

DEP Recognizes Tyndall Air Force Base for 57 Percent Recycling Rate



On March 7, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recognized Tyndall Air Force Base (Bay County) for recycling over 1,700 tons to achieve a 57% recycling rate in 2013. Tyndall AFB is a military installation that employs over 4,500 military, civilian and contract employees. Tyndall operates a Qualified Recycling Program to meet Department of Defense guidelines for solid waste diversion and pollution prevention. The base recycling center collects and processes cardboard, paper, aluminum cans, plastic, batteries, used oil, toner cartridges, scrap metal and wire. Six Recycling Center employees are responsible for collecting, sorting, and baling the recyclables collected from each individual building on the base. In addition to interior collection points, Tyndall also offers cardboard trailers and exterior collection points to collect larger recyclable items and provide more convenient “curbside” type drop-offs.

To further encourage recycling, the Solid Waste Program Manager relies on community outreach programs, such as visits to local elementary schools in observance of Earth Day and America Recycles Day. Each year for America Recycles Day, the school’s students participate in a contest in which the winning class receives a trip to the Recycling Center to view the recycling process in action. To further enforce recycling requirements on base, the environmental office performs a yearly solid waste audit. During this audit, personnel partake in dumpster diving, where they remove and document recyclable materials that would otherwise have been thrown into the municipal waste stream.

Protecting the environment at Tyndall AFB is everyone’s job, regardless of position, rank, salary or experience.