

# RECYCLING STATUS REPORT FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

Luiz Rodrigues  
ECOMB  
August 19, 2007

## **PRESENT STATUS**

The 1992 Miami-Dade County Ordinance No. 91-123 made it mandatory for all businesses and multifamily dwellings to recycle.

### **Residential, Rental Properties and Condominiums**

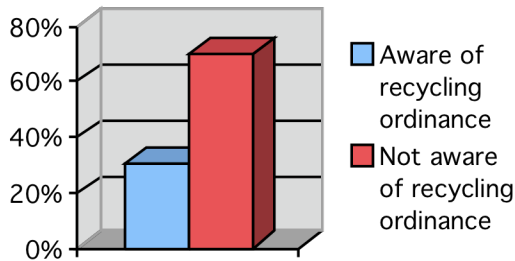
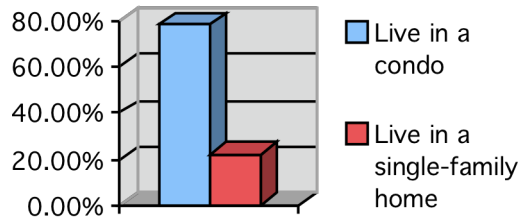
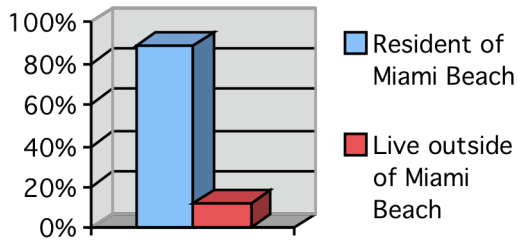
- All rental property owners and condominium associations must provide recycling services to their residents.
- The City of Miami Beach provides recycling services to single-family homes and buildings of 8 or fewer units with pick up on Wednesdays.
- Residents of Miami Beach who reside in a building with more than 8 units are required by County Ordinance to hire, by means of a contract, a private hauler for their regular trash pick-up, recycling and bulk pick-up.

### **Commercial Recycling**

- All business owners must provide a recycling program for their employees and tenants, using the services of an authorized waste hauler or private recycling hauler.
- Must recycle three items from the following list: high grade office paper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, aluminum, steel, other scrap production metals, plastics, textiles, wood.
- Modified Recycling Programs: those, which incorporate modifications, substitutions or reductions to the requirements stated above -- may be submitted to the Department of Solid Waste Management for review and approval.

### **ECOMB's Recycling Online and Lincoln Road Survey Results (February 12 and 16, 2007):**

- Approximately 1000 people received the survey and/or were interviewed on Lincoln Rd;
- 106 responded (10.6%);
- 93 of the respondents (approximately 88%) are Miami Beach residents;
- 73 of the Miami Beach residents live in condos (78.5%) and 20 live in single-family homes (21.5%);
- 65 of the Miami Beach residents (approximately 70%) stated that they were not aware of the 1992 Miami-Dade County Ordinance requiring businesses, condominiums and single-family homes to recycle.
- Several survey participants also mentioned they thought recycling was not available in Miami Beach (information not obtained informally).
- Others, who were aware of the Ordinance and wished to recycle, stated they did not know whom to contact in order to start a recycling program in their condo or business (information obtained informally).

