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**Automated recycling has outstanding results**

FORT MYERS, FL (July 1, 2015) – Lee County residents are recycling more, according to recent numbers calculated by Lee County Solid Waste.

In February, county officials began distributing larger, wheeled recycling carts to replace the familiar blue bins. The first three months of collection showed a 12 percent increase in recycling in the South Fort Myers area and a 17 percent increase in North Fort Myers. These were the final areas of the county to receive the new carts. Countywide there was an 8 percent increase in recycling for March through May compared with last year.

Lee County Solid Waste staff worked with residents to accommodate those with space restrictions by providing smaller carts.

“It’s important that we have as many households as possible participating in the curbside recycling program,” said Pam Keyes, Lee County Public Utilities Department director. “Lee County has maintained a 70 percent recycling rate during the past two years and is on track to meet the state goal of 75 percent recycling by 2020.”

All recycling revenue is returned to the system to help pay for operational costs.

Lee County Solid Waste, a division of the Public Utilities Department, is a nationally-recognized enterprise system providing residents and businesses safe, affordable waste disposal and recycling services. The system utilizes an energy-from-waste combustion process to create clean, renewable energy and single-stream recycling for material recovery. For more information visit our website at [leegov.com/solidwaste](http://leegov.com/solidwaste).