



State of Recycling in Florida

Karen Moore





Florida's Recycling Goals

403.706, Florida Statute

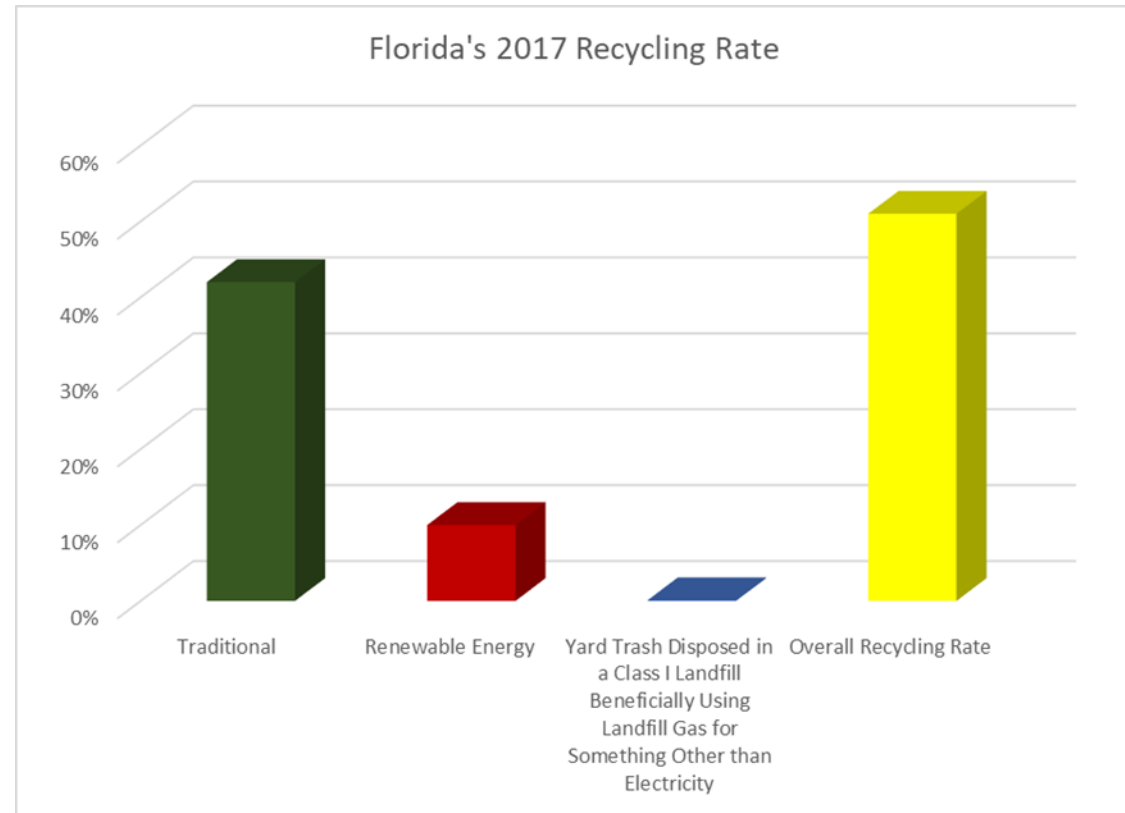
- The Legislature set a 75% statewide recycling goal for municipal solid waste by 2020.
- For 2014/2015, the threshold recycling rate was 50%. For 2016/2017 it increased to 60%. For 2018/2019 it is 70%.
- The Legislature also set that same goal for all counties over 100,000 population.
- The Legislature has directed all counties to report their recycling progress to DEP annually.