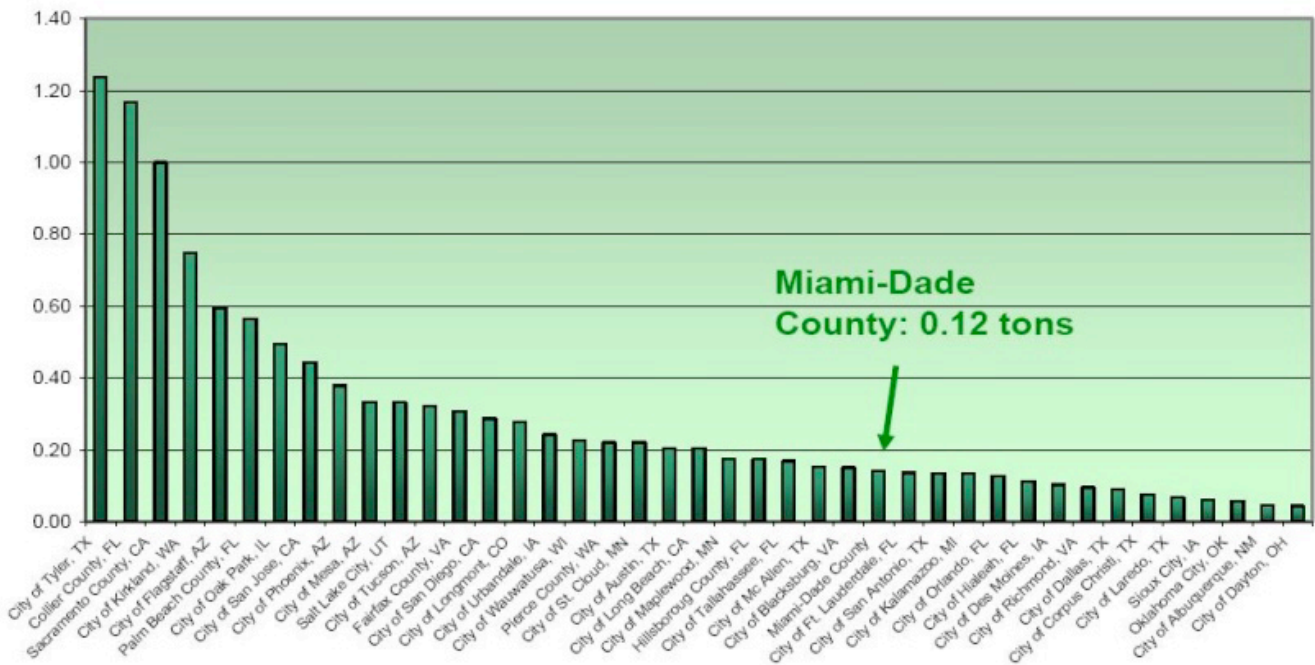


**Recycling Stats in Dade County / Florida**

**Miami-Dade County Recycling Rate = 18% → LOWEST IN STATE OF FLORIDA**

**Recycling in Miami-Dade County and Nationwide – 2006 (by OSBM)**

**Figure 5: Average Tons of Recyclables Collected Per Household Account**



**Figure 4: Comparative Total Recycling Rates by Materials – Top Ten Florida Counties, Statewide and Nationwide**

County	Population Rank	Population <sup>1</sup>	MSW Recycling Rate (%)	Minimum 5 Materials Recycling Rates (%) <sup>2</sup>				
				Newspapers	Glass	Aluminum Cans	Plastic Bottles	Steel Cans
1. Dade	1	2,312,478	18	22	30	42	18	3
2. Broward	2	1,669,153	23	42	19	15	14	28
3. Palm Beach	3	1,183,197	36	59	37	44	10	93
4. Hillsborough	4	1,055,617	32	33	27	34	21	56
5. Orange	5	955,865	31	65	18	15	14	15
6. Pinellas	6	933,994	35	29	11	18	11	86
7. Duval	7	809,394	38	58	29	43	13	9
8. Polk	8	502,385	25	31	5	11	4	39
9. Brevard	9	494,102	32	21	16	12	13	15
10. Lee	10	475,073	33	55	39	49	30	41
Florida - total	n/a	16,674,440	28	38	23	24	15	22
United States <sup>3</sup>	n/a	290,850,005	24	48	19	21	5	36

## ENFORCEMENT

The provisions of Section 15-2.6 shall apply to the incorporated and unincorporated areas, and **shall be enforced by Metropolitan Dade County unless the county and the city agree, in writing; that the city shall enforce this ordinance within the municipality or that the city is operating a recycling program that meets the minimum standards.** Any municipality may establish and enforce its own ordinance provided such ordinance is equivalent to or more stringent than the provisions of this ordinance. (Ord. No. 92-78, § 2, 7-21-92)

