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**Lee County nabs Florida's top recycling spot**

*Community participation pushes the county's recycling rate from 76% to 81%*

Fort Myers, FL, July 5, 2022 – Lee County Solid Waste has been named Florida's top recycling county by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The amount of material Lee County residents recycled in 2021 would be enough to fill 168 football fields with material 70 feet high – as high as the highest point on the Sanibel Causeway.

Lee County received credit for recycling 1.6 million tons of the total 2.61 million tons of waste generated locally in 2021, according to numbers that FDEP recently released. This brings the county's recycling rate to 81%.

This is the sixth time Lee County has led the state in recycling since Florida began tracking in 2000. Strong participation by both residents and businesses has enabled Lee County to meet and exceed the state's 75% recycling goal every year since 2017.

"Lee County residents are passionate about the environment and recognize that responsible recycling is part of the bigger picture," Solid Waste Director Doug Whitehead said. "Our residents also are conscientious about 'clean recycling.' That means the items are empty, clean and dry and placed loose in the recycling cart rather than in plastic bags."

FDEP recycling credits are acquired for items such as curbside recycling by residents as well as business recycling of materials such as cardboard, yard waste, scrap metal and construction and demolition debris. Lee County also receives recycling credit for energy produced from garbage processed at the Waste-to-Energy plant in Buckingham.

Visit [www.leegov.com/solidwaste](http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste) for more information. To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: [www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters](http://www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters).