

Is home recycling a scam? One prominent Florida environmentalist thinks so and [explains why on her podcast](#).

Remember back when recycling was just one of the three “R’s” in addition to “reduce” and “reuse?” Among the three “R’s,” recycling has the least beneficial effect on the environment. [Less than 10% of plastics are recycled in America](#), and when you consider the energy consumption required to recycle that small amount, maybe it is a scam.

So why all the emphasis on the limited benefits of recycling and what ever happened to “reduce” and “reuse?” Capitalism happened. Corporations don’t want consumers reducing what they purchase or reusing what they’ve purchased, so “reduce” and “reuse” were dumped and corporate America spent billions convincing consumers we could recycle our way to a greener future. That is a scam. No amount of recycling is more beneficial to the environment than reducing the amount of stuff you buy, but corporations need you to keep buying stuff, so they created this fantasy that we can recycle our way to a healthier planet without altering – and in fact accelerating – the amount of stuff we buy.

The same tactic is being employed today with electric vehicles. So much of the conversation around climate change is centered on electric vehicles. We all need to buy an electric vehicle and we’ll electric vehicle our way to a cleaner planet. Another scam. Electric vehicles require massive amounts of raw materials and energy to produce and still have a terrible negative effect on the planet. For starters, the lithium required for their batteries must be mined same as coal or any other mineral and that [mining, same as coal, is devastating to natural areas](#). Then there’s the cobalt. And the water required by the mining, which often happens in undeveloped country under abusive conditions.

So when the President tweets that [“every electric vehicle sold is a win against climate change,”](#) that’s dubious at best and a lie on behalf of corporate America at worst.

Conspicuous consumption and a livable planet don’t go hand in hand, no matter how much we recycle, no matter how many EVs are purchased, even the lauded electric Hummer, [still an ecological catastrophe of a vehicle](#).

LINKS:

<https://floridaspectacular.buzzsprout.com/1527562/11238338-episode-77-save-florida-don-t-recycle-and-ditch-single-use-plastics>

<https://www.greenmatters.com/p/what-percent-recycling-actually-gets-recycled>

<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2021/02/09/lithium-mining-and-the-hidden-environmental-costs-of-evs/>

<https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1570860013215780865>

<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2020/02/05/the-electric-hummer-will-be-bad-for-the-planet/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection tweets that a sea turtle nesting spot at a preserve in Ponte Vedra Beach [has set a record with 418 nests](#) reported this year. The old record was 339.

LINK: <https://twitter.com/FLDEPNews/status/1570767040469663744>

Next weekend is the 3rd annual [Friends of Talbot Islands State Parks Talbot Tidewater Celebration](#) at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island featuring hikes, archaeological talks and exhibits, guided canoe and kayak trips, arts and crafts, food and nature experiences.

LINK: <https://www.talbotislands.com/>

North Florida Land Trust's Amelia Forever campaign is raising money for advertising in support of a [Conservation Land Acquisition Bond Referendum](#) in Nassau County this November. This could be the last best chance at saving significant areas of conservation land in Nassau County.

This bond referendum, if successful, will raise \$30 million for conservation land over 30 years and will create opportunities to get a substantial amount of additional grants.

LINK: https://support.nflt.org/site/Donation2?df_id=1800&mfc_pref=T&1800.donation=form1