



City of Stuart PRESS RELEASE

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April 9, 2019

City partners with TerraCycle to recycle cigarette butts

Stuart, FL – Recently, the City partnered with TerraCycle, the world's leader in the collection and repurposing of complex waste streams, to collect and recycle cigarette butts throughout the city's historic downtown area.

Through this program, the City of Stuart is working to address the nation's most commonly littered item. Since implementing the initiative, cigarette collection receptacles have been attached to trash cans on highly-trafficked street-corners, beside benches and along the St. Lucie River in an effort to mitigate marine plastic pollution. Students4H₂O, a student-led local non-profit, volunteers with the program to monitor, collect and ship the waste to TerraCycle for recycling.

"It's wonderful to work together with the City of Stuart to beautify our community and planet," said Adriana Mancini, President and Founder of Students4H₂O. "Our vision is to see receptacles at our beaches, hospitals, grocery stores and in other high traffic areas."

All of the cigarette waste collected from the city's thirteen maintained receptacles is shipped to TerraCycle for recycling. When processed, the paper and tobacco are separated from the filter and composted. The filter is recycled into plastic pellets which can be used by manufacturers to make a number of products such as shipping pallets, ashtrays and park benches.

"Besides being unsightly litter, discarded cigarette butts actually poison our environment," said Anne Ellig, the City of Stuart's Recycling Coordinator. "The City of Stuart would like to encourage not just proper disposal, but also recycling through the TerraCycle system."

Through its various recycling programs, TerraCycle has engaged over 100 million people across 21 countries to collect and recycle more than four billion pieces of waste that were otherwise non-recyclable.

"These receptacles will help keep Stuart free of one of the most littered items on the planet," said Tom Szaky, the founder and CEO of TerraCycle. "With this program, the City of Stuart is taking a step to reduce the amount of trash going to landfill while also preserving the area's natural beauty."

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