



## RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS CAN HELP CLEAN LAGOON WATER!!!

Naturally occurring “good” bacteria within the water column and in the sediments help to remove nitrogen from the water. Unfortunately, “good” bacteria grow best only in the right conditions. Partially due to the deterioration of the lagoon over time, including the build-up of “muck,” we are seeing less favorable habitats for these specific bacteria to live and carry out the “good” biochemical reactions that remove nitrogen. In degraded areas, we can provide the “good” bacteria a place to live on bottle caps, creating effectively a pro-biotic for the lagoon. A similar approach is used in home aquaria where plastic balls are used in a filter to promote the growth of “good” bacteria. Plastic bottle caps can achieve the same result and we are seeking help collecting the large quantities of bottle caps needed to make this project possible on a large scale. Bottle caps are perfect for this application because they are available globally, can be obtained relatively inexpensively and could be used to improve water quality in rural and underrepresented communities worldwide.



**Help us collect plastic bottle caps!**

**Donation boxes located at Brevard Zoo and the Sun Shoppe Café in Melbourne!**

**Smaller plastic caps from water, tea, Gatorade, and soda bottles, as well as milk jug caps, orange juice caps, etc., are encouraged**

**Smaller plastic lids are also accepted**



**Not Local? You can mail your caps to:**

**FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

OEMS Department, Attn:  
Bottlecaps  
150 W. University Blvd.  
Melbourne, FL 32901

Contact Abbey at  
[geringa2016@my.fit.edu](mailto:geringa2016@my.fit.edu) for  
more information