

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

(No more than 20 lines. Every word over 20 lines will constitute a one point deduction.) (do not delete the instructions on this page)

The District School Board of Pasco County will act as a subcontractor to Pasco County Board of County Commissioners in proposing an Innovative Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant. This grant would create Florida's first mobile reuse center that would allow us the opportunity to reach the outlying areas of our county. It will help to increase the volume of reuse materials donated to and collected by local businesses and individuals throughout the county.

Local manufacturers and businesses dispose of their unwanted waste and reusable items into landfills and incinerators. In 2005 our school district generated 5,753 tons of solid waste and recycled approximately 1,700 tons of materials. Reuse centers provide an opportunity to divert usable materials back into the classroom where they can be used to create new treasures.

The District School Board of Pasco County has been operating Creation Station, a successful reuse center for 15 years. It provides Pasco County School Board employees and non-profit groups with free reuse supplies to supplement learning materials for students. On average 1,500 pounds per month of reuse materials are given away from our centrally located center.

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will help to market our reuse program and provide teachers and students an opportunity to participate in hands-on, environmentally-based learning activities. The lessons that are learned about reducing waste, reusing products, and recycling will be able to be used in the classroom, at home, and in the local community. By raising awareness for the proposed mobile reuse center, we hope to increase the volume of reuse materials that are given away. Mobile reuse centers can also be used in other school districts and surrounding counties to enhance their existing reuse center or to serve as a reuse center.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

(1 page)

Pasco County has a total area of 867 square miles. Pasco County was ranked the 9th fastest growing county in Florida and the 38th fastest growing county in the United States based on population change from July 2004 to July 2005. In 2004, 661,483 tons of solid waste was generated by our county. With the tremendous speed that our county is growing, our reuse center is a great way to reduce the volume of waste that is being generated by our schools and local businesses and create active lessons and learning opportunities for students, teachers, and community members. The District School Board of Pasco County will act as a subcontractor to Pasco County Board of County Commissioners for the intent of implementing all aspects of the grant proposal.

Imagine an exciting new Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center filled with a variety of reuse materials. It will be a fun, interactive, and educational mobile environmental learning center that travels to schools and businesses collecting and distributing reuse supplies.

A new step van will be purchased to accommodate reuse supplies and educational materials available from Creation Station. The exterior of the mobile reuse center will include high-quality wrap-style digital graphics on the back, sides, and cab of the van to increase public awareness for recycling and to promote Creation Station. These graphics will contain our contact information to help encourage members of the community to donate to Creation Station and reduce their solid waste volume. Local businesses can save money on their solid waste costs through making donations to our convenient mobile reuse center.

The interior of the mobile reuse center will have compartment bins to hold smaller reuse items such as: arts and craft supplies, office supplies, paint, sewing supplies, plastics, metal items, and more. It will also have larger tub-style bins to hold larger reuse items such as: wood, ceramics, fabric, wallpaper, and other decorative type items. At Creation Station there are hundreds of items available and the mobile reuse center will distribute a broad sample of all of these items.

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will also include a display area to showcase arts and crafts projects made from reuse materials. It will serve as an educational resource center by providing demonstrations and displays of materials made with recycled content. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will provide our teachers and students with the opportunity to see the varied types of recyclable materials that they can receive for free. They will also learn about ways to reduce their solid waste and increase recycling at their school, at home, and community.

Schools and non-profit groups will be able to contact the Resource Recovery Department to schedule a visit from Creation Station's mobile reuse center throughout the year. In addition, the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will make appearances at numerous community events to increase awareness for recycling and waste reduction.

**Criteria 1: TECHNOLOGIES or PROCESSES**

(1 page) (do not delete the instructions on this page) (20 points) The range of scoring is between 0 and 20 points, with up to 10 points for meeting one of the following sub-criteria, up to 15 points for meeting two, and up 20 points for meeting all three. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

**Sub-criteria 1 – Not in common use in Florida.**

The District School Board of Pasco County’s Creation Station is one of twenty reuse centers in the state. According to Dr. Walter F. Drew of the Florida Reusable Resources Network, presently there are no known mobile reuse centers in Florida. This grant proposal is innovative because it allows the District the opportunity to create Florida’s first mobile reuse center. Creating a mobile reuse center will increase our ability to accept and distribute more reuse materials from the community. In addition this mobile facility will allow us to provide our customers with vital educational information regarding the need to recycle and reducing the solid waste that is generated throughout our entire county.

**Sub-criteria 2 – Novel application of an existing technology or process.**

The present goal of Creation Station is to aid in the reduction of solid waste. Creation Station is open once per month and our services are offered to school board employees and non-profit groups. All of the reuse materials are given away for free. We monitor the amount of reuse materials being given away by weighing each item and recording this information on a database that tracks customer name, work location, items received, and the number of pounds received.

