



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

DATE: July 23, 2007

TO: All Architects, Builders, Developers, Engineers, Contractors and Surveyors
Practicing in Fairfax County

SUBJECT: Changes to the *Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia* (Fairfax County Code)
related to the County's trash and recycling requirements - New Site Plan
Submission Requirements

TITLE: Trash and Recycling Code Changes

Effective July 10, 2007, changes to Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code have been adopted related to the trash and recycling requirements for residential and non-residential properties in the County.

Background: On July 10, 2006, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved revisions to Chapter 109.1 (Solid Waste Management) of the Fairfax County Code related to trash and recycling. The changes impact all residential and non-residential properties in the County. The changes were essential to help the County increase recycling of valuable commodities, preserve waste disposal capacity for the future and improve compliance with the law.

The major change effected by Chapter 109.1 is the requirement for all non-residential properties to recycle mixed paper and cardboard in addition to the requirement to recycle their Principal Recyclable Material, as applicable. Chapter 109.1 also requires recycling of cans and bottles in addition to mixed paper and cardboard in all multi-family properties built on or after July 1, 2007. New construction of either type of property must be designed to provide areas for the collection and storage of these materials either on the site or within the proposed building.

The technical requirements related to trash and recycling are contained in Chapter 109.1 of the Code of the County of Fairfax and the accompanying guidance document, "Recycling Program Requirements" which has been incorporated into Chapter 109.1 by reference. These documents are available from the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling, DPWES, and on the County's web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling>.

Requirements for Non-Residential Properties (Businesses, Commercial properties, Schools and Institutions.): Owners of non-residential properties must provide a recycling system to recycle mixed paper and cardboard. Mixed paper includes flattened corrugated cardboard, magazines, catalogues, envelopes, office paper, brochures, phone books, junk mail, food boxes

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(such as cereal and cracker boxes), shoe boxes, and any other clean paper or product without food residue. In addition, large non-residential properties that generate an annual total waste stream of 100 tons (90.72 metric tons) or more, or have an annual average occupancy of 200 persons or more, shall now be required to provide a recycling system for the establishment's Principal Recyclable Material (PRM). The PRM is the recyclable material that comprises the largest quantity by weight in the waste stream. In most cases, the PRM will be paper and cardboard and in that instance, no additional recycling is required. If a material from the list below is the PRM, it must be recycled in addition to mixed paper and cardboard: Ferrous scrap metal; Non-ferrous scrap metal; Used motor oil; Container glass; Aluminum or tin cans; Cloth; Automobile bodies; Plastic; Clean wood; Brush, leaves, grass, and other arboreal materials.

Requirements for Residential Properties (Multi-family properties, including condominiums and apartments): Owners of existing multi-family dwelling units must provide a recycling system to recycle mixed paper and cardboard. Dwelling units constructed on or after July 1, 2007, must recycle cans and bottles (plastic, metal and glass) in addition to mixed paper and cardboard.

New Site Plan Submission Requirements - Area for Collection and Storage of Refuse and Recyclables: Pursuant to the changes to Chapter 109.1 of the County Code, designers must ensure that site plans submitted after July 10, 2007, provide adequate facilities for the collection and storage of trash and recycling prior to final site plan approval. This can be accomplished, in most cases, by providing a separate area adjacent to the proposed trash facility to handle the recyclables generated by the property.

Proposed amendments to the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance and the Public Facilities Manual will be forthcoming to incorporate the adopted changes to Chapter 109.1. The proposed amendments will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration as early as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Code Analysis, DPWES, at **703-324-1720, TTY 711.**

Sincerely,

James W. Patteson, PE
Director

Attachments: As Stated

cc: Jimmie D. Jenkins, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Service
Jeff Smithberger, Director, Division of Solid Waste and Recycling, DPWES