

DEP Recognizes The Green Parrot for 59% Recycling Rate



John Vagnoni, Green Parrot owner, holds the certificate for 59% recycling presented by Jon Iglehart, DEP South District Director, with Jim Fossum, Green Parrot Manager and Edward Russel, DEP Environmental Consultant (from left to right)

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

The Green Parrot has been recycling ever since it became an option. It never really occurred NOT to recycle. It just seemed like the right thing to do. Their first efforts were modest and over the years it has been a matter of fine tuning and expanding those efforts. Where they used to use all bottles, The Green Parrot switched the most popular beers to cans. The customers bought into it quickly.

Next, they worked with vendors to be sure all the paper and plastic used was of the recyclable variety. Soon the ratio of trash to recycle became neck and neck and then recycle overtook trash. The 45 gallon trash cans behind the bar once held only trash. Today, that 45 gallon container has become a 45 gallon recycle can with an 8 inch flower pot hung on the inside for trash!

The campaign continues to grow with new ideas from both staff and customers alike about how to recycle not only trash but equipment as well, how to use less energy through better insulation, less water with more efficient faucets and toilets and how to repair instead of replace whenever possible.

The Green Parrot's recycling recognition certificate will find a place of honor and pride in their bar and will inspire both employees and customers to try harder every day to be better and wiser custodians of our natural resources.