- County plans to **add seven enforcement officers** and two office support personnel next year. If proposed budget passes, the new employees will visit condo and apartment complexes, as well as commercial enterprises to educate people about the law and make sure they comply. (Sunpost)
- **Individuals can anonymously report violators by dialing Miami-Dade's 311 Answer Center.** The county will send someone to inspect the facility and explain the code. (Sunpost)
- **A formal letter explaining that they have 30 days** in which to make contact with DSWM acknowledging the need **to comply and to begin working toward compliance.** At the end of the 30 days, if the business has not contacted DSWM, then we will follow up with a further seven-day warning notice with five days to comply. Fines will start immediately after this.
- Depending on the size of the condominium building or business, **fines can be as high as \$950 per day for up to 20 days.** There's no law that requires people to participate. The law just requires the businesses and complexes to have a plan in place, Rose said. (Sunpost)

## CHALLENGES

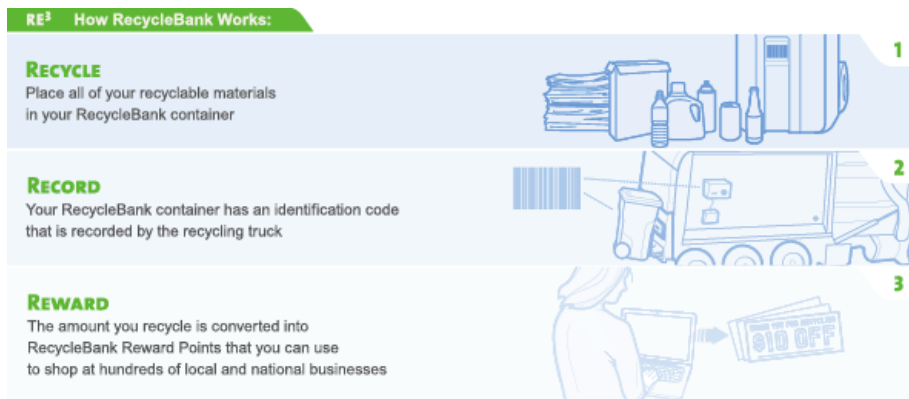
### Condo / Single-Family / Businesses

1. Even with 100 percent compliance, it's still up to the individual to actually follow a recycling plan. There is no law that requires people to participate. The law just requires the businesses and complexes to have a plan in place (SunPost).
2. **Condos**
  - a. Most high-rise condos lack a **"high-rise recycling system"** = CONVENIENCE
  - b. Residents education
  - c. Convenient in-house recycling bins for residents
  - d. No incentives to recycle
  - e. Cost
  - f. Lack of support on management's part

- 3. **Single-Family**
  - a. Residents' education
  - b. Convenient in-house recycling bins for residents
  - c. No incentives to recycle
- 4. **Businesses**
  - a. Lack of space to set up recycling bins – inside and outside
  - b. Business owners' education
  - c. Convenient in-house recycling bins
  - d. No incentives to recycle
  - e. Cost
  - f. Lack of interest on management's part

## PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- I. **Implement Public Education Initiatives**
  - *Recycling Awareness Advertisement Campaigns*
  - *Recycling Awareness Brochure*: to be produced and distributed to all Miami Beach residents by the City of Miami Beach. A partnership project with the Public Works Department.
  - *Recycling Awareness Inserts* in water/electrical bills
  - *TV and Radio PSAs* (to be proposed)
- II. **Provide Recycling Incentives** = financial incentives – to businesses and residents
  - Offer residents the ability to reduce their solid waste bill through waste reduction, composting and recycling. This strategy is based on the EPA recommended concept of “pay as you throw” and has both economic and environmental benefits. This can be achieved by changing refuse cart rates that would be proportionate to the size and weight of each container and surcharges for any materials that will not fit in the cart.
  - Propose Recycling Tax Credits
  - Implement the well-known Recycle Bank Program within our City limits.



- III. *Provide copy of **Recycling Ordinance/Requirements to all permit applicants*** in the City of Miami Beach: new businesses, condos, etc.
- IV. **Transfer Enforcement of the Miami-Dade County 1992 Recycling Ordinance to the City of Miami Beach Public Works Dept.**
- V. **Provide assistance to businesses and multi-family** units in order to make recycling more convenient to tenants.
- VI. **Set up three Community Recycling Drop-off Centers**, in partnership with local businesses or government agencies, for those who still do not have access to recycling in the community.
- VII. **Place Recycling Bins on streets of high resident and tourist traffic** such as Lincoln Rd, Española Way, Ocean Drive, Collins Ave, Washington Ave, 41st Street, 71st Street, beach entrances, and parks.