Progress Towards the Goal

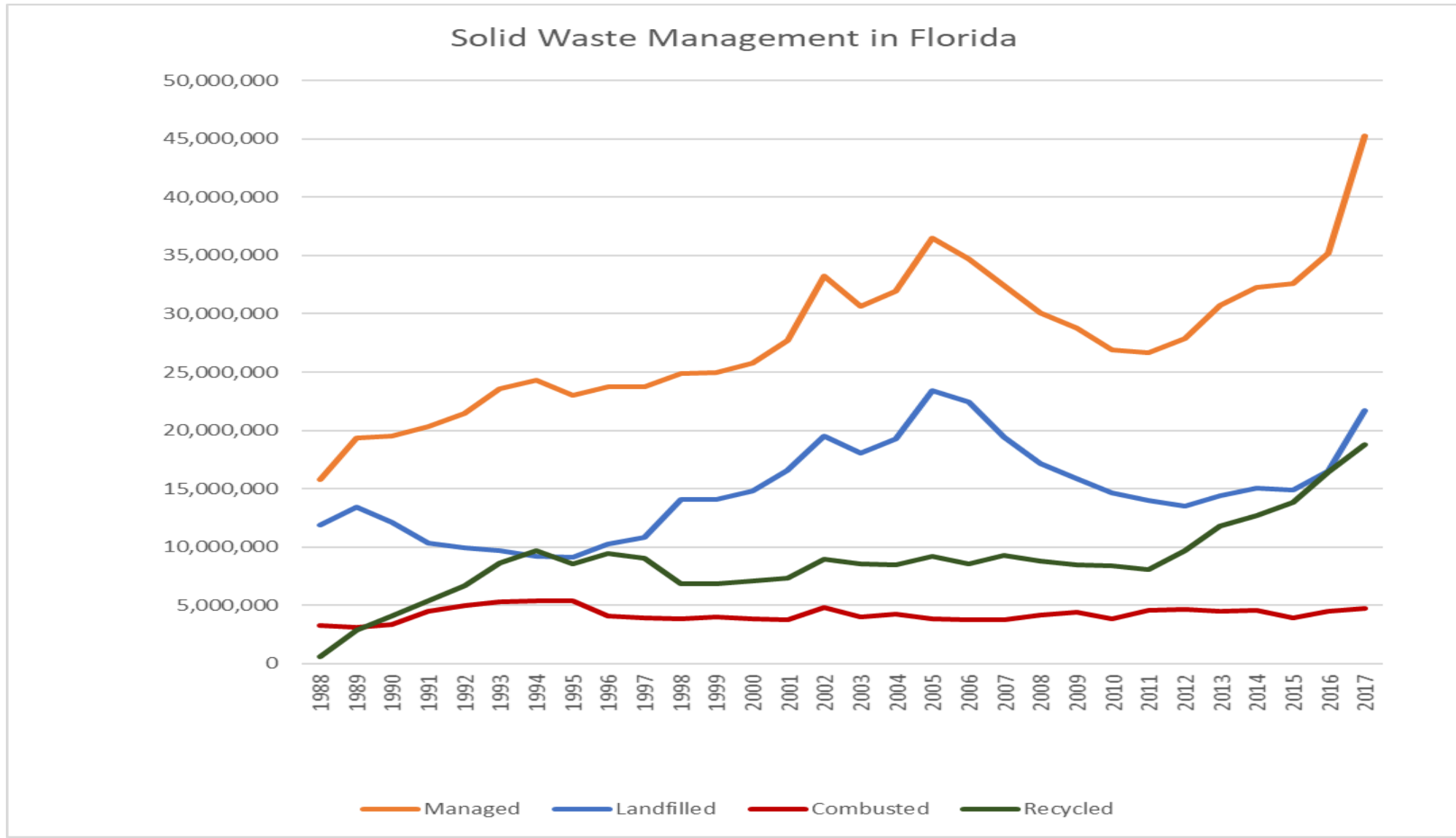
- The statewide overall recycling rate, which includes renewable energy* recycling credits, decreased from 56% (2016) to 52% (2017)
- The statewide traditional recycling rate, which excludes renewable energy recycling credits, decreased from 44% (2016) to 42% (2017)

*Electricity produced from MSW or landfill gas





Solid Waste Management in FL (1988-2017)





Rate Change – Why?

