



County of Fairfax, Virginia

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

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Registering Food Waste Composting Businesses Under the Recycling Business Registration Program

The purpose of this Solid Waste Advisory is to remind all food waste composters to register their businesses with the Recycling Business Registration Program as required by Chapter 109.1 of the County Code.

Background

There is growing public awareness of the substantial amount of food that is wasted in homes, businesses, and institutions across the nation. This awareness has led to the growth of an active food waste composting industry in the region. While food waste may be considered a recyclable, its putrescible content and associated sanitation impacts (e.g., insects, nuisance odors, vermin, decomposition by-products) require that it be collected, stored, and transported in a manner substantially identical to refuse. To ensure that public health and safety is protected, registration as a recycler will ensure that the operations of food waste composting service providers meet basic public health and sanitation standards, while allowing some flexibility (compared to refuse collection requirements) to encourage the development of this promising new recycling sector.

How to Register

The requirement to register does not apply to companies that already hold a CTO and are collecting source-separated food waste using traditional refuse containers and County-permitted collection vehicles.

Companies that wish to establish a recycling collection service with the County (including food waste collection for composting) must complete the required application form and submit their collection vehicles for inspection by Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) personnel. Following receipt of a positive review by the SWMP inspector and a completed application, SWMP will provide written authorization to commence collection service. Registration does not need to be renewed, but must be updated in the event of changes in ownership, equipment, services offered, or other substantive changes to the organization. Please remember that all businesses engaged in any type of recycling operation are required to track and report recycled tonnages annually to SWMP.

For questions, or to obtain an application for a Recycling Registration Program, please contact the SWMP at 703-324-5230.