



Native Plant Giveaway during the August 20, 2016 Rain Barrel and Native Plant Workshop

## What is Sustainability and Why is it Important?

The terms “sustainability” and “green” have enjoyed increasing popularity over the last few years and are now common buzzwords. However despite its growing popularity, sustainability can be a very difficult term to define.

The World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainable development as, “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Sustainability places the future on the same playing field as the present. The essence of sustainability is balancing current decision making with future impacts. Another way to think about this is to imagine that we are borrowing our current resources from a future generation. Our planet has a finite, fixed set of resources and an ever-growing, developing population. Therefore, we should strive to act in such a way as to ensure that the resources we use to sustain our vibrant

### Be Present, Think Future

way of life today are still available for those, both human and non-human, that have yet to exist. This type of action requires personal reflection, planning and the willingness to act, but this is a challenge we can

meet! Take a few minutes and answer these questions critically: **What does sustainability mean to you?** And **In what ways can you make changes in your life to promote sustainability?**

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**Sea Level Rise Awareness Poles**  
Take a peek and learn about the sea level rise awareness poles that were installed on the beach during the summer of 2016

**Toilet Rebate Program**  
Apply for a rebate of up to \$100 to replace your old high water use toilet with a water conserving model



**Learn!**  
Discover how your recycling is sorted after you toss it in the bin



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Remember that nothing exists by itself in a vacuum! We all live in a shared space and our actions impact others in ways that we may not be able to see. Strive to create a personal definition of sustainability, commit to learning new and exciting ways to lessen your impact and share what you learn with those around you! But remember, the best way to instill a sense of curiosity and foster behavior change

in others is by arming them with information, the tools to analyze this information and then allowing them to make up their own mind.

The City of Hallandale Beach Green Initiatives Newsletter hopes to introduce you to a wide variety of sustainable actions that the City and its residents are taking and to serve as an information source so you can learn new

things and discover how to **Be Present** but **Think Future!** Visit [cobh.org/green](http://cobh.org/green) for more information about our Green Initiatives Program.



### Toilet Rebate Program

Hallandale Beach is a member of the Broward Water Partnership and promotes programs that aim to help residents save water, money and the environment! The Toilet Rebate Program helps residents replace their old, high water use toilets with water conserving models by offering rebates of up to \$100 each (to qualifying residents).

Visit [ConservationPays.com](http://ConservationPays.com) to check your eligibility, for more information about the program and to get **pre-approved** for a rebate. A toilet eligible for replacement is

one that uses more than 1.6 gallons/flush (any pre-1994 toilet). The toilet that you purchase to replace your old toilet/s **must** use 1.28 gallons/flush or fewer.



### Hallandale Highlight: Sea Level Rise Awareness Poles

Six sea level rise awareness poles were installed at various locations on the beach during the summer of 2016.

In many parts of the country sea level rise is an abstract term that is not tied to real life impacts. In South Florida, its impacts are increasingly all too real and can be seen in flooding, beach erosion and salt water intrusion that threatens to contaminate drinking water. Sea level rise is in large part caused by changes in our climate that are being driven by human actions. The poles installed on our beach will give you facts about what locations and services will be most impacted by sea level rise in the coming years if business remains

as usual. For example, projections show that up to 10.5% of the Fort Lauderdale Airport and 57% of the FPL Lauderdale Plant may be underwater if sea level rises by 2 feet, which could occur as soon as 2060. The poles will also give you ideas about how you can reduce your impact on our world and help to slow the rate of climate change. Stop by the beach poles to begin or continue learning about how your actions can have a positive impact!

#### By 2030

Sea level is expected to rise 6-10 inches



## Learn and Share!

The City's 2015 Youth Green Team used plastic they collected from the City's beach to create the piece of art seen above. The program's goal was to raise awareness about marine debris during an 8 week summer beach clean up program.

According to the American Water Works Association, a gallon of bottled water costs about 2,000 times more than a gallon of tap water. Reduce plastic use and save money by drinking tap water!

Plastic bags can NOT be recycled at home. They get stuck in the machines that sort recyclables and cause damage. Instead, recycle plastic bags at places like grocery stores and large retailers.

According to the Population Reference Bureau, the world population has grown more rapidly in the last 50 years than in any time during human history. We are also using the world's resources at a faster rate than ever before.



## When in Doubt, Throw it Out

This may seem like a strange title for an article about recycling! Read on to learn why what you throw in your bin matters.

After your recycling gets pick up from the curb it is dropped off at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The vast majority of recycling today is collected as a **single stream**. This means that all recyclable items are collected in one, single bin. This mixture of recycling must be sorted before it can be sold and repurposed. MRFs are very complex facilities where your recycling is sorted using lasers, jets of air, gravity, magnets, conveyor belts, rotating gears, and by hand. Waste that doesn't belong in the recycling bin is called **contamination** and must be removed because it reduces the value of the final recycling **bale**. A bale is a compacted rectangle made of a single material (see

cardboard bales above) that is easier to ship than loose material. **When you aren't sure if something can be recycled it is best to throw it out!** This reduces contamination and makes recycling more valuable and profitable, which can in turn reduce the amount of virgin natural resources that we must extract to create products.

Visit [cohb.org/recycling](http://cohb.org/recycling) to print out your own recycling guide. Challenge yourself to keep your recycling free of contamination!



Follow this [link](#) to watch a short YouTube video explaining how MRF's work!

## Take Our Survey!

Follow [this link](#) to fill out a short survey and share your thoughts about this newsletter! Your responses are appreciated and will help us to make newsletters more useful and interesting for you in the future.