



Chapter

1

Introduction

## *Introduction to Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Plan*

This solid waste management plan (SWMP) describes Fairfax County's integrated strategy for the management of non-hazardous solid waste generated within the county over the next 20 years.

### Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations

**Fairfax County developed this SWMP in accordance with the VDEQ Solid Waste Management Planning Regulations.**



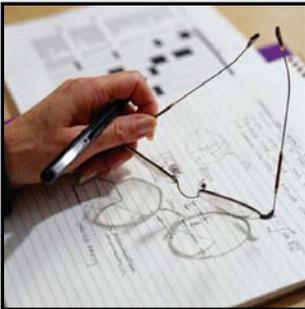
Fairfax County developed this SWMP in accordance with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Solid Waste Management Planning Regulations, Amendment 1 (9 VAC 20-130-10 et seq.), promulgated in 2001. These regulations require each jurisdiction to provide a complete, revised SWMP to VDEQ no later than July 1, 2004. The primary purposes of these regulations are as follows:

- Establish minimum solid waste management (SWM) standards and planning requirements for protection of the public health, public safety, environment, and natural resources throughout the Commonwealth.
- Promote local and regional planning that provides for environmentally sound and compatible SWM with the most effective and efficient use of available resources.
- Establish state and local government responsibility for meeting and maintaining the minimum recycling rates of 25 percent.

## Plan Development Approach and Objectives

Fairfax County is using this comprehensive SWMP both to satisfy the VDEQ regulatory requirements and as a strategic planning tool. This plan lays the groundwork for solid waste source reduction, reuse, recycling, collection, transfer, and disposal initiatives in Fairfax County from 2004 through 2024. It establishes objectives and strategies for the operational and financial management of its SWM system.

**Fairfax County selected SWMP actions that address its future waste management needs and meet its SWM objectives.**



The county developed the SWMP by first evaluating its current SWM activities and its future waste projections to identify future waste management needs over the SWMP planning period. It then selected SWM alternatives for the next 20 years that address future waste management needs and meet the following objectives:

- Reduce the volume of the solid waste stream through the implementation of waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Maintain a balanced SWM system that benefits the community while following regulatory requirements.
- Provide efficient and economical refuse collection, recycling, and disposal services.
- Provide facilities for the sanitary, efficient and economical reception and transportation of solid waste generated in Fairfax County.
- Provide for the operation of sanitary waste disposal facilities, utilizing the most economically viable and environmentally acceptable methods available.
- Provide regulatory oversight of the county's ordinances regarding solid waste.

## Plan Organization

This remainder of this SWMP is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2 describes Fairfax County's current waste stream characteristics, estimates of waste quantities and material types, and projections of the waste stream over the next 20 years. The chapter also examines pertinent demographic data, including population, urban concentration, households, and employment, and county characteristics, including climate, geology, and traffic conditions, that may influence waste collection, waste disposal, and type of materials disposed of over the next 20 years.

- Chapter 3 describes the SWM hierarchy (defined in the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations) and discusses the consideration of the hierarchy in developing this SWMP.
- Chapter 4 presents the overall objectives of Fairfax County's SWM program and discusses the manner by which the SWMP actions will accomplish these objectives.
- Chapter 5 presents an overview of Fairfax County's current SWM system, including organization structure and funding strategies.
- Chapter 6 describes the current SWM activities for municipal solid waste (MSW) in Fairfax County, organized using the waste hierarchy. It uses the hierarchy as the framework for determining how to bridge the gaps between the current SWM activities and the strategies needed to manage the county's MSW in the future. The chapter presents Fairfax County's SWMP actions for MSW over the next 20 years
- Chapter 7 describes the current county SWM activities, anticipated gaps in waste management, and SWMP actions for construction and demolition debris (CDD).
- Chapter 8 describes the current county SWM activities, anticipated gaps in waste management, and SWMP actions for yard waste.
- Chapter 9 describes the anticipated gaps in waste management and SWMP actions for special wastes.
- Chapter 10 describes the current and future county litter control program.
- Chapter 11 presents Fairfax County's integrated actions planned for the SWM system over the next 20 years, organized from top to bottom of the waste hierarchy.
- Chapter 12 describes Fairfax County's plan for the implementation of its SWMP actions. It discusses, for each SWMP action, the required implementation steps, the responsible party or parties, and the time frame for implementation.
- Chapter 13 presents the future waste quantities projections for Fairfax County's SWM system after implementation of the SWMP actions.
- Chapter 14 describes Fairfax County's plan for funding its SWM system over the next 20 years. It discusses the

modifications to the current funding structure to support the SWMP actions.

- Chapter 15 discusses the public participation in development of this SWMP, including both citizen and private-sector involvement, the consideration of public/private partnerships, the public education and outreach strategies to execute the future vision of the SWM system, and the adoption of the Plan by the county.
- Appendix A shows population forecasts by sub-census plot.
- Appendix B presents the results of the 1990 Fairfax County Municipal Waste Composition Study.
- Appendix C discusses the development of MSW generation, disposal, and recycling projections over the SWMP planning period.
- Appendix D lists the solid waste facilities in Fairfax County. (CIA, BFI, and INOVA RMW treatment facilities are not available for public waste disposal.)
- Appendix E discusses recycling markets.
- Appendix F shows potential best practices for source reduction and reuse in Fairfax County.
- Appendix G presents brochures distributed to county residents highlighting the SWMP recommendations.
- Appendix H presents the Clerk's Board Summary from the Public Hearing and the Board of Supervisor's resolution adopting the plan.