

Fairfax County Benchmarking Charts

Refuse Collection (Fund 109) Benchmarking Charts

As a means of enhancing accountability, benchmarking data have been included in the annual budget since FY 2005. These data are included in each of the Program Area Summaries in Volume 1 and now in Other Funds (Volume 2) as available. Since 2000, Fairfax County has participated in the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) benchmarking effort. Approximately 150 cities, counties and towns provide comparable data annually in 15 service areas. However, not all jurisdictions provide data for every service area.

As part of the ICMA benchmarking effort, participating local governments (cities, counties and towns) provide data on standard templates provided by ICMA in order to ensure consistency. ICMA then performs extensive checking and data cleaning to ensure the greatest accuracy and comparability of data. As a result of the time necessary to collect the data and undergo ICMA's rigorous data cleaning processes, information is always available with a one-year delay. FY 2005 data represent the latest available information. The jurisdictions presented in the graphs on the following pages generally show how Fairfax County compares to other large jurisdictions (population over 500,000). In cases where other Virginia localities provided data, they are shown as well.

Refuse Collection/Recycling is one of the service areas for which Fairfax County provides data. An important point to note about the ICMA comparative data effort is that since participation is voluntary, the jurisdictions that provide data have demonstrated that they are committed to becoming/remaining high performance organizations. Therefore, comparisons made through this program should be considered in the context that the participants have self-selected and are inclined to be among the higher performers than a random sample among local governments nationwide. It is also important to note that not all jurisdictions respond to all questions. In some cases, the question or process is not applicable to a particular locality or data are not available. For those reasons, the universe of jurisdictions with which Fairfax County is compared is not always the same for each benchmark. However, as shown below, Fairfax County compares favorably in both efficiency and effectiveness.



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