



A diagram of the Resources Recovery Facility, where more than 1 million tons of garbage and trash gets converted into energy each year.

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NOTHING GOES TO WASTE



Twice a week, you set your green Miami-Dade County waste cart out at the curb and one of our waste collection drivers comes by, empties the cart, and takes your garbage away. Call for a bulky waste pickup of your yard waste, and within a few days one of our bulky waste crews will pick it up and take it away. Out of sight, out of mind.

But what happens to the waste once it leaves your home? Does it just go to a landfill? Contrary to popular belief, a large portion of the waste collected in Miami-Dade County **does not** end up in a landfill. Most of the waste—more than one million tons each year—is processed at our waste-to-energy plant, the Resources Recovery Facility.

We use as much of the waste collected as possible, in some shape or form. You might say that, at the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management, **NOTHING GOES TO WASTE.**



Once waste arrives at the Resources Recovery Facility, it is divided into two streams: garbage (such as kitchen waste from your home) and trash (such as lawn and tree clippings, and old furniture).

Most of the waste is incinerated on site to create enough electricity to power the facility itself plus 35,000 homes. Thanks to an agreement with the City of Homestead, we “keep things at home.” Their waste becomes part of the waste we use to create electrical energy, and that electrical energy is transmitted to Homestead to power the city’s residents and businesses.

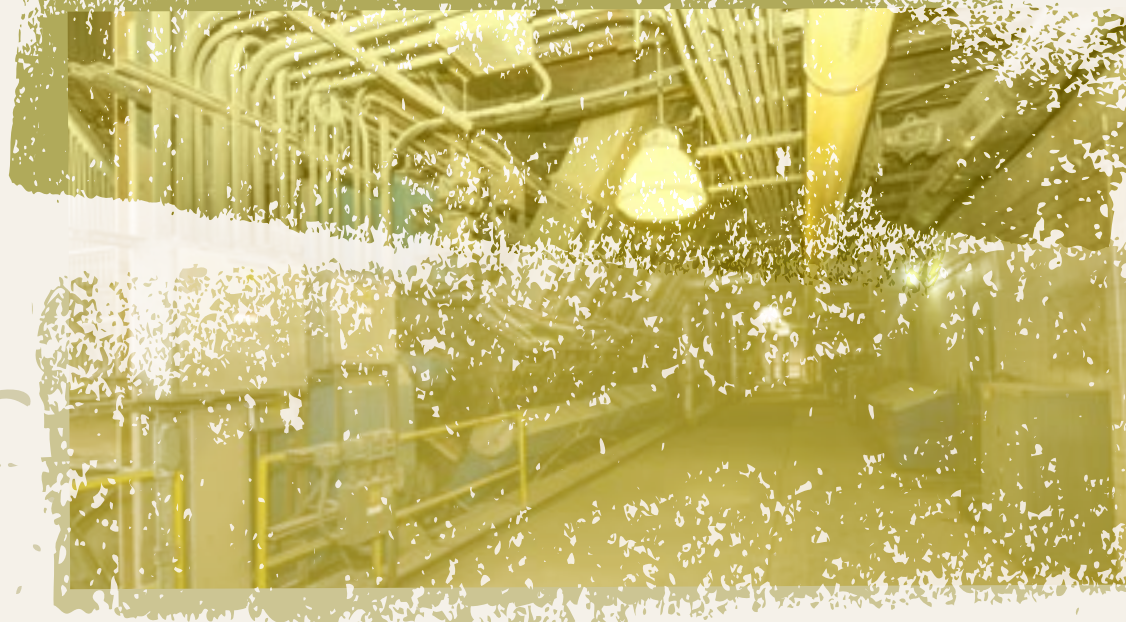
The water used to create the steam that spins the turbines to make electrical energy gets reused on site, over and over again.



Incineration helps us reduce the volume of waste that would otherwise go to landfill by about 90 percent. Put another way, for every 100 truckloads of waste that come to our waste-to-energy facility and get incinerated, only 10 truckloads of ash need to be disposed of. That ash is buried on site in a special landfill called a “monofill,” because it’s the only form of waste disposed of there. But we’re currently looking at using at least some of that ash in the production of cement instead.

Before—and after—the waste gets incinerated, we remove tons of ferrous (think steel and iron) and non-ferrous (think aluminum) metals. These recovered metals go on to enjoy new lives as recycled items.

You see those blue skies surrounding the plant? Our state-of-the-art air quality control system



means you won’t see smoke at our waste-to-energy facility.

We even remove small particles that can’t be used as fuel—such as soil—from waste and use them as daily cover at our landfill.

So as you can see, from the largest items, to the smallest, we make the most of this surprisingly valuable resource: your waste.

The next time you place your green waste cart at the curb, you’ll understand why we say, **NOTHING GOES TO WASTE.**