First Landfill Report by County of Origin Available for 2017

- Better Data
- Counties Can Better Track Their Municipal Solid Waste
 - Waste being disposed outside county landfills
- Reported Landfilled Tons Increased by 5 million tons
- Recycling Rate Decreased





Reaching the 75%

The 75% goal is a weight based goal, therefore:

- Need heavier materials: push to recycle more C&D and Organics
- Need more volume
- Need additional credits



Single Stream Recycling

Most Florida municipalities have converted to Single Stream Recycling to increase volume

- #1 Issue – Contamination
- Some municipalities have over 40% contamination
- Large volume = Quantity NOT Quality
- Operation costs have increased due to increased processing
 - More sorting = wasted energy=higher costs
- Ambitious Residents
 - Not all items are accepted in recycling programs



Recycling Markets

Recycling Markets have changed dramatically since 2017

- China has severely limited import of recyclables coming from the United States
 - Bans on mixed plastics & mixed paper
 - Contamination limit of 0.5% on cardboard
- Global Economy
 - Overabundance of recyclables globally and domestically
 - Low growth in demand
 - Price received for recyclables as commodities is low
 - Many municipalities are paying to recycle



Recycling Markets

Some municipalities are scaling back their recycling programs in Florida

- Recycling contracts are being renegotiated
- Rates have increased due to contamination and markets
- Little or no revenue for recyclables (except for metals)
- Low tipping fees for landfill disposal
- Some cities are suspending their programs or scaling back on what is accepted

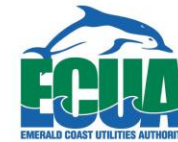


Working Towards 2020 & Beyond

- Workshops & Webinars
 - Recycling Coordinator Training
 - Public Sector Reporting (Webinar)
 - Sustainable Materials Management Workshop
- Rulemaking
 - Chapter 62-709 (Criteria for Organics Processing and Recycling Facilities)
- Workgroups
 - Food Recovery/Diversion Task Force
- Education Campaigns
 - WRAP (Wrap Recycling Action Program)
 - Rethink, Reset, Recycle



The Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP) is a national public awareness and outreach initiative promoting retail takeback of plastic film including wraps, bags, and flexible packaging.



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PlasticFilmRecycling.org

Recycling Bags and Wraps from Your Home

Learn more about plastic film, including which types you can recycle and where to recycle them.

[GET STARTED](#)

What plastic bags and film can be recycled?

[LEARN MORE >](#)

[Find a Dropoff Location](#) [FIND](#)

Recycling Commercial Plastic Film from Your Business

Recycling your leftover plastic film can benefit your business and the environment.

[SEE HOW](#)

Recycling Film at your Business

Learn more about recycling flexible film for your business

[START A PROGRAM >](#)
[FIND A RECYCLER >](#)

Recycling in your Community

Educate your community about plastic film recycling and encourage commercial collection in your area.

[LEARN HOW](#)

Find out what ways you can best communicate to your community

[COMMUNICATION TOOLS >](#)





DEP Efforts

“Rethink. Reset. Recycle.” education campaign in partnership with material recycling facilities across the state to address the need to educate residents on how to reduce contamination in single stream curbside recycling.





75% Recycling Goal Report to the Legislature

Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal

A Mid-Term Status Report



Prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection
for the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives

The report looks at options and recommendations provided by recycling industry stakeholders

- Summary of Options
 - Single stream
 - Markets
 - C&D Recycling
 - Organics Recycling
 - Commercial Recycling
 - Education
 - Sustainable Materials Management



Report Conclusions

- Recycling in Florida has changed vastly over the last 10 years. Many of the challenges have occurred due to changes in collection, shifts in the recycling markets and new and lighter weight packaging.
- Florida's current recycling rate is 52%; which is a 17% increase since the inception of the current goal (2012). However, without significant changes to the current approach, Florida's recycling rate will likely fall short of the 2020 goal of 75%.
- There is a developing consensus that suggests using a weight-based goal may not result in efficient or effective recycling; rather, incorporation of source reduction and sustainable materials management concepts into a comprehensive statewide recycling program may be needed.



Sustainable Materials Management (SMM)

- SMM is a systematic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their life cycles.
- For the State to reach the weight-based 75% recycling goal would implement a multi-strategy approach to capture and recycle a larger portion of the waste stream, which would likely involve funding and statutory mandates.
- A shift toward sustainable materials management would refocus the goal to reduce the life cycle environmental impacts of materials.
- SMM provides a goal that is focused on the environmental attributes that are most important to protecting Florida's environment, society and economy.



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