

## **Solid Waste Management Non-Ad Valorem Assessment**

### **Background**

The Alachua County solid waste management programs are funded through a non-ad valorem assessment in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. This assessment first took effect October 1, 1997 when the Alachua County Commission approved a non-ad valorem assessment for solid waste management. This assessment covers the cost of the Waste Alternatives and Environmental Protection programs and approximately 36% of the Rural Collection Center program.

Beginning with the 1997-98 fiscal year, all municipalities in Alachua County, except for LaCrosse, have approved ordinances allowing collection of the assessment within their respective municipal limits. LaCrosse did not pass the ordinance and is currently paying a per ton surcharge at the Transfer Station. (The estimated surcharge for the 2007-08 fiscal year is \$22.46 per ton.) All of the municipal ordinances expire September 30, 2007.

On December 12, 2006, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 06-142, which allows the County to collect non-ad valorem assessments for solid waste management in the entire county. The resolution also allows the county to collect non-ad valorem assessments in the unincorporated area only for mandatory curbside collection, approximately 64% of the rural collection center program and for community maintenance in the Sugarfoot Oaks/Cedar Ridge Preservation and Enhancement District.

### **Programs Funded by the Assessment and the Specific Benefit to Each Class of Property**

- The County's Environmental Protection Department's program provides collection, recycling and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic scrap through the Alachua County Hazardous Waste Collection Center located at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park, at the Rural Collection Centers and through periodic mobile HHW collection events throughout the County. In addition, the program provides emergency response for hazardous materials incidents, inspection and monitoring of small quantity (SQG) hazardous waste generators and complaint investigations regarding hazardous materials and wastes. In addition, the program provides, on a fee basis, hazardous waste disposal services for conditionally exempt small quantity generators of hazardous waste. The program also provides appointment-based hazardous waste collection and technical assistance to the County's Division of Waste Management. All activities are countywide and include all municipalities. **Approximately 32 percent of the cost of this program is a benefit to Commercial Property, and approximately 68 percent is a benefit to Residential Property.**

- The Waste Alternatives program provides public education on source reduction, recycling, composting, household hazardous waste and litter prevention through a variety of learning tools. Waste Alternative Specialists visit schools throughout the County using our own School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) approved curriculum for students in grades pre-K through 12. Presentations are also provided to civic groups and businesses. This office manages the Alachua Exchange, a free online trading service at [www.alachuaexchange.com](http://www.alachuaexchange.com), sponsors all special recycling events (tire recycling and phonebook recycling) and takes children's activities to festivals throughout the County. Waste Alternatives also manages recycling of containers for special events. Additionally, there is a mass media public education campaign targeting all businesses and residents in the County. In partnership with the School Board of Alachua County, Waste Alternatives developed Tools for Schools in 2004. Tools for Schools is a reusable resource center offering free school supplies and creative learning tools to all SBAC teachers for redistribution to their students. All activities are countywide and include all municipalities. **This program is a benefit to Residential and Commercial Property.**
- The Rural Collection Center program provides drop-off sites for residential solid waste, recycling and non-toxic household hazardous waste. The Rural Collection Centers are funded through two sources. Approximately 64 percent of the funds come from the Rural Collection Center assessment (assessed to rural residents of unincorporated Alachua County) and about 36 percent from the Solid Waste Management assessment (assessed to all residents of the County except for rural, unincorporated residents). The proportion from each funding source is based upon a survey of users of the collection centers to determine what percentage are rural residents as compared to municipal and County mandatory curbside collection residents. These centers are available to residents countywide, including residents of all municipalities. **This program is a benefit to Residential Property.**

## WASTE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAMS

The Waste Alternatives Program provides public education and resources for our community on a new philosophy in waste reduction; “Embrace Zero Waste”. Waste Alt programs focus on source reduction, recycling, composting, household hazardous waste and litter prevention using a variety of learning tools. Waste Alternative Specialists visit schools throughout the County using our own School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) approved curriculum for students in grades pre-K through 12. Presentations are also provided to civic groups and businesses. A large multi media campaign supports our program and serves as an additional outreach mechanism to our community.

Additionally, Waste Alternatives provides recycling containers for special events, manages the Alachua County commercial recycling program, sponsors special recycling events (tire recycling, phone book recycling) and acts as a liaison between the waste haulers and recyclers to our residents and businesses.

