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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**CHAPTER IV**

# **SOLID WASTE**

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## **IV. SOLID WASTE**

### **A. ISSUES AND OVERVIEW**

Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program had another safe and productive year in FY 2006. As it has for the past 15 years, the county met its minimum annual waste delivery obligations to Covanta Fairfax Inc., owner and operator of the I-95 Energy Resource Recovery Facility. During this same period, the program also provided waste collection and recycling services to over 43,000 homes in designated County Sanitary Districts and moved a daily average of 144 tractor-trailer loads of municipal solid waste from the I-66 Transfer Station to the E/RRF or other appropriate disposal locations. In addition to these disposal activities, recycling in the county averaged 30 percent for all solid waste generated, exceeding the state requirement of 25 percent by weight.

Approximately 35 private solid waste companies also collect refuse and recycling materials from households in Fairfax County. These private contractors are closely monitored by Fairfax County personnel to ensure compliance with government regulations. These private companies use the same landfill and E/RRF facilities as county collections vehicles, but are charged usage fees.

#### **1. Contractual Issues and Landfill Capacity**

The E/RRF continued to serve as the primary disposal location for County municipal solid waste, processing over 1,050,000 tons of waste in FY 2006. Due to routine maintenance outages at the facility, the county bypassed approximately 45,000 tons of waste to landfills during the year, using contingency contracts that were in place. This is a 60 percent decrease from the amount of waste that was bypassed to landfills in FY 2005.

As in recent years, the E/RRF received a declining amount of waste from jurisdictions outside the county. Approximately 9 percent of waste sent to the E/RRF was from local jurisdictions such as Prince William and Loudoun counties and the District of Columbia. The remaining tonnage of waste processed at the facility was generated in Fairfax County. This was the first year that all of the Guaranteed Annual Tonnage (a minimum of 930,750 tons) was generated by Fairfax County sources. This increase, anticipated in the county Solid Waste Management Plan, is a primary reason why the county's recycling program should be expanded: by reducing the amount of municipal solid waste that needs to be disposed, the county can extend the capacity of the E/RRF to process materials that cannot be recycled.

#### **2. Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation**

While implementation of the SWM Plan began in FY 2005, it was not until FY 2006 that much of the Plan's strategies began to bear fruit. Highlights of the implementation actions include:

**a. Substantially Revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance**

The SWMP completed a comprehensive revision to the county's solid waste management regulations (formerly, Chapter 109) during FY 2006, now found in Chapter 109.1 of the County Code. The new ordinance was promulgated by the board of supervisors after a public hearing on July 10, 2006; it expands the county's recycling requirements, as described later in this section.

**b. Increased Public Outreach**

The SWMP created a one-page full-color chart that pictorially depicts the items that must now be recycled by county residents under the new Chapter 109.1. This was mailed to all residential customers who get curbside refuse and recycling collection from the county's Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling (about 44,000 households). The SWMP also offered the document to all private-sector refuse collection companies operating in the county, so that they could provide it to their residential customers. Finally, the chart was also published in a variety of local newspapers for the first six months of 2006 and is available in electronic format on the county's Web site at:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/recycle-right.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/recycle-right.pdf).

**c. Resources for Recycling Construction/Demolition Debris**

The SWMP worked with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to create the "Builder's Guide to Reuse and Recycling." This handbook, which is available free of charge, provides the locations where builders can recycle construction materials in Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. Also, Chapter 109.1 requires that, beginning July 1, 2007, construction and demolition contractors must recycle corrugated cardboard.

**d. Remote Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events**

In addition to its permanent collection sites at the I-66 and I-95 Complexes, the SWMP conducted three remote HHW Events during FY 2006. The collection events were held at three locations, in the Mount Vernon, Mason and Dranesville Districts. Two additional events were held in the Hunter Mill and Braddock Districts in the months of September and October 2006. These events are also part of the county's Environmental Improvement Program and are dependent upon separate funding by the board of supervisors on an annual basis.

