

## HIGH MARKS FOR RECYCLING AIRPORT STACKS UP NICELY IN CUTTING DOWN ON GARBAGE, ACCORDING TO STUDY

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You might say Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is at the top of the trash heap.

The airport was identified as one of the best in the nation at recycling aluminum cans, bottles and newspapers tossed out by airlines and terminal businesses, according to a Natural Resources Defense Council study released this week.

"Other airports could learn from Fort Lauderdale," said Allen Hershkowitz, a senior scientist who led the study.

Palm Beach and Miami international airports weren't included in the study, which surveyed 30 large U.S. commercial airports and was conducted over 2004 and 2005.

Titled "Trash Landings," the study found that U.S. airports overall are wasteful, throwing away on average 8 of every 10 tons of their garbage. That amounts to 4,250 tons of aluminum cans per year, enough to construct 58 Boeing 747s, which contain 73.5 tons of high-strength aluminum per plane, according to the study.

While it didn't rank airlines or airports, the study by the pro-environmental group said the airline industry has a "dismal" recycling rate of 17 percent, or about half of the nation's overall rate of 32 percent.

At Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International, about 65 percent of recoverable materials are recycled, said Andy Duerr, vice president of Airport Recycling Specialists. The company collects the airport's trash under a contract with Broward County and works out of a complex on the north side of the airport.

Its 14 employees will sort out more than 1,500 tons of recyclable goods this year, he said. Those materials are then sold to companies that re-process them into cans, paper and plastic goods. By recycling, the county enjoys about a 25 percent savings in garbage disposal costs, he said.

"Yeah, we're pretty good," Duerr said Wednesday, after hearing of the study.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, based in New York, is one of the nation's largest environmental action organizations, with 1.2 million members.

Hershkowitz couldn't say which airports are the worst at recycling because of confidentiality agreements. However, other international airports that scored positive marks included Baltimore-Washington, Seattle-Tacoma, Oakland and Portland, Ore., he said.

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

PHOTO 2; SORTING THINGS OUT: Docilet Dorenius, near right, and Enneokes Pierre, near left, sift through garbage at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport for recyclable items. The employees work out of a complex on the north side of the airport. Staff photos/ Michael Laughlin CAN DO ATTITUDE: [Andy Duerr], vice president of Airport Recycling Specialists, says about 65 percent of recoverable materials are recycled at Broward's main airport.

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