The unique attribute of the proposed grant will be to add mobility to our present services. This will allow us the capability to offer our reuse materials more frequently to a larger number of customers throughout the county. In addition, by becoming mobile it will allow us the opportunity to offer educational components which we were not able to do previously because of the limitations of the service.

**Sub-criteria 3 – Overcoming obstacles to recycling/waste reduction in new or innovative ways.**

As a stationary facility, Creation Station is limited in the programs it offers, the customers it serves, and when it is available. The addition of a mobile reuse center will increase the collection and distribution of materials, thereby reducing the solid waste going to the incinerator and landfills throughout our entire county. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will also enhance awareness of reducing, reusing, and recycling through educational components, which is unavailable at the stationary facility. It will allow more people the opportunity to use and participate in the services being offered. According to Dr. Walter F. Drew of the Florida Reusable Resources Network several states have created a mobile reuse center and have found it to be a successful addition to their programs. We have very strong community and organizational support to ensure our mobile reuse center will be a success and will have a positive impact on our county.

**Criteria 2: TARGETS**

(1 page) (do not delete the instructions on this page) (10 Points) Demonstrate innovative processes to collect and recycle or reduce these targeted materials/sectors: Construction and Demolition Materials, Commercial/Institutional Sectors, Hurricane Debris, Pay-As-You-Throw and Waste Tires. Note: if the proposed project also includes materials/sectors other than those targeted by this criteria, the project will receive less than the maximum 10 points allocated for the criteria.

According to Pasco County public records there are 22,424 businesses and 445 manufacturing operations in our county. Currently 50% of reuse materials donated to the existing Creation Station come from the commercial sector of our county. Creation Station receives many unique, non-traditional types of materials from the commercial and institutional sectors such as: paint, glue, cloth and vinyl fabric, wallpaper, software, leather, video cassettes, metal printing plates from our print center, ceramic molds, egg cartons, foam peanuts, office supplies, trophy accessories, plaques, pictures, frames, sewing supplies, silk flowers, tissue paper, cards, wrapping paper, gift bags, and seasonal items.

Creation Station also receives limited amounts of donated materials specifically targeted by the Department of Environmental Protection. These waste tires and construction and demolition materials such as tile, wood, and pipe account for 3% of the reuse materials available at the center.

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will increase the amount of donations we receive by providing businesses and subcontractors with a convenient pick up service. Many of these materials that are headed for the waste stream can instead be diverted to our Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center.

**Criteria 3: BENEFITS/ Cost-Effectiveness**

(1 page) (do not delete the instructions on this page) (25 points) Demonstrate the potential economic, environmental, and cost-effectiveness of the program’s approach. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

**Sub-criteria 1 - Environmental Benefits (5 points).**

Methodology - To reuse is using an item more than once. It can be reused for the same function or a new life reuse where a new use is found for the item. Reuse helps to eliminate the environmental impacts of manufacturing a new product. Reuse materials may be used to create new items such as: office furnishings, greeting cards, and murals; instead of adding waste to the landfill. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will be developed to address waste reduction, resource conservation, and material reuse. The proposed program seeks to increase waste reduction awareness by providing literature and hands-on experiences to the public on the use of discards and other reusable materials.

Toxicity – As part of the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center we will be collecting and distributing materials such as: computers, phones, and paint; thereby reducing the risk of toxic substances entering the landfill. The mobile reuse center will provide education to the public on reuse; they will learn about reuse as an option for extending the life of materials that may be toxic to the environment.

**Sub-criteria 2 – Economic Benefits (5 Points).**

Creation Station’s reuse items can make use of items which are no longer usable for their original purpose such as: turning a cardboard tube into a palm tree decoration or turning a plastic bottle cap into a counting tool to teach students to count. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will provide an economical means for receiving reuse materials because all of the items are given away for free. By adding mobility to our present services a Resource Recovery Assistant II position will be created. This person will be responsible for all Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center services, including collection and distribution of the materials; and marketing of the program through the use of educational brochures, displays, and public service announcements.

**Sub-criteria 3 – Cost-Effectiveness (15 Points).**

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center is cost effective because it will provide local businesses tax write-offs, save space in the landfill, reduce consumer out-of-pocket expenses, encourage the community to be less wasteful, and increase reuse of targeted materials.

By donating materials that would have otherwise been thrown away, local businesses are helping to reduce their solid waste volume, thereby reducing their solid waste costs. We anticipate being able to divert 25,000 pounds (2,500 lbs. month / 10 months) of reuse materials annually making the payback costs for the program approximately one year. Reuse becomes a cost effective means for managing items from the solid waste stream.

**Criteria 4: SUSTAINABILITY:**

(1 page) (do not delete instructions on this page) (25 points) Demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed program.

The existing Creation Station facility has been in operation for 15 years. It is a vital resource for our school employees. To ensure continuation of the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center, The District School Board of Pasco County will assume financial responsibility for the Resource Recovery Assistant II position and vehicle upkeep and maintenance required after initial grant funding ends. With the help of the local community and support partners the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will support itself through volunteer labor, free donations, and a strong customer base.

