At Busch Gardens Tampa Bay our attention to recycling efforts is a high priority. With a 40 percent recycling rate, we recycled almost 6 million pounds of waste in 2015. Our efforts can be broken down into two categories: “In park” and behind the scenes.

Throughout the theme park we have found creative ways to engage our guest in our recycling efforts. Our guests have aided us in recycling 119,000 pounds of plastic and aluminum with our 250 in-park recycling receptacles. We provide other opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle by selling reusable cups at many of our in park restaurants. Out of the 371 thousand reusable cups we sold our guest refilled them 334 thousand times, saving 334 thousand plastic cups from being used. In addition, Busch Gardens Tampa has reused building materials from our now defunct Gwazi roller coaster in building projects at our sister parks in Orlando.

Since 1995, one of our greatest behind-the-scenes recycling efforts is composting. With more than 12,000 animals on property, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay recycles over 3,000,000 million pounds of manure yearly, which we used in our state certified composting site. The waste is then used in various ways throughout our park, like in the construction of one of our most popular thrill rides, Cheetah Hunt. We also give compost away for free to our employees and members of the community further encouraging the cyclical care of our planet. Our compost is also used in our browse farm, which we use to help nourish our animals.

But it doesn’t stop there. At Busch Gardens we recycle several other products such as cardboard, wooden pallets, scrap metal, and cooking oil. Check out our impressive numbers below:

| **Recycled Material Quantities 2015** | **Weight (Lbs)** |
|---|---|
| Manure: | 3,340,160 |
| Yard waste: | 1,092,260 |
| Baled Cardboard: | 466,330 |
| Pallets: | 387,700 |
| Mixed Scrap Metal (Ferris, Non Ferris) : | 433,166 |
| Commingle plastic, aluminum: | 119,320 |
| Waste Cooking Oil: | 64,568 |
| Lead Acid Batteries: | 14,580 |
| Electronics Waste: | 13,892 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Used Oil: | 19,590 |
| Tires: | 8,440 |
| Office Paper: | 6,556 |
| Paint Waste recycled: | 742 |
| | |
| Total Recycling: | 5,967,304 |
| | |
| Total Waste Disposed & Recycled | 14,657,926 |
| | |
| Recycling Rate | 40.71% |

We hope this demonstrates our organization's sincere commitment to taking care of the planet. Thank you for considering our application for the 2016 R.F.T.E.S Award.