



## 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”. Zero Waste is a philosophy, which encourages the elimination of the inefficient use of our resources. Our programs help accomplish this by focusing on source reduction, reuse, and 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. Additionally, our staff provides presentations 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), operates a reusable resource center for teachers (Tools for Schools) 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: The Waste Watcher, Litter Pal
  - Tours: Environmental Park, closed landfills
  - School recycling/composting programs: Recycling in Your School, Composting in Your School
  - Contests: Phonebook recycling, Trashformations the Art of Recycling
  - Informational presentations: PreK-12 curriculum
  - Teacher Workshops: continuing education credit
  - Phonebook recycling competition
  - Trashformations recycled art competition
- operates (in partnership with SBAC) Tools for Schools, a 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.
- Mobile Tools for Schools unit – services schools in our rural communities and municipalities

- 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, , Great American 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, Micanopy Fall Festival, Alachua 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- manages special events recycling
- manages backyard composting program: educates community; provides free wire compost bins; Earth Machine sales (at subsidized cost), and Rain Barrels

Businesses (Waste Watchers at Work campaign):

- provides free 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
- helps businesses comply with the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance
- pilot recycling bag program for multi-family properties

Other:

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

Grants:

Waste Alternatives is always seeking opportunities to enhance our programs with public and private grants.