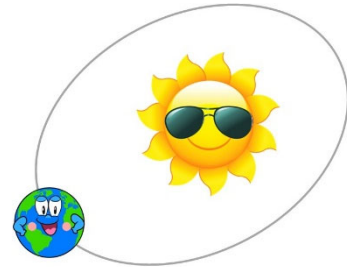


# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Leap Year – A Day to Make Less Waste

In 2024, we'll add one day to the end of February, as we do every four years, to sync up our calendars with the Earth's orbit around the sun. **Let's take February 29th to positively impact our environment by making less waste on this day and for many other days to come.**

Here are some quick tips for making our planet a better place:



- **Brush up on your knowledge of what items are (and are not) accepted for recycling locally.** Recycling programs vary from community to community, so it is crucial to familiarize yourself with local recycling guidelines to avoid contaminating the recycling stream with non-recyclable items. Visit [gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled](https://gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled) for a list of items accepted in Gainesville's residential program.
- **Slash single-use plastics.** Single-use plastics are major contributors to pollution in our environment. Our waterways and land are becoming filled with bits of plastic that we never needed in the first place. Switch to reusable alternatives and minimize your use of disposable items like water bottles, plastic bags, cutlery, and straws.
- **Start composting your food scraps.** Consider composting your kitchen scraps instead of throwing them in the trash. Composting not only diverts waste from landfills but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and produces nutrient-rich material to enrich our soils.

Visit us online for more information on [Composting & Waste Reduction](#). The extra day in a leap year is not just a temporal anomaly but a unique chance to make a difference.

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