



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

## Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes November 1, 2012

**Companies with Attendees:** AAA Recycling and Disposal/Republic Services, American Disposal Services, Bates Trucking, Charlie and Son Trash Service, Con-Serv Industries/LFF Recycling, Cunningham Trash Service, Industrial Disposal Services/Broad Run Recycling, KMG Hauling, Potomac Disposal Services/ESI Waste, Reston Trash, Thompson Trucking, Trash Away, VHI Disposal, Waste Management

Guest: David Biderman, National Solid Waste Management Association

**County Staff:** Joyce Doughty, Pamela Gratton, Don Green, Linda Boone

The meeting began at 5:05 pm.

### Introductions/Welcome

Joyce Doughty, Director, Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery introduced County staff and welcomed everyone. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### Announcements/Updates

The County's Events Calendar is on the website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling). Please refer your customers to it for relevant information. Electric Sundays and various remote and paper shredding events are listed.

Electric Sundays have been very popular. The last event is to be held on November 18, 2012 at the I-66 Transfer Station on West Ox Road.

Fairfax County managed to make it through Hurricane Sandy with relatively minor damage. Joyce asked the companies about how much brush they were seeing on their routes. Most indicated that there was some brush, but not unusual amounts. Joyce noted that trees had fallen on 59 homes; 50 streets had been closed for fallen trees; but that overall, the county fared better than during the derecho in June. Mr. Biderman volunteered that his organization is already working with New York City to help remove red tape and get recovery operations initiated.

Change in County Code – Linda Boone reported on Board of Supervisors' action to change the Code of Fairfax County to:

- increase the fee for returned checks to \$50.
- change Chapter 1 to allow a \$30 administrative fee to be added to any account when the county has to undertake extra collection actions to get paid.

Department of Tax Administration is the lead agency in implementing these policy changes. Additional changes may follow.



Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Program  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 458  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Phone: 703-324-5230, TTY: 711, Fax: 703-324-3950  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes)



Teleconference format - County staff realizes it is hard for some companies to travel to these meetings. If there is interest staff can explore the use of technology to offer a teleconference that would allow companies to participate remotely by calling into the meeting. Unfortunately, those participants would miss the handouts and any other visuals. There was some interest from the attendees in trying this format. County staff will arrange for a call-in number to be established for the next meeting on February 7. If this format works, the County can expand to a webinar format where companies could interact online with the meeting from their office or home. Staff will notify companies of the call-in number for the next meeting.

### **Collector Questions**

There were no collector questions.

### **Enforcement**

Don Green reported that he had not received many customer complaints lately. He commended the companies for their efforts to comply with the code. He further congratulated them on their performance during Hurricane Sandy—there was not a single complaint about a missed collection.

### **Recycling Program Updates**

Pamela Gratton presented a Powerpoint overview about recycling that was recently given to the Environmental Committee of the Board of Supervisors. The recycling rate is 47% and the county may set new goals for recycling. *(Note: Copy of the presentation was sent via email to the ListServ on November 2.)*

Q: Has County waste increased or decreased as recycling has increased?

A: County waste is down about 25% during the recession.

Q: Will county share the data that the spreadsheet is based upon—waste generation for the past several years?

A: Yes *(Note: Copy of the spreadsheet was sent via email to the ListServ on November 2.)*

Mr. Bidermann offered to distribute the spreadsheet to the collectors if county will send it to him.

Recycling calculation is taken from the annual reports that collectors submit by March 1 annually. County also gets tonnage reports from MRFs and other sources but takes extra effort to keep from duplicating the tons of recycling.

Ewaste recycling is up to one million pounds of electronics annually. County has not seen a decrease in ewaste, even during the recession.

The recycling program keeps the money generated by the sale of recyclables over \$6.2M from 2001-2011. The avoided cost of disposal by recycling these materials was \$11M for the same period.

Fairfax County Public Schools recycling program stats include:

- removed 50 refuse dumpsters from school properties due to increased recycling.
- almost 2000 tons of materials were recycled in FY2011.

Fairfax County Park Authority has increased recycling through a partnership with Solid Waste in 17 parks that serve 110 athletic fields.

Over 20 years the recycling rate has increased from 18% to 47%.

Recycling rate is determined by what the collectors do with respect to recycling. Staff wants to increase recycling through compliance assistance not enforcement. If any businesses do not want to recycle, let staff know so we can schedule compliance visits.

The Public Facilities Manual (PFM) is located at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/pfm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/pfm). If companies have ideas for changes concerning location of solid waste collection containers, notify staff who can bring the ideas to authors of the PFM.

Fairfax County needs additional recycling processing capacity in the county.

County is exploring other materials for recycling such as organic materials. These ideas are consistent with the County's 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan.

Q: As a result of the presentation, what was the Board's response to the recycling program?

A: Board asked for the businesses' response to increased recycling of bottles and cans— what would it cost businesses to implement additional materials recycling? Staff plans to conduct a survey of businesses to ask about the costs, additional materials, program impediments, etc. The purpose is to understand why we are not recycling bottles and cans from multifamily and commercial properties.

Many businesses already recycle more than paper and cardboard.

It is a matter of education to businesses about how to recycle more.

Q: Is there an effort through COG (Council of Governments) to develop uniform, consistent recycling standards for the region?

A: Yes, COG is working on standards, but there is not agreement among the jurisdictions as to all the materials. We will keep working on it with COG.

Collectors were asked if there are impediments to adding bottles and cans to their recycling collection. There were not any problems raised. For the building managers, the initial investment in containers to hold materials for recycling collection in the buildings will be the major expense; perhaps the janitorial costs would increase if 2 containers were required to be emptied. Per one company, Class A office space tenants are demanding single stream recycling.

If there are other ideas, please contact Pamela with the information. Pamela asked companies to respond to the survey when they receive it.

### **Operational issues**

Joyce indicated that construction at the Transfer Station was progressing.

New ashfill is almost complete but due to Hurricane Sandy some water got under liner and will have to be redone.

## Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes

November 1, 2012

Page 4 of 4

The Covanta outage ends tonight. Prince William County will begin bringing some of its waste to the energy resource recovery facility on Monday.

Mr. Biderman addressed a safety issue that had resulted in several waste collection fatalities last year. He distributed information about "Overcorrecting" when driving (*Note: Copy of the article was sent via email to the ListServ on November 2.*). He also encouraged companies to subscribe for additional safety information.

### **Sanitary Districts**

No new customers have been added and no new applications have been received.

### **Announcements**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

**Next Meeting: February 7, 2013 - Government Center, Room 4/5, Call-in option to be provided.**