

## DEP Recognizes Florida State University for 48 Percent Recycling Rate



DEP Secretary Vinyard (second from right), accompanied by FSU's Campus Sustainability Associate Trey Gowdy and Director of Campus Sustainability Elizabeth Swiman, presented a recycling recognition award to FSU Solid Waste & Recycling Center Supervisor Willie Wiggins (far right).

On November 5, 2013, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. recognized Florida State University (FSU) for its 48 percent recycling rate at Florida Recycles Day at the Capitol (Tallahassee). At FSU, 18 employees in the [Solid Waste & Recycling](#) facility, with the support of the larger FSU Facilities team, manage the waste for a campus population of more than 41,000 students, 6,000 staff, and 2,300 faculty members. In calendar year 2012, FSU recycled 2,650 tons for a 48 percent recycling rate.

FSU recycles paper, scrap metal, construction debris, plastics and aluminum, electronics, cardboard, and yard waste. For the past four years, FSU has achieved a recycling rate of at least 40 percent, substantial growth since the program's inception in the early 2000's. In 2001, Florida State University began managing its own waste and created a recycling program to divert waste from the landfill. There is also frequent collaboration with the [Office of Campus Sustainability](#), in education and outreach initiatives, plus evaluation of campus recycling.

Yard waste (i.e. tree and grass clippings) at Florida State University is diverted from the landfill by gathering it at the FSU Nursery, and it is ultimately chipped into mulch. Broken or outdated electronics, such as computer equipment, batteries, and ink and toner cartridges are collected around campus and recycled. Plastic bottles and cans are collected in recycling bins indoors and outdoors, and in the past year, low-traffic trash containers were rebranded and turned into plastics and cans recycling. A [campus recycling map](#) of the bin locations has been published to aid the campus community. The football game day recycling program, Garnet and Gold Goes Green, through collaboration with the Office of Campus Sustainability has collected more than 100 tons of recyclable material in nine seasons.

Indoor recycling efforts at Florida State have matured in the past few years, and there is a dedicated team for collecting these materials around campus. Hundreds of recycling bins are serviced around campus and other FSU properties on a [weekly pick-up schedule](#). In addition to indoor recycling materials such as office paper and plastics, bottles, and cans, there are hundreds of tons of other recyclable material collected on campus. Florida State University is committed to minimizing landfill waste through a growing recycling program.