### School Programs:

- visits schools throughout the County using our own School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) approved curriculum for students in grades pre-K through 12 and helps teachers comply with requirements of the Sunshine State Standards; provides activity guides suggesting pre and post classroom visit activities; customizes programs, is available 7 days a week, day and night. These programs are done in the classroom or at waste management facility sites:
  - Costume characters: Big Blue, Litter Pal, Compost Kid
  - Tours: Environmental Park, closed landfills
  - Multi-media:
    - Videos: Garbage Tale, Garbage: The Movie (An Environmental Adventure)
    - Interactive computer games: *Choices, Choices, Decisions, Decisions*, SIM CITY 4 (with a landfill)
  - School recycling/composting programs: Recycling in Your School, Composting in Your School
  - Contests: Phonebook recycling, Trashformations the Art of Recycling
  - Informational presentations: Garbage: The Whole Story
  - Teacher Workshops: continuing education credit
  - Phonebook recycling competition
  - Trashformations recycled art competition
- operates (in partnership with SBAC) Tools for Schools, reusable resource center offering free school supplies and creative learning materials to SBAC teachers for use in classrooms and redistribution to students

### Community:

- Tools for Schools – a reusable resource center for teachers in Alachua County. Free school supplies, gently used and new all through donations. All advertising has been donated.
- presents informational talks to civic groups and businesses
- educates grocery shoppers on environmentally and fiscally responsible choices (S.M.A.R.T. Shopper)

- manages the Alachua eXchange, a free online trading service at [www.alachuaexchange.com](http://www.alachuaexchange.com)
- sponsors special recycling events (tire recycling and phonebook recycling)
- attends and provides activities and information for adults and children at events throughout the County, *e.g.* Downtown Arts Festival, Earth Day, Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival, Possum Creek Festival, Great Florida Clean Up, Literacy Festival, Santa Fe River Fest, Pioneer Days, Zucchini Festival, T.G. Pearson Day, Micanopy 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Educator's Open House, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts Festival, Home Show, Kids Fest, Recycle Fair
- manages special events recycling
- manages backyard composting program: educates community; provides free wire compost bins; and hosts spring Earth Machine sale (at subsidized cost)

Businesses (Waste Watchers at Work campaign):

- provides waste surveys to businesses to assess the type of waste that they produce and recommends practical ways for them to be a Waste Watchers at Work
  - appoint a recycling coordinator
  - recycle cans, bottles, paper, cardboard and fluorescent lamps
  - purchase recycled content products
  - use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups
  - utilize the Alachua eXchange
- helps businesses comply with the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance

Other:

- sponsors multi-media (mass media) public education campaign targeting all businesses and residents in the County
  - PSAs: television and radio spots
  - Waste Watchers Tip (of the month)
  - Press releases
  - Websites: TheWasteWatcher.com, Tools for Schools.com, AlachuaExchange.com

## **Solid Waste Management Assessment Allocation of Costs**

- I. Allocates the appropriate portion of the Rural Collection Center Cost to Residential Property in the incorporated areas and in the unincorporated, curbside collection area
- II. Allocates the cost of two non-disposal solid waste programs
  - A. Waste Alternatives — recycling program
    - (1) allocated between Residential Property and Commercial Property based on waste generation. Further allocated between Residentially Collected Residential Property and Commercially Collected Residential Property based on relative amounts of solid waste generated.
    - (2) apportioned among Residential Property based on per Dwelling Unit basis
    - (3) apportioned among Commercial Property based on waste generation
  - B. Environmental Protection — household and small generator hazardous waste program
    - (1) allocated to Residential Property and Commercial Property based on use of program as determined by staff records
    - (2) apportioned among Residential Property equally on a per Dwelling Unit basis
    - (3) apportioned among Commercial Property on a waste generation basis

**PROPOSED RATES FOR SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT  
Fiscal Year 2007-2008  
5/30/07 10:18 AM**

**RESIDENTIAL:**

<b><u>Assess. Code</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Rate per Unit</u></b>
0710	Residential	22.46
0720	Com.Coll.Res.	20.77
0730	Non-mand. (RCC) Res.	12.45

**COMMERCIAL:**

<b><u>Assess. Code</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Range of Tonnage Generated</u></b>	<b><u>Rate per Parcel</u></b>
0801	Commercial	0-4.9	12.12
0802	Commercial	5-9.9	36.85
0803	Commercial	10-19.9	73.95
0804	Commercial	20-29.9	123.42
0805	Commercial	30-39.9	172.88
0806	Commercial	40-49.9	222.35
0807	Commercial	50-74.9	308.91
0808	Commercial	75-99.9	432.58
0809	Commercial	100-149.9	618.07
0810	Commercial	150-199.9	865.40
0811	Commercial	200-499.9	1,731.05
0812	Commercial	500-999.9	3,709.67
0813	Commercial	1,000-1,899.9	7,172.26
0814	Commercial	1,900-2,662	11,284.09

## Breakdown of FY 08 Solid Waste Management Assessment

### Commercially Collected Residential

Assessment/per unit = \$20.77 \*

Waste Alternatives	31%	\$6.46
EPD-Haz. Waste	28%	\$5.89
Rural Col. Cntrs.	41%	\$8.41

\* Due to rounding, total is off by one cent.

### Residentially Collected Residential

Assessment/per unit = \$22.46\*

Waste Alternatives	28%	\$6.39
EPD-Haz. Waste	26%	\$5.84
Rural Col. Cntrs.	46%	\$10.22

\* Due to rounding, total is off by one cent.

### Rural Collection Center Area Residential \*\*

Assessment/per unit = \$12.45

Waste Alternatives	52%	\$6.51
EPD-Haz. Waste	48%	\$5.94

\*\* Already pay for Rural Col. Cntrs.