

# INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY,** the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) provides an integrated solid waste management system that **benefits the entire Miami-Dade County community.** It is our mission to provide our customers with exceptional waste collection, recycling and disposal services that protect, preserve and improve our environment and the quality of life in our community.

The DSWM is the largest government owned and operated waste management system in the southeastern United States, with decades of experience providing efficient and reliable waste services. Our workforce of more than 1,000 employees provides curbside collection of garbage and trash at more than 340,000 service area households, operates 13 Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers and administers the contracted collection of household recyclables from the curbs of 350,000 single-family homes in our service area and participating municipalities. Each year, we process approximately 1.7 million tons of garbage and trash through our disposal system which includes 3 regional transfer stations, three landfills and a state-of-the-art Resources Recovery Facility waste-to-energy plant. We also provide mosquito control services for all Miami-Dade County.



## CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

In hundreds of neighborhoods throughout the service area, the DSWM provides twice-weekly automated curbside garbage collection service and every-other-week automated recycling collection service. The wheeled and lidded automated collection carts (green for garbage and blue for recycling) are convenient for our customers, improve neighborhood aesthetics and offer a safer and more efficient method of service delivery for our employees. When residents need to get rid of large household trash and major yard cuttings, they can arrange to use one of their two curbside bulky waste pickups. The Department's Code Enforcement Officers canvass neighborhoods to ensure that residents and business owners comply with waste management rules outlined in the County Code.



## TRASH + RECYCLING CENTERS

For convenience, residents can take trash to one of our 13 Trash and Recycling Centers. These drop-off sites are open daily and accept household trash, yard cuttings, white goods (large appliances) and used auto tires. Select centers also accept motor oil and used computer and electronic equipment for recycling. Trash collected at these centers is moved into our disposal system for final processing. Recyclable items like white goods, motor oil and electronics are collected and processed by contracted vendors.



## HOME CHEMICAL COLLECTION CENTERS

At our Home Chemical Collection Centers at the NW 58 Street Operations Center and the South Dade Landfill, we offer free and safe disposal for motor oil, household paints, pesticides, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and the like. Proper disposal of this waste helps protect our fragile South Florida environment.



## REGIONAL TRANSFER STATIONS

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Garbage from most neighborhoods is delivered to one of three regional transfer stations, which function as temporary staging areas for waste before it reaches its final destination. These sites contribute to the efficiency of County and municipal waste delivery and reduce truck traffic on roads and travel time for waste haulers. Waste delivered to these sites is transported to one of our landfills or our Resources Recovery Facility for final disposition.



## RESOURCES RECOVERY WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY

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Our Resources Recovery Facility (waste-to-energy plant) is the workhorse of the disposal system, processing more than 1 million tons of garbage and trash each year. Waste delivered to the plant is converted into a fuel used to generate 77 megawatts of electricity, providing power to the plant and to 35,000 homes annually. What's more, the plant's front-end recovery systems remove valuable aluminum and ferrous metals for recycling. The plant includes a state-of-the-art air quality control system. Through waste-to-energy, the volume of waste for disposal is reduced by 90 percent. Ash resulting from the process is placed in the adjacent ash-only landfill.



## LANDFILLS

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The 320-acre South Dade Landfill is used primarily for the disposal of garbage and non-processable waste from the Resources Recovery Facility. The landfill has been designed and constructed with natural and synthetic liners, a leachate collection system, a groundwater monitoring and treatment system and a sequencing batch reactor to treat leachate and wastewater generated on site. Currently, the methane gas resulting from the decomposition of waste is extracted and sent to a flare, where it is burned off. The Department is working in partnership with the County's Water and Sewer Department (WASD) on a gas-to-energy recovery project where gas will be piped to the neighboring WASD wastewater treatment facility and converted into electricity for onsite use. South Dade Landfill is also one of several sites in our disposal system that features a natural habitat and wetland area for native plants and varied wildlife.

The Department also operates the North Dade Landfill, a Class III (trash only) facility located just south of the Dade-Broward line. The eastern cell includes a leachate collection system and a groundwater monitoring system. Methane gas resulting from the decomposition of the landfill's waste is extracted and sent to a flare, where it is burned off. All our landfills, including those which are closed or inactive, remain under continuous environmental monitoring.



## DSWM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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The DSWM's administrative offices are located on the 5th floor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Office Building in the heart of Miami-Dade County's Liberty City. This site is home to our leadership team and administrative employees who provide support for our field operations.