

DEP Recognizes Global Organic Specialty Source for 63% Recycling



DEP District Director Jon Inglehart (left) presents Global Organic Specialty Source President/Founder Mitch Blumenthal with a recycling recognition award

On August 28, 2013, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognized Global Organic Specialty Source for its outstanding recycling efforts. Global Organic [www.globalorganics.ws] is a Sarasota-based wholesale organic produce distributor with 100+ employees and a focus on green practices. The company has zero food waste as all items that cannot be sold are either given to employees at no cost, donated to local food banks or composted and brought to the owner's certified organic farm. More than 30 tons of cardboard have been recycled and 63 tons of food waste have been composted in just the first five months of 2013 for a recycling rate of 62.6%.

Global Organic partners with Easter Seals of Southwest Florida for a can recycling program. Office paper is separated from other waste, shredded if sensitive and recycled. Staff use non-sensitive documents as scrap paper. Cardboard and other paper waste is recycled daily. Corner packing boards from inbound shipments are reused by the warehouse for outbound shipping. Pallets are also refurbished for continued use. The company has replaced most of its non-recyclable trays for produce overwraps with compostable palm fiber trays. Going beyond recycling, Global works with its suppliers to reduce packaging, has many energy saving features at their facility and has a drought tolerant native garden outside the front door. In addition to receiving this DEP Recycling Recognition, Global has also been certified as a Sarasota County [Green Business Partner](#) for their stewardship and efforts to minimize their environmental impacts through a comprehensive recycling, solid waste management, energy and water conservation program.