

**Introduction to the  
Miami-Dade Resource Conservation Committee (MDRCC)  
& Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**



**Presented by  
Nichole Hefty, Chairperson  
Department of Environmental Resources Management**

# Background of the MDRCC

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- **1992: Resolution #214-92 established Recycling Management Committee and guidelines**
- **2003: Resolution # 374-03 reestablished Committee as the Miami-Dade Resource Conservation Committee (MDRCC)**
- **Primary Goals:**
  - **Educating County employees about waste reduction, recycling, and environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP)**
  - **Promoting and facilitating activities in waste reduction, recycling, and environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP)**
  - **Collecting information and promoting successes in the above-mentioned activities**

# Legislative Mandates

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- EPA Resource Conservation Recovery Act of 1976
- Florida Solid Waste Management Act of 1988
- Florida Statute 403.7065
- Federal Executive Order 13101
- Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP)

# MDRCC Responsibilities

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- Identify opportunities for waste reduction, resource conservation and recycling in County departments and operations
- Make recommendations to further progress in these areas
- Help educate employees and departments and promote accomplishments
- Collect data from all departments and prepare an annual report documenting departments' activities and accomplishments

# Current Efforts

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- Website  
(<http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/Conservation/>)
- Annual Report
- 4 Subcommittees
  - Recycling
  - Education & Marketing
  - Electronics Recycling
  - Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP or “Green Purchasing”)

# MDRCC Website

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Miami-Dade County Resource Conservation website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/Conservation/home.asp>. The website header features the Miami-Dade County logo and navigation links for "Using Our Site", "Contact Us", and "Privacy Statement". Below the header, there are navigation tabs for "Conservation - Home", "Resident", "Visitor", "Business", and "Employee". The main content area is titled "Every Employee Can Conserve Resources" and includes a paragraph about the county's commitment to resource conservation, a paragraph about the impact of office waste, and a note about recycling information. A sidebar on the left lists various resource conservation topics, and a sidebar on the right provides contact information and resources.

Resource Conservation

Search

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**Resource Conservation**

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**Every Employee Can Conserve Resources**

As Miami-Dade County employees, we are dedicated to serving our community in the most efficient manner possible. An important way for us to demonstrate our commitment to service and the environment is through the conservation and efficient use of our precious natural resources.

If you stop to think about it, even those of us that work primarily in the office consume resources and generate waste as we perform our jobs each day. A single piece of paper may not seem like very much, but when multiplied by all of your co-workers over the course of a year – it adds up fast! Did you know that Miami-Dade County employees used well over 50,000 cases of paper in 2003-2004? With only a small portion of that being from recycled sources, **that's over 25,000 trees in one year!**

By making sure that we reduce first, then reuse, and then recycle, we can all do our part. For those of you up to the challenge, look for creative ways you can make your own workplace more efficient and then get involved with our efforts to reduce waste at the source and conserve resources.

*Note: General (home/business) recycling information can be found on the [Department of Solid Waste Management \(DSWM\)](#) website or by contacting their Recycling Hotline at 305.594.1500.*

**Contact Us**

**Main Number**  
(305) 372-6784

**E-mail**  
[pbs@miamidade.gov](mailto:pbs@miamidade.gov)

[More>>](#)

**Resources**

[General \(home/business\) recycling information](#)

**DSWM Recycling Hotline**  
(305) 594-1500

Local intranet

<http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/Conservation/>

# What is Environmentally Preferable or "Green" Purchasing?

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## ■ EPP Products or Services:

- Have lesser or reduced effect on human health & environment
- Are comparable with competing products or services that serve the same purpose

## ■ Considers:

- |                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| ■ Raw materials acquisition  | ■ Operation   |
| ■ Production & manufacturing | ■ Maintenance |
| ■ Packaging & distribution   | ■ Disposal    |
| ■ Reuse                      |               |

# Green Purchasing Benefits

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- Reduced environmental impact
- Reduced impacts on human health
- Often result in reduced lifecycle costs
- Improved public image

# Common Misconceptions Dispelled

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- Life-cycle costing often reveals savings overall
- Many companies offering “greener” alternatives of their products
- Many companies offering quality products
- Many resources and examples available

# Green Purchasing Strategies

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- **Modifying specifications and requirements that award contracts to lowest bidder**
- **Buying products with the lowest life cycle cost**
- **Permitting purchasers to apply price preferences for “green” products**
- **Adopting best value purchasing practices**

# Many Programs Already Experiencing Success

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- King County, Washington
- Santa Monica, California
- State of Massachusetts
- Portland, Oregon
- Boulder, Colorado
- Lee County, Florida
- Miami-Dade, Florida

# Road Striping Change in Lee County, FL

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- **Changed to Latex, Lead-free paint**
- **No more hazardous solvent or waste to store & dispose of**
- **Health benefits to workers**
- **Environmental benefits**
- **Reduced costs**

# Examples in Miami-Dade County

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- Replacement of standard equipment with more energy efficient equipment
- Replacement of standard 35 mm cameras with digital cameras
- Language in janitorial contracts for cleaning products
- Utilizing CDs for Annual Financial Report distribution instead of paper
- Recapping of tires in GSA Fleet Management

# What Can You Do?

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- Learn more by visiting the RCC Website at <http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/Conservation/>
- Look for opportunities within your departments
- Communicate with your department's MDRCC representative (or become one yourself!)