We will look to increase our marketability and sustainability through the development of a new website devoted to Creation Station and other media technologies to advertise the program's products and services.

In addition, the Resource Recovery department will continue to seek out local, state, and federal grant programs that will enhance the operation of our districts recycling programs and the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center. Several local and state agencies such as Keep Pasco Beautiful also offer free resources that we will be able to use to support our program.

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will offer long-term financial payback in the terms of the value of donated materials that are offered to our customers and the value of reduced solid waste costs for the community. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will provide for a long-term project for helping to minimize solid waste in Pasco County.

**Criteria 4: TRANSFERABILITY**

(1 page) (do not delete the instructions on this page) (10 Points) Demonstrate transferability of technology and processes and specify how the project will promote transferability. Note: applicant may adjust space used to address each sub-criteria.

**Sub-criteria 1 – Transferability of technology and processes (5 points).**

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will provide activities such as presentations, hands-on workshops, and research about best practices for reuse with the ultimate goal of resource conservation through training. Students and teachers will be able to identify reuse opportunities as well as opportunities for extensive waste reduction.

Our premise is that once our population understands the resources and environmental impact of manufacturing unnecessary products, they will think twice before purchasing. Our students and staff will be able to use what they have learned at Creation Station and put it into action at home and in their community.

Anyone can rescue reuse materials from the solid waste stream, it is a matter of knowing what to do with them. A mobile reuse center will help to educate a much wider audience about the need for conscientious consumption. It will provide consumers with a place to bring their reuse materials and a chance to learn more ways to help their community.

**Sub-criteria 2 – How project will promote transferability (5 points).**

We will be laying the ground work for creating a mobile reuse center. The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center will serve as a cost-effective way of reusing materials and reducing waste. Other communities can use the experiences of the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center to replicate their own mobile reuse center. Since this will be a mobile unit it can easily be displayed at regional and state meetings so that others may explore the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center first-hand. Recycle Florida Today, R.E.S.O.R.C.E. Recycling Club of Pasco, National Recycling Coalition, and the Florida Reusable Resources Network are all avenues in which we can share information about the Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center.

The Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center hopes to set a precedence so mobile reuse programs will be replicated first locally, then statewide. The success of our proposed project will be measured by the volume of reuse materials collected and donated to Creation Station customers. We will track the types of materials reused, the amount of local business donations, the schools or non-profit groups participating, amount of tonnage diverted, and the volume that is given away.

This proposal will strive to share our expertise, experiences, challenges, and triumphs to create best practices for creating a mobile reuse center. We will promote transferability through hands-on presentations, mobile visits, and the internet.

**Criteria 5: LOCAL SUPPORT**

(1 page) (do not delete the instructions on this page) (10 Points) Demonstrate local support for the proposed project in commitment of cash or in-kind matching funds. Please provide the name, address and phone number of ALL contributors. (Points will be allocated for only those contributors located within the jurisdiction of the applicant.)

- **00 points 0% up to and including 1% of total project cost**
- **01 points Greater than 1% up to and including 10% of total project cost**
- **02 points Greater than 10% up to and including 20% of total project cost**
- **03 points Greater than 20% up to and including 30% of total project cost**
- **04 points Greater than 30% up to and including 40% of total project cost**
- **05 points Greater than 40% up to and including 50% of total project cost**
- **06 points Greater than 50% up to and including 60% of total project cost**
- **07 points Greater than 60% up to and including 70% of total project cost**
- **08 points Greater than 70% up to and including 80% of total project cost**
- **09 points Greater than 80% up to and including 90% of total project cost**
- **10 points Greater than 90% up to and including 100% of total project cost**

The total project cost is \$123,223.60. The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners oversees the provisions of solid waste management for Pasco County. The proposed total in-kind of \$65,753.60 is from the District School Board of Pasco County acting as a subcontractor under the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. The total grant request is for \$57,470.00.

Local businesses and organizations view Creation Station as a valuable asset to the community. They support the program through material donations and volunteer time. These partnerships include the following groups: Pasco County Utilities, Pasco County Parks and Recreation, R.E.S.O.R.C.E Club of Pasco, University of Florida Cooperative Extension Office of Dade City, Gulf Coast Native Plant Society, and Keep Pasco Beautiful. The District School Board of Pasco County employees also show their support by donating supplies to Creation Station from schools and departments. The value of the donated items is approximately \$30,000 annually.

The following are the names, addresses, and phone numbers for the contributors:

The District School Board of Pasco County  
7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard  
Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

**BUDGET**

(1 page using Budget Table Template) (do not delete the instructions on this page) Describe the project's budget allocated by task and budget categories per the Budget Table Template available from DEP's Innovative Grants web site in Microsoft Excel digital format

[www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/InnovativeGrants2007-08.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/recycling/pages/InnovativeGrants2007-08.htm)).

Please see the attached budget table template for Creation Station Mobile Reuse Center.