

Trash Talk

Students who visit the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center during the 2011-2012 school year will be talking trash, literally. Waste Management donated \$65,000 to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, which includes the adoption of a classroom where kids will learn about Waste Management.

Over the next two months the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Waste Management will work together to develop a curriculum and design a classroom that will coincide. Laura Sell, E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center Educator, will teach the curriculum to students and will tour Waste Management facilities to gain in-depth knowledge about recycling, landfills, renewable energy projects and composting.

As part of the curriculum, written in line with the Florida State Standards with a strong STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) focus, students will learn where materials come from and how recycling saves natural resources. They will have an opportunity to show off their math skills by calculating the natural resources that are saved by recycling. They will also learn how Waste Management is responding to the demand for alternatives to fossil fuels through the development of waste-based energy from the waste we all generate.

The average person generates 4.5 pounds of garbage each day. They want to educate students on what happens to that garbage after it leaves the curb, and more importantly, how to

divert some of that garbage from landfills to save natural resources.

In addition, Waste Management is donating two Solar Powered Trash Compactors, with recycle units, which are completely self-powered, using built-in solar panels to compact trash. The units are about the same size as a standard 35-gallon trashcan and each compactor provides five times the capacity of a traditional trash receptacle.