



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable Bill Galvano, President  
Florida Senate  
Room 409, The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Jose R. Oliva, Speaker  
Florida House of Representatives  
Room 420, The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Galvano and Speaker Oliva:

Pursuant to Section 403.706(2)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) respectfully submits the enclosed report detailing the status of reaching the state's 75% recycling goal by 2020.

Since the implementation of the 75% weight-based recycling goal in 2012, Florida has made great strides, achieving the interim goals established for 2012 and 2014; however, Florida did not meet the 2016 and 2018 interim goals of 60% and 70% respectively. Even though the recycling rate has declined over the past two reporting years, the amount of material recycled increased from 2017 to 2018 by 122,000 tons. The improvement in the amount recycled is a result of the county recycling coordinators having a better understanding of what can be counted toward the recycling goal, as well as including the recycled tons of heavier materials. While Florida, along with a small group of other states, is considered a national leader in recycling policy and programs, we must continue to make improvements in our recycling programs in order to achieve the state's recycling goals.

Recognizing the significant role education and outreach serve to increase recycling rates, one measure DEP has already taken to help improve recycling rates is to expand its

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“Rethink. Reset. Recycle” campaign boosting residential participation in curbside recycling to include a focus on high value recyclable materials and reducing contamination. In addition to this expansion, DEP has also partnered with industry leaders to develop a statewide pilot program promoting retail takeback of plastic bags and film called W.R.A.P. (Wrap Recycling Action Program). This program is an important first step toward both reducing plastic pollution in Florida’s environment and developing new market strategies for recyclable material.

DEP has and will continue to conduct meetings, webinars and conference calls with stakeholders and recycling industry representatives to identify additional opportunities that have the potential of increasing the recycling rate.

The enclosed report details the actions initiated and completed by DEP and identifies additional programs or statutory changes needed to improve the recycling rate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 245-2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a diagonal line crossing it from the bottom left to the top right, and a small dot above the end of the horizontal stroke.

Noah Valenstein  
Secretary

cc: John Truitt, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs  
Tim Bahr, Director, Division of Waste Management