

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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Now is not the time to make unnecessary trips to the landfill

~ Don't put solid waste workers at risk, use curbside collection ~

“The Authority is committed to providing continuous solid waste disposal services throughout this public health emergency but we need the public’s cooperation,” said Dan Pellowitz, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County Executive Director. “Please be safe and help us keep our employees safe, so they can be here for you.”

Though COVID-19 cases are rising in Palm Beach County, more and more people are using the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County’s landfill. Landfill workers have seen pregnant women and older residents disposing lamps, light bulbs, bags of garbage, and even recycling at the 45th Street landfill facility. Some vehicles even have children in the car.

If residents are taking this time at home to clean up or clean out, they should use their curbside bulk collection <<https://swa.org/FAQ.aspx?QID=199>> for waste disposal. In unincorporated Palm Beach County, bulk item <<https://swa.org/FAQ.aspx?QID=199>> pick up is provided once a week and limited to 3 items per collection day. Those that live in a city should contact their <<https://swa.org/222/Municipal-Service-List>> city for bulk item collection. Residents can also check their collection days at the My Pick-up Days <<http://www.swa.org/518/My-Pick-Up-Days>> tab on the SWA website.

Residents should not be making unnecessary trips to any of the SWA's disposal facilities with materials that can be collected as part of their regular curbside collection. These unnecessary trips place SWA employees at risk of contracting the virus, which could impact operations.

Residents should also not be making unnecessary trips to any of the seven Home Chemical and Recycling Centers to dispose of their household hazardous waste. While they remain open, minimizing their use, and trips in general, is best for public health.

The virus has impacted the SWA in the following ways:

- All SWA facilities are open with the exception of the Customer Convenience Drop-off Center at the North County Landfill. Residents and small haulers with demolition/renovation; trash/yard wastes; or other smaller waste loads are being diverted directly to the landfill.
- The SWA Greenway Trail is closed per County Emergency Order 3.
- More on SWA cancelled/postponed programs»<<https://swa.org/covid19>>

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County has developed a COVID-19 website<<http://www.swa.org/COVID19>> where impacts to solid waste services and programs are outlined.

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About the SWA

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- Process more than 90,000 tons of recyclables<<http://www.swa.org/RecycleRight>> each year
- Combust approximately 1.8 million tons of trash each year to generate electricity at renewable energy facilities<<http://swa.org/364/Renewable-Energy-Facilities>>
- Produce enough electricity to power approximately 74,000 homes
- Recycle more than 150,000 tons of wastewater treatment residuals<<http://swa.org/353/Biosolids-Processing-Facility>> (sludge from flushes) into environmentally-friendly fertilizer
- Safely dispose of more than 4.2 million pounds of home hazards<<http://swa.org/171/Home-Chemical-Disposal>> a year
- Collect water off of the roofs of Renewable Energy Facility 2<<http://swa.org/375/Palm-Beach-Renewable-Energy-Facility-2>> and store it in a 2 million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process

With the recent changes to the SWA's website, anyone can now sign up to receive SWA news, calendar updates, jobs, or other Web postings of interest by signing up online<<http://www.swa.org/list.aspx>>. Should you sign up online to receive SWA's news releases, we can remove you from this distribution by sending a REMOVE reply to this email.

Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County -
www.SWA.org<<http://www.swa.org/>>

<<http://www.facebook.com/SolidWasteAuthority>> <<https://twitter.com/swapbc>> <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/solid-waste-authority>> <<https://www.youtube.com/user/SolidWasteAuthority>> <<http://www.pinterest.com/swapbc/>> <<http://instagram.com/swapbc/>>

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most communications to or from the Solid Waste Authority are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.