

DEP Recognizes Blue Heaven for 59 Percent Recycling Rate



Suanne Kitchar and Richard Hatch, owners of Blue Heaven display the certificate for 59% recycling presented by Jon Iglehart, DEP South District Director and Edward Russel, DEP Environmental Consultant (far left)

On July 22, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognized Blue Heaven (Key West) for achieving a 59% recycling rate for 2013. This Key West establishment is the first restaurant in Florida to be recognized for outstanding recycling.

The restaurant has been seriously recycling for just a couple of years. Everyone from the bussers to the bartenders to the cooks to the cats help with recycling.

The table bussers have containers for recyclables in the bus station so that all bottles will be separated once the tables have been cleared. The bartenders put all recyclables in bins. As these are filled, they are dumped into larger recycle containers for pick up. The kitchen recycles all bottles, jars, tins, tubs and other containers as they are used. All cardboard, which is a lot from the food deliveries, is flattened and put in the recycle container. Leftover and unwanted food recycling is the most unique part. All meat and fish is saved from the finished meals and fed to the resident cats.

According to owners Suanne Kitchar and Richard Hatch, Blue Heaven's recycling is "kind of a simple, basic plan." The plan works quite well!