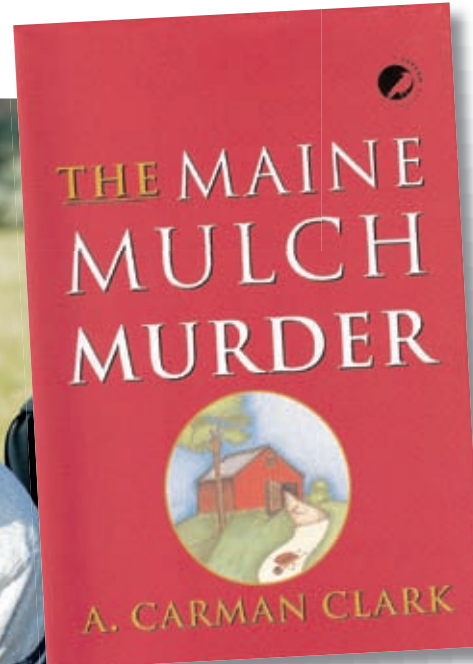


Tips for Summer Reading



Murder at the mulch pile

If you are looking for some light summer reading, check out *The Maine Mulch Murder* by A. Carman Clark (Larcom Press, 2001). Not many murder mysteries begin at a mulch pile as this one does. However,



when Amy Creighton goes to pick up sawdust to mulch her strawberry bed, she uncovers the body of a young man. Thus, the private Amy leaves behind the book she is editing and the garden in need of mulch to help local law enforcement officials unravel a mystery.

From antique dishes collected by a old friend to the tidy habits of a neighbor, Amy and the town constable piece together the clues to the young man's death, unearthing a long-buried secret in the process. In the meantime, she and the constable make peace with their own past, rekindling an old friendship and a lost romance.

And, yes, the strawberry bed does get its mulch—but not until after the mystery has been solved in the final chapter.

Guides to Green Living

Kermit the Frog once complained, "It's not easy being green." Clearly, Kermit wasn't a 21st century amphibian! You can't pick up a newspaper, open a magazine, or flip a TV channel without seeing stories, ads, and shows promoting "green" living.

Living a greener lifestyle doesn't mean you have to sell your house for a straw-bale replacement or convert your vehicle to burn only used deep-fryer oil. No, it can mean taking small and easy steps, such as replacing burned-out light bulbs with compact fluorescents, selecting laundry detergent in the recyclable jug, letting your grass clippings drop onto the lawn when you mow, or carrying reusable bags into the store.

What Kermit didn't understand is that green isn't about being, but becoming. We each make a host of choices every day. Whether we are long-time ever-greens or newbies who are the palest shade of spring green, we can stand back to look at the choices we have made, those we could make, and those we'd like to make. What we'll probably find is that we could be greener—and that we'd like to be greener.

Not sure how to begin? Take a look at these resources. With helpful background information and a good dose of humor, these books (and one magazine) offer guidance without guilt. Whether you adopt one of these as your personal guidebook or sample from each on selected topics, you'll find support, encouragement, and useful advice.

It's Easy Being Green: A Handbook for Earth-Friendly Living by Crissy Trask (Gibbs Smith, 2006)

At the outset, this book strives to debunk myths, such as "It's hypocritical to advocate and practice environmentally friendly behaviors in some, but not all, areas of my life." The response? Not so—"possessing the desire and intention to live greener, while having made only marginal progress to date, doesn't make you a hypocrite, it makes you imperfect. And aren't we all?" The book includes about 50 pages of tips, with a helpful checklist so that you can rate how you are doing and what you'd like to do. Another 50 or so pages provide a wide range of online resources.

Green Living for Dummies by Yvonne Jeffery, Liz Barclay, and Michael Grosvenor (Wiley Publishing, 2008)

Set up like the other books in the *Dummies* series, this book addresses what you can do at home, how to shop and invest with "green" goals, making your travels more earth-friendly, and creating healthier workplaces and communities. The last section of the book is "The Part of Tens": "Ten Easy Actions that Make an Immediate Impact," "Ten Ways to Darken Your Shade of Green," and "Ten Ways to Repair and Restore Rather Than Trash." The inside front cover has a pull-out green living "cheat sheet," with easy-to-implement ideas and helpful websites.

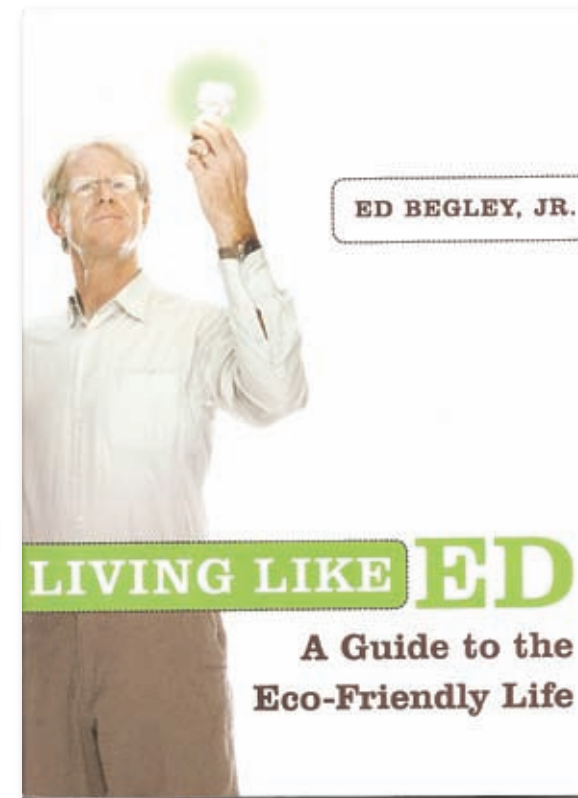
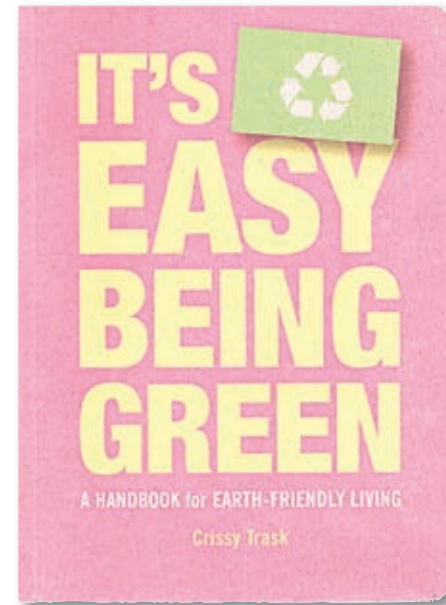


The Complete Idiot's Guide to Green Living by Trish Riley (Alpha Books, 2007)

Like *Green Living for Dummies*, this book describes how to "go green" at home, on the road, in your daily life, at work, and in our communities. Sidebars provide hazards to avoid, definitions of "mysterious" terms, statistics, tips, and quotes from experts. An appendix provides a fairly comprehensive resource guide. Each chapter concludes with "The Least You Need to Know" about each topic.

Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life by Ed Begley, Jr. (Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2008)

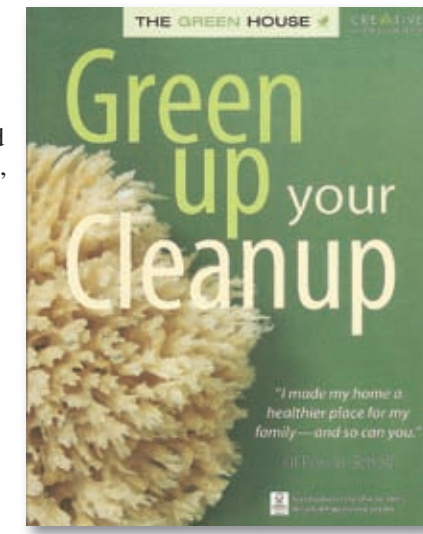
A followup to the popular HGTV series, "Living with Ed," this book includes guidance in six areas: home, transportation, recycling, energy, garden and kitchen, and clothing and personal grooming. Suggestions are categorized as "Easy Changes," "Not-So-Big Changes," and "Big Changes," helping you choose projects that are right for you.



Throughout the book, Begley's wife, Rachele Carson Begley, serves as the voice of the "average guy," who has taken a bit more convincing and who has negotiated some compromises along the way.

Green Up Your Cleanup by Jill Potvin Schoff (Creative Homeowner, 2008)

After introducing a "new cleaning arsenal," which is non-toxic and healthier, Jill Potvin Schoff offers step-by-step guidance for cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, doing the laundry, sprucing up around the house, and caring for floors and furnishings. She also includes tips for dirty jobs outside the house and in the garage, workshop, and basement. Not content to tell, this book is filled with pictures that show you how easy it is to green up your cleanup.



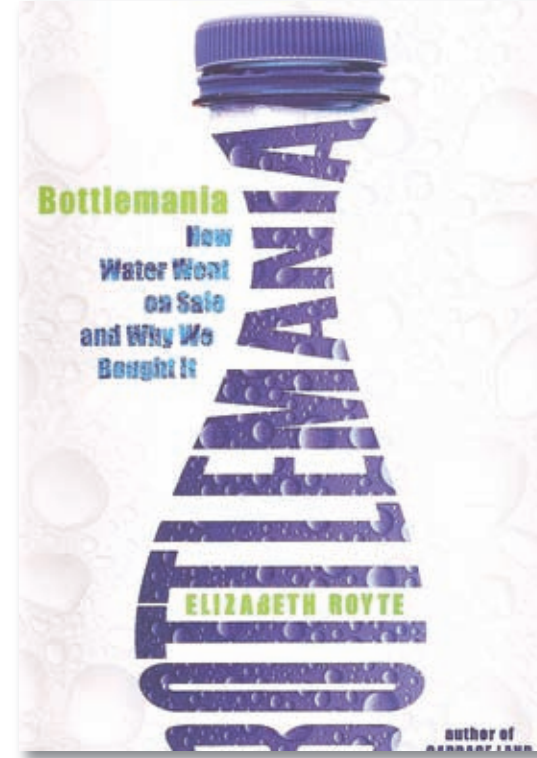
Green Guide: The Resource for Consuming Wisely, a magazine from National Geographic

Published quarterly, the *Green Guide* magazine grew from a newsletter and website (www.thegreenguide.com) devoted to greener living. The magazine, which is available in print and online, features product evaluations and buying guides, as well as suggestions for reducing, reusing, recycling, conserving energy, and saving money. For example, the Summer 2008 edition features articles such as "Green on a Budget," "Three Simple Steps" to lower summer energy costs, and "Products We Can Live Without."



Water for Sale

Elizabeth Royte, author of *Garbage Land*, began research of her most recent book with one question: "How did bottled water become so popular in the first place?" A quarter century ago, "bottled water" had little meaning for most Americans. Water bottles were the bulky jugs that sat atop office water coolers or the colorful glass bottles of mineral water that were marketed as little gulps of luxury. That all changed in 1989, when



the half-liter polyethylene terephthalate (PET #1) plastic bottle was introduced. In less than two decades, bottled water sales went from \$115 million to \$10.8 billion, just in the U.S. Not surprisingly, Royte's research led to a book aptly titled,

Bottlemania: How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It (Bloomsbury, 2008). Although the book is full of facts and figures, Royte's writing is engaging, drawing her readers into the story of bottled water's growth and the people most affected by it.

In exploring how bottled water became a beverage juggernaut, Royte takes an in-depth look at a controversial spring water site in Fryeburg, Maine. In the process, she asks questions about tap water, bottled water sources and quality, water testing, bottling and bottles, transportation, and treatment. However, she leaves her readers with larger questions to ponder: Who controls our water resources? How will we decide how to allocate water resources in our communities and our nation?

Trekking against trash



In March, Jordan Price and Carlie Roberts began the Trek Against Trash, a 2,174-mile hike up the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Billed as "The Hike to Keep America Beautiful," their goal is to raise awareness, encouraging others to pick up litter, reduce waste, reuse, and recycle. Along the way, Jordan and Carlie will be pausing to work with local Keep America Beautiful affiliate organizations in trail communities to raise awareness, clean up litter, stencil storm drains, and more. In addition, they hope to raise \$150,000 to support Keep America Beautiful programs.



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Price, Carlie Roberts, and Keep America Beautiful

Jordan and Carlie are recording their adventures in a blog and posting photos and videos of the sites they see and people they meet along the trail. You can read their blog entries at <http://katrekagainsttrash.blogspot.com/>. The Appalachian Trail is a footpath that stretches 2,174 miles through 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Since it was completed in 1937, more than 9,500 people have traversed the full length of the trail. Each year, more than 6,000 volunteers contribute over 195,000 hours to protecting, maintaining, and promoting the Appalachian Trail.

To learn more about Jordan and Carlie's journey, to see their photos, to subscribe to their blog, or to donate, visit www.trekagainsttrash.org.

FAIR PLAY



Photo Courtesy of Fair Trade Sports

Did you ever stop to think about who makes the soccer balls, basketballs, or footballs that fill your garage? Scott and Susan James asked themselves that question. What they learned surprised them and may surprise you. Many of the balls that American children enjoy were made by other children—children working in sweatshops or doing "piece work" in developing countries.

Rather than moral indignation or half-hearted complaints, Scott and Susan enlisted the help of friends to start a new company, Fair Trade Sports. The company ensures that all balls, and apparel as well, are made by adults who are earning a living wage in healthy working conditions. In addition, the raw materials used are harvested in an environmentally responsible manner.

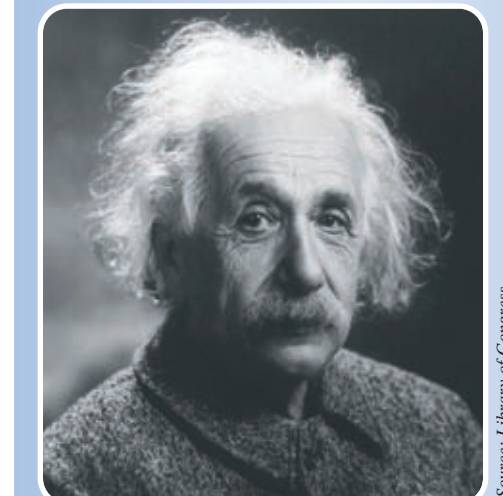
Fair Trade Sports is committed to donating 100% of after-tax profits to children's causes around the world. Newman's Own, a food company founded by Paul Newman and now run by his daughter, Nell, served as a model for Scott and Susan James. Newman's Own donates its after-tax profits to worthy causes—having given away \$200 million in the past 26 years.

Learn more about Fair Trade Sports at www.fairtradesports.com.

QUOTES

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein, 1879–1955
Physicist & Nobel Prize Winner



Source: Library of Congress

REQUOTED

WHAT'S UP?

Upcoming **mobile E-Scrap collections**, which are free to residents (businesses must pay assessed fee to the contractor on site), are:

- ❖ Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Agricultural Center/Fairgrounds, 1303 17th Street, Palmetto (Enter off 14th Avenue West ONLY)
- ❖ Saturday, August 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Utility Operations Complex, 66th Street West/Cortez Road

Household Hazardous Waste/E-Scrap monthly collections, for residents only, are held at the Lena Road Landfill on the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Upcoming HHW/E-Scrap dates are July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20.

Large **mobile Household Hazardous Waste collections** are held twice a year. These are free to residents, who may drop off materials at any of these sites. Collections will be held at the following three locations:

- ❖ Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Agricultural Center/Fairgrounds, 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto (Entrance off 14th Avenue West across from Church on the Rock ONLY)
- ❖ Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Utility Operations Administration Complex, 4410 66th Street West, Bradenton (South of Cortez Road on west side of 66th Street West) — Small businesses may bring their hazardous waste to this location *ONLY* and must pay a fee to the contractor on site.
- ❖ Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lena Road Landfill, 3333 Lena Road, Bradenton (3rd traffic light east of I-75 off State Road 64) — In addition to HHW, E-Scrap will be collected from residents for free. Businesses may drop off E-Scrap *only* (NO hazardous waste) at this site but must pay the assessed fee to the contractor on site.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) need to be recycled as Household Hazardous Waste. The CFL bulbs that fit into a standard lamp socket, like their tube-shaped cousins, hold a small amount of mercury and should be recycled properly to ensure protection of the environment. CFLs, along with other fluorescent lamps and all mercury-containing devices, can be recycled at the County Lena Road Landfill, 3333 Lena Road, on the third Saturday of each month, along with other HHW materials. For more information, call 708-8561.



Wanted: Adopters of Highways, Roads, and Shores

Citizens committed to creating a cleaner, more beautiful Manatee County can fulfill this vision by adopting a highway, road, or shore. The Adopt-A-Highway, Adopt-A-



Adopt-A-Highway: Wildlife Rescue of Florida.

Road, and Adopt-A-Shore Programs have been successful in reducing the cost of litter removal and improving the appearance of our highway and road rights-of-way and shorelines. Many areas have yet to be adopted.



Adopt-A-Shore: ManaTEENS.



Adopt-A-Highway: Manatee Young Professionals.



Adopt-A-Road: Church of the Cross.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program involves a two-year agreement between civic-minded people and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to remove litter four times a year from a two-mile section of highway. Similarly, the Adopt-A-Road Program involves a two-year agreement with Keep Manatee Beautiful and the local government for one mile or more of roadside.

Volunteers in the Adopt-A-Shore Program enter a two-year agreement with Keep Manatee Beautiful and Manatee County Government. Adopters remove litter three times a year from one-quarter mile or more of shoreline.

FDOT and Keep Manatee Beautiful provide safety vests, warning signs, and litter bags to the volunteers and



Adopt-A-Shore: Westminster Shores of Bradenton.

post signs commending the groups at their adopted sites. FDOT or the local government picks up the bags after the cleanup. Thank-you gifts, T-shirts, and beverages are provided to volunteers who do cleanups at their adopted sites during the Great American Cleanup in April and the Florida Coastal Cleanup in September.



Adopt-A-Road: Terra Ceia Village Improvement Association.

Individuals or groups interested in adopting a highway should contact FDOT at 359-5666. Those interested in adopting a road or shore should contact Keep Manatee Beautiful at 795-8272.

Bottled Water Facts

- During 2007, Americans purchased more than 8.8 billion gallons of bottled water, or 29.3 gallons per person. That was about 222 half-liter bottles per person!
- Of the bottled water sold in the U.S., about 93% is in a single-serve bottle that holds 1 liter (about 2 pints) or less.
- As much as 25 to 40% of bottled water is simply tap water—from someone else's community.
- Every gallon of bottled water sold requires two additional gallons of water for the manufacture of the plastic bottles and the water purification process.
- Most PET (polyethylene terephthalate or #1) plastic bottles are made from virgin petroleum resources. Producing new PET bottles uses about 18 million barrels of oil each year.
- Transporting bottled water from the factory to the retail store consumes another 462 million gallons of oil per year.
- Bottled water costs 240 to 10,000 times more per gallon than tap water.

- Water bottles are recycled at a lower rate than soft drink containers. In 2004, 33.7% of PET bottles holding carbonated soft drinks were recycled, while only 14.5% of PET bottles from non-carbonated drinks were recycled (non-carbonated drinks include water, sports drinks, tea, and juice drinks).



Bottled Water Alternatives

At Home — Fill a pitcher and put it in your refrigerator. When you want a cold drink, fill up a glass of your own ice-cold water! If you prefer the taste of filtered water, buy a pitcher with a built-in filter.

On the Run — If you are running errands or heading to a ballgame, grab your own refillable containers, fill them with tap water, and take them along. When you get home, wash them and they'll be ready for your next event.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!
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