**e. Environmental Excellence**

The SWMP continued to maintain its Environmental Enterprise certification with the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program, administered by the commonwealth's Department of Environmental Quality. It also maintains its

membership in the “Businesses for the Bay” program, a regional initiative supported in Virginia by VDEQ.

### **3. Solid Waste Disposal Fee**

The contract waste disposal fee, offered to companies that sign agreements with the county, was \$44.95 per ton in FY 2006 and increased to \$46.95 in FY 2007. The increase helped to offset rising operational costs due to escalating fuel prices and contractual payments to Covanta Fairfax Inc. The contract disposal fee covers transportation and disposal of waste but does not fully cover the cost of all community benefit programs (e.g. recycling education, household hazardous waste, enforcement and community cleanups) provided by the SWMP. In FY 2006 and FY 2007, the General Fund transfer for these community benefit programs was \$2.5 million. Prices for all materials are posted on the county’s Web site and at the facilities.

## **B. PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ANALYSIS**

### **1. Waste Disposal Program**

#### **a. I-95 Sanitary Landfill and Citizens Disposal Facility**

##### **i. Groundwater Monitoring**

Groundwater Protection Standards were established for the I-95 Landfill on November 20, 2000, through an amendment to the facility permit. In accordance with Waste Management Regulation 9 VAC 20-80-250.D.6.g, an Assessment of Corrective Measures report was submitted to VDEQ in August, 2002. The VDEQ commented on the ACM and the county addressed VDEQ’s comments by submitting a revised ACM and Corrective Action Plan on April 30, 2004 for approval. The reports describe the nature and extent of groundwater contamination, provide a risk assessment for these conditions and establish a proposed program of corrective action. The county has proposed to implement a five-part remedy for groundwater at the I-95 Landfill. Proposed components of the program consist of:

- Institutional controls.
- Engineering controls.
- Monitored natural attenuation.
- Accelerated bioremediation (reductive dehalogenation).
- Direct oxidation.

The county will implement institutional controls in accordance with the closure and post closure care plan. A variety of engineering controls (leachate collection, landfill gas system and placement of cover) will be used. As

presented in the ACM, the concentration of most regulated constituents began to attenuate relatively abruptly after engineering controls were implemented during the 1990s. Natural attenuation will be enhanced by injection of food grade material that will enhance microbial activity via reductive dehalogenation. Direct oxidation will be employed in one area of the facility. Two common forms of permanganate (potassium and sodium) will be used. Both are strong oxidizing agents. This will be done in the selected areas. A Corrective Action Monitoring Plan has been submitted to VDEQ along with the Corrective Action Plan.

As part of the investigation, the county has drilled and sampled 16 additional monitoring wells to further delineate and remediate any groundwater problems. Staff will continue to perform the groundwater monitoring to comply with the VDEQ's requirements of assessment monitoring. Further, staff will monitor the additional parameters at supplemental locations as specified in the CAP. These proactive steps will be used at the I-95 Landfill to assure protection of the groundwater resources. These advanced steps are believed to be among the first used at a Virginia landfill.

ii. Landfill Closure

Closure construction work continued during FY 2006 for the areas where municipal solid waste was previously disposed. Final closure consists of capping the landfill with a thick, low permeability soil layer to minimize surface water infiltration. Additional landfill gas control systems are being installed as part of the closure design. Placement of the closure cap is expected to be completed by September 2007. To date, the final cap has been placed over 105 of 135 acres to be closed.

Partial closure of Phase I of the ash landfill was completed during FY 2006. This eight-acre area was capped by using a synthetic landfill cap.

iii. Landfill Gas System and Air Emissions

The I-95 Landfill operates one of the largest landfill gas collection systems in Virginia, with over 300 installed wells extracting landfill gas for energy recovery. Approximately 3,000 cubic feet per minute of this landfill gas is distributed to a variety of energy recovery systems, including the six-megawatt Michigan Cogeneration Systems electric generating facility, and the three-mile landfill gas pipeline that provides fuel as a substitute for natural gas at the Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant. The landfill gas pipeline project continues to provide significant energy cost savings at the NMCPCP.

During FY 2006, ten new landfill gas wells were drilled to replace existing wells that ceased to function properly due to normal landfill settlement.

During FY 2005, county staff, with assistance from an outside contractor, converted space heating at the landfill shop facility to landfill gas (the original heating system used bottled propane gas). This conversion is expected to save approximately \$6,000 per year in heating costs. In 2006, the project was given a National Award by the USEPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program.

During the reporting period, the county continued its solid compliance history with Virginia's air pollution and landfill gas control regulations. Quarterly methane gas surface emission and perimeter monitoring were conducted as required, and annual air emission reports were submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. VDEQ has found all submittals to be acceptable.

iv. Ash Landfill

Ash resulting from the E/RRF combustion process reduces the processed waste to only 10 percent of its original volume and about 25 percent of its original weight. Therefore, ash disposal requires significantly less landfill space than that which is consumed by the disposal of raw municipal solid waste. Incinerator ash from the E/RRF, a similar Covanta facility serving the City of Alexandria and Arlington County and the NMCPCP are disposed at the I-95 Ash Landfill. Ash is placed in a double-composite lined landfill, controlled by state-of-the-art leachate collection and detection systems.



Construction of Phase IIB of the ash landfill (the third cell) was completed in November 2004. Disposal of ash in this cell began during May 2005. Approximately 1,000 tons of ash is placed daily in the new cell, which has capacity for ash disposal for three years and four months. Approximately 6,000 tons of shredded tires were used as a protective layer for the cell. Using this material not only recycled the tires, but also saved approximately \$86,000 in the cost of gravel and other aggregate materials. Construction of Phase IIIA of the Ash Landfill is scheduled to begin in March 2007 and should be completed by December 2007.

The E/RRF's suite of pollution control equipment includes a dolomitic lime system that chemically treats the ash to reduce the possibility of metals leaching from the ash after landfilling. During FY 2006, ash produced at the Covanta facilities was analyzed by an independent lab and was found to be within the regulatory limits for all constituents (i.e., it is non-hazardous).

A metallic constituent of the E/RRF's ash of particular concern is cadmium. The SWMP supports and actively publicizes efforts to collect rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries separately for recycling. Through a partnership with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, large retailers such as Wal-Mart, Radio Shack and Best Buy are collecting old batteries as new ones are sold. The batteries are recycled at a permitted waste management facility specifically designed to recover these metals. This effort is anticipated to significantly reduce the amount of cadmium present in E/RRF ash.

v. Citizens Disposal Facility

The CDF allows county residents and small businesses to bring their solid waste directly to the I-95 Complex for disposal. The CDF offers a full range of recycling opportunities, as well as household hazardous waste disposal service. Recycling is free to residents, and a small charge is made for some HHW materials. In FY 2006, users visited the I-95 CDF over 72,000 times.

**b. Energy/Resource Recovery Facility**

i. Overview

E/RRF operations continue to meet or exceed accepted industry standards, as evidenced by the annual independent engineering report prepared by Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers in November 2005. This report states, "...the E/RRF appears to have performed sufficiently well from an operational standpoint for CFI to meet its performance obligations under the Service Agreement," and "CFI has remained in full compliance with all of its environmental permits and all regulatory requirements during FY 2005."



The E/RRF continued to produce up to 80 megawatts of electricity that was sold to Dominion Virginia Power. This is enough energy to power approximately 75,000 homes at any given time.

ii. Quantity of Waste Processed

The county has guaranteed to provide, and the E/RRF has agreed to process, at least 930,750 tons of municipal solid waste per year. In FY 2006, the E/RRF processed over 1,050,000 tons of waste (approximately 87,500 tons per month). Approximately 960,000 tons of this waste originated in Fairfax County, with the remainder coming primarily from Prince William County.

## TOTAL FAIRFAX COUNTY MSW TO E/RRF

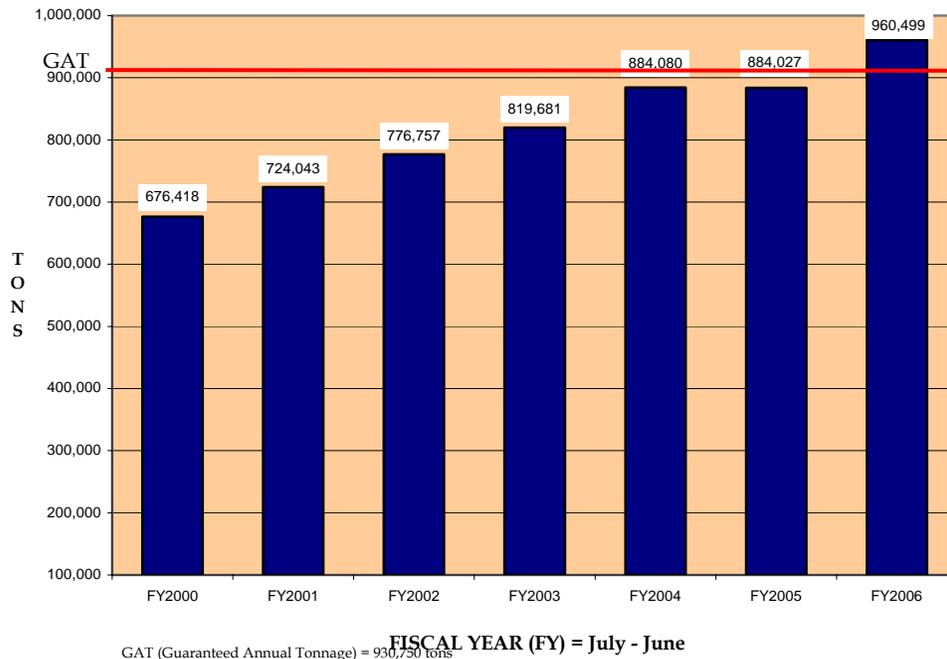


Figure IV-1. Total Fairfax County Municipal Solid Waste to E/RRF  
FY 2000-2006

iii. Air Quality

The E/RRF's continuous emissions monitoring system samples flue gas from the combustion process and alerts Covanta operating personnel when emissions are approaching the concentration limits specified in the facility's air pollution control permits. Permit excesses must be reported to the VDEQ, with an explanation as to the circumstances of the event and proposed solutions, as warranted. The E/RRF continues to operate well under its air permit limits. Table IV-1 provides a summary of the stack emissions that were documented by an independent lab test in June 2006, reported to VDEQ.

iv. Material Recovery

In addition to recovering energy from municipal solid waste to generate electricity, metals are recovered from the ash residue and recycled. In FY 2006, 16,583 tons of ferrous metal and 43.72 tons of non-ferrous metal were recovered from the ash and sold for recycling. The non-ferrous metal process was not operating during most of the year.

**Table IV – 1  
Energy/Resource Recovery Facility Emissions Results  
June 2006**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Permit Limit</b>	<b>Average E/RRF Result</b>
Sulfur Dioxide	29 ppm	9.5 ppm
Carbon Monoxide	100 ppm	5.25 ppm
Nitrogen Oxides	205 ppm	192.25 ppm
Hydrochloric Acid	29 ppm	8.4875 ppm
Particulate Matter	27 mg/dscm	6.68 mg/dscm
Mercury	0.080 mg/dscm	0.0046175 mg/dscm
Dioxin/Furans	30 ng/Nm <sup>3</sup>	0.0123 ng/Nm <sup>3</sup>

ppm = parts per million  
Dscm = dry standard cubic meter

mg = milligram

ng = nanogram

It should be noted that in FY 2006, Covanta reinstated recovery of non-ferrous metals after an extended period where these materials were not being targeted due to a combination of operational difficulties and poor market conditions.

**c. I-66 Transfer Station & Citizens' Recycling and Disposal Facility**



The I-66 Transfer Station continues to handle approximately 75 percent of the county's municipal solid waste destined for disposal. The Transfer Station consolidates waste delivered by individual collection vehicles into large transfer

trailers, hauling these trailers over the road primarily to the E/RRF for final disposal. As mentioned previously, an average of 144 loads were hauled from the facility each day in FY 2006. Primary benefits from this type of transfer system are a reduction in the number of vehicles traversing the county to reach the E/RRF and reduced operating costs for the county's solid waste management system as a whole. Further, the Transfer Station plays a pivotal role when waste needs to bypass the E/RRF to landfills; in FY 2006, approximately 45,000 tons of waste was hauled from the Transfer Station to alternative disposal sites.

The VDEQ regulates the Transfer Station, and it is inspected by this agency on a quarterly basis: during all inspections of the facility during FY 2006, the VDEQ found the facility to be in full compliance.

<sup>1</sup> Covanta Fairfax, Inc, Annual compliance Stack & RATA Test Reports, (COV Report No. 3138), 12-15.

i. Citizens Disposal Facility



The Transfer Station Complex also has one of the county's two Citizens' Recycling and Disposal Facilities, where residents and small businesses can self-haul their waste and recyclables. In FY 2006, users visited the I-66 CDF more than 267,000 times. The CDF is being redesigned to accommodate growing demands for disposal and recycling services

at that location. New scales and booths, improved entrance and egress and more technology are being planned, to improve customer service and reduce wait times. These changes are not likely to be in place until FY 2008.

ii. Transfer Operations

The main responsibility of the Transfer Station is to move waste from northern and western parts of the county to the E/RRF. With increased development and population growth, waste collection companies are bringing more and more waste to the Transfer Station. Moreover, advanced technologies used by collection companies to control their costs have resulted in collection vehicles that can pack on and deliver more waste per trip. As the daily tonnage being managed by the transfer operations has grown, and in the face of a prohibition on new staff positions, the county has come to rely upon trucking contractors to supplement the county's fleet of tractor trailers.

Much of the county vehicle fleet, including the transfer trucks at the Transfer Station, now uses ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel. This reduces air pollutant emissions as much as possible, while performing the mission of transporting increased amounts of waste.

An automated truck wash system has been installed in the existing truck wash building. This state-of-the-art system will better recover and recycle water, discharging minimal amounts to the sewer, while reducing manpower requirements to wash large vehicles. Waste collection vehicles will be washed here, as well as other large county vehicles such as busses when the facility has sufficient capacity.

**d. Household Hazardous Waste Program**

Information regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Program and the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator service is provided in the Hazardous Materials chapter of this report.

### **e. Other Relevant Activities**

All solid waste collection companies in Fairfax County must hold a Certificate to Operate and individual vehicle permits, both issued by the SWMP. Approximately 35 firms hold county Certificates to Operate. An integral requirement of these permitting programs is that permitted collectors comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 109.1, the county's solid waste management ordinance. As mentioned earlier, Chapter 109.1 came into effect in July 2006; it is an extensive rewrite of the original solid waste ordinance, Chapter 109.

The SWMP therefore has responsibility for enforcing Chapter 109.1 and to resolve any potential violations observed by program staff. In addition to this responsibility, the SWMP also coordinates with other county agencies as necessary to lead enforcement of relevant provisions from other chapters of the County Code, related to the solid waste management aspects of public health menaces, nuisance noise and debris landfills.

## **2. Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs**

### **a. Overview**

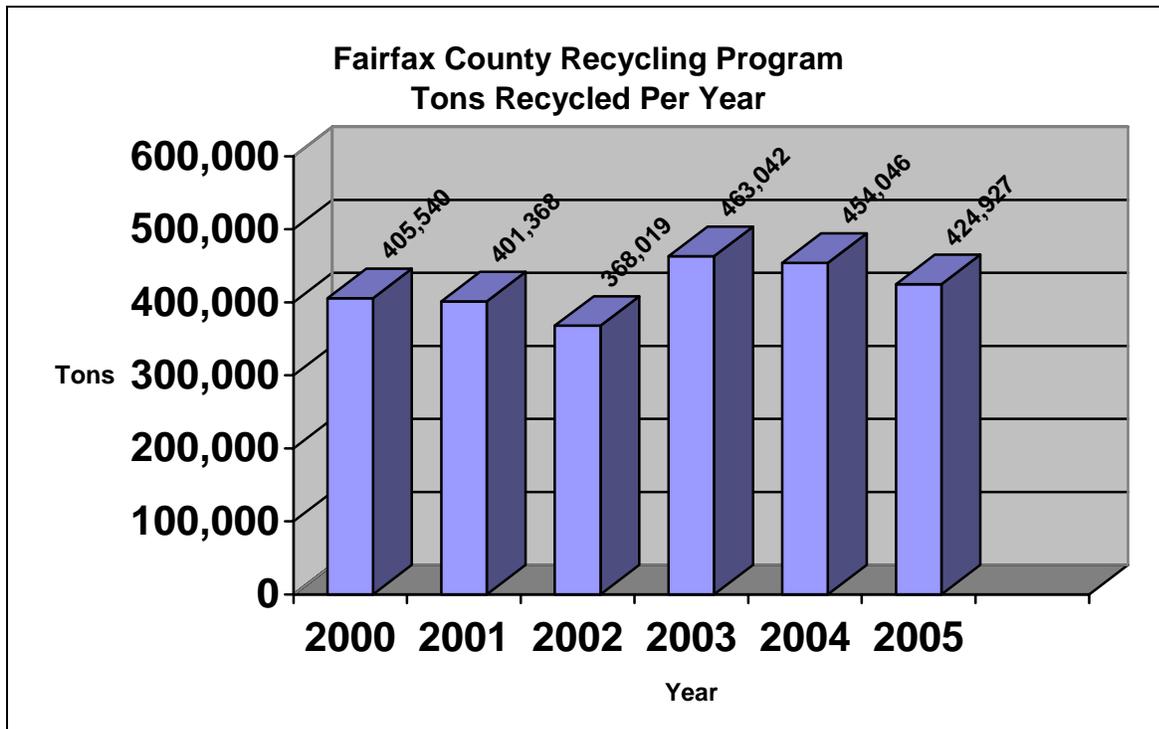
The SWMP's Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling assumes the lead role regarding the management and implementation of the countywide recycling program. The VDEQ is responsible for establishing the regulations that require all municipalities in the commonwealth to recycle a certain percentage of the total volume (by weight) of municipal solid waste generated in the jurisdiction. These regulations are codified as 9 VAC 20-130-10, and Fairfax County is responsible for meeting a 25 percent threshold. Smaller communities across the commonwealth have their required threshold set at 15 percent. Fairfax County is well ahead of this requirement. For calendar year 2005, Fairfax County's recycling rate was 30 percent. Reports documenting the recycling rate for the preceding calendar year are required to be sent to the VDEQ each year in the spring.

During the 2006 Virginia General Assembly session, House Bill 647 was enacted. This legislation will provide jurisdictions with an opportunity to receive a two percentage point credit for source reduction programs implemented within the jurisdiction, a ton-for-ton credit for solid waste material that is reused and a ton-for-ton credit for any non-municipal solid waste material that is recycled. The county expects to take advantage of the credit for source reduction programs as early as this year.

Chapter 109.1 requires annual reports on the tonnages of recyclables collected by solid waste collection companies, non-residential businesses and commercial establishments, Material Recovery Facilities and other entities operating in Fairfax County. These reports are evaluated and their data compiled to calculate the countywide recycling rate. