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**Wheeled recycling carts roll out to Lee County neighborhoods**

FORT MYERS, FL, Feb. 16, 2015 – Residents in the north and south areas of Lee County will begin receiving wheeled recycle carts over the next few weeks to replace the familiar blue bins. This effort will complete a conversion from bins to the larger recycle carts as part of the County’s ongoing efforts to achieve the recycling goal set by the Florida legislature of 75 percent by 2020.

Over 16,000 carts will be delivered to Burnt Store, Matlacha, Pine Island and North Fort Myers residents beginning Feb. 23 with a scheduled completion date of March 21. More than 34,000 carts will be delivered to South Fort Myers, Gateway, San Carlos Park and Estero residents from March 16 through April 30.

The conversion to wheeled carts began in 2010 with the City of Bonita Springs and the Iona-McGregor area of the county. Recyclable material collections increased 20 to 40 percent varying by neighborhood. The City of Cape Coral chose the carts when they contracted with Waste Pro to provide collection services in 2010. Lehigh Acres and the rural eastern parts of Lee County were added in 2013.

Thanks to active participation by both residents and businesses, Lee County has been in Florida’s Top Ten counties for recycling every year since 2002. In 2013, Lee County’s recycling rate was 70 percent, second only to Hillsborough County at 73 percent. All material received is sorted, baled and sent to secondary markets for reuse.

The Lee County Solid Waste 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).