

# Solid Waste

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## Introduction



Solid waste management is integral to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of citizens as well as the natural environment. From curbside collection to recycling, it is essential to a functioning, clean and vibrant community. Hillsborough County's solid waste system is composed of a 3,300 acre Class 1 landfill, a Resource Recovery Facility, two transfer facilities, three yard waste facilities, three household hazardous waste collection sites, and five community collection centers which handle bulky waste, paint and electronic waste. The annual system tons managed are roughly 1.1 million.

Given the County's robust population growth, there are challenges with the long-term sustainability of the solid waste management system. The Resource Recovery Facility is at capacity, the landfill has somewhat limited capacity, and all additional waste generated by additional growth is being landfilled. At the same time, approximately 70% of the County's solid waste stream is recyclable or compostable, providing a profound opportunity for an impactful shift to sustainable solid waste management. In conjunction with other planning efforts,

updated solid waste language in the Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide a policy outline for this shift.

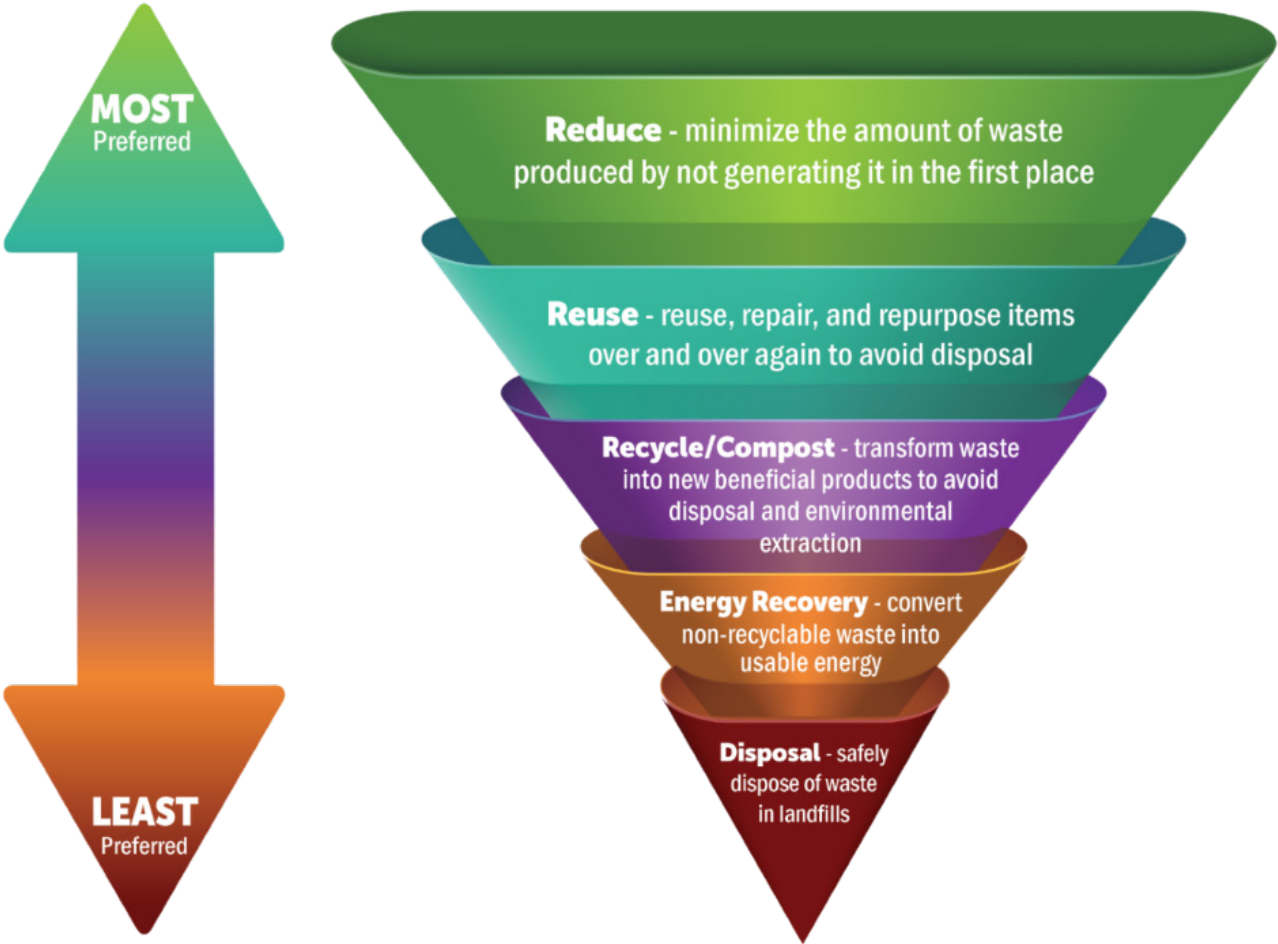
The Solid Waste Section serves to update the Solid Waste Element of the Unincorporated Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. Incorporating the integrated hierarchy of waste management, the Solid Waste Section update is designed to support Hillsborough County in sustainable solid waste management leadership. Employing best practices and solid waste innovations, the Section provides a framework for reducing waste generation, increasing recycling and reuse, maximizing waste diversion from County operations/processes, exploring new opportunities for beneficial uses of waste, direct needed updates to other County documents and providing policy direction to guide programmatic enhancements and capital projects.

The language was developed via a collaborative approach with staff from Hillsborough County's Solid Waste Management Division and the Environmental Management Division's Innovation and Resiliency Section. It is coordinated with other County sustainability and solid waste planning efforts.

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## Waste Reduction



“Integrated Hierarchy of Waste Management” graphic courtesy of Hillsborough County (non-adopted, for illustrative purposes only)

# GOAL 1

*Lead in waste reduction, reuse and recycling in a cost-efficient manner to provide for sustainable solid waste management.*

## Objective 1.1

**Adopt an integrated hierarchy of solid waste management using source reduction as the primary approach, followed in order by reuse, recycling/composting and energy recovery. Landfill disposal shall be considered the last resort.**

## Policies

- 1.1.1 Regularly review and update codes and ordinances to implement the integrated hierarchy of waste management.
- 1.1.2 Support state and federal efforts to establish producer responsibility systems (e.g. product redesigns) in reducing waste generation at the source and end of life management of materials; explore methods to enhance local producer responsibility.
- 1.1.3 Expand partnerships with the public, private and nonprofit sector to enhance community reuse opportunities and increase organics recovery and composting infrastructure.
- 1.1.4 Pursuant to state statutes, require new commercial and multi-family developments to provide adequate space and receptacles for recycling infrastructure.
- 1.1.5 Explore a phased approach to universal recycling to expand recycling to all commercial and multi-family properties.
- 1.1.6 Explore and support approaches to increase waste diversion from construction-related activities.
- 1.1.7 Continue methods to recover energy from waste that is not recyclable.

- 1.1.8 Ensure that hurricane and storm debris disposal is factored into future landfill planning.
- 1.1.9 Continue to meet the adopted LOS as outlined in the Capital Improvements Element using the integrated hierarchy as a primary strategy.

**Objective 1.2**

**Leverage waste as a resource; evaluate and implement beneficial uses for waste.**

**Policies**

- 1.2.1 Foster in-state market development for reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.
- 1.2.2 Implement policies and programs to recover organics from the waste stream for beneficial use.
- 1.2.3 Research alternatives for beneficial reuse of materials and gas generated by waste to energy, landfilling and the recovery processes.
- 1.2.4 Continue to monitor emerging technologies and beneficial uses for waste, as well as applicability to overall solid waste management.

**Objective 1.3**

**Ensure the County leads by example through its own facilities, education and outreach.**

**Policies**

- 1.3.1 Continue education and outreach to support citizen awareness regarding waste reduction strategies such as composting, reducing contamination in recycling and utilizing reusable materials.
- 1.3.2 Expand recycling to all County facilities and special events on County property; track and enhance County recycling rate.
- 1.3.3 Investigate the feasibility of requiring County construction projects to recycle construction and demolition (C&D) waste; explore requiring County-subsidized projects to employ reduction and diversion practices.

- 1.3.4 Explore cross-departmental mechanisms to enhance the internal reuse of materials or supplies.
- 1.3.5 Co-locate solid waste capital facilities to enhance the efficient use of land and energy and reduce costs.
- 1.3.6 Continue to partner across County departments on innovative and multi-benefit solid waste management projects.
- 1.3.7 Continue collaboration with regional partners on solid waste projects and programs.

**Objective 1.4**

**Policies**

**Continue resilient and sustainable solid waste management siting and practices that protect citizens and the environment.**

- 1.4.1 New Solid Waste Disposal Sites shall be located outside of the Coastal Planning Area.
- 1.4.2 Solid Waste Management Facilities located in the Coastal Planning Area shall have an operations plan for effective management of waste prior to storm surge events.
- 1.4.3 Updates to the Solid Waste Master Plan shall consider the relocation of existing Solid Waste Management Facilities and Solid Waste Disposal Sites to areas outside of the Coastal Planning Area in lieu of replacement or renovation.
- 1.4.4 Explore options to allocate actual cost of service for collection and disposal of solid waste.
- 1.4.5 Utilize collections contracts or other mechanisms to ensure new residential development does not adversely affect existing or new solid waste collection services.
- 1.4.6 Continue to operate facilities that enable proper residential disposal of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

- 1.4.7 Identify businesses generating hazardous or non-processible waste to ensure prohibited materials do not enter the solid waste stream.
  
- 1.4.8 Meet, and where feasible, exceed all regulatory and environmental standards for operation of solid waste facilities.

*\*These will be added to the **Definitions** section in the final version of the Comprehensive Plan.*

## **Solid Waste Disposal Sites**

## **Solid Waste Management Facilities**

# **Governance Definitions**

Sites permitted for the permanent disposal of municipal solid waste.

Facilities dedicated to the management of municipal solid waste, including waste collection and transport; unloading, processing, and storage. These facilities are not permitted as Solid Waste Disposal Sites.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO OTHER ELEMENTS**

### **Capital Improvements Element**

1.C.1.e County Solid Waste Facilities: The Solid Waste Level of Service shall be: ~~8.0~~6.0 pounds of solid waste per capita per day disposal~~tion~~ capacity in the Unincorporated Hillsborough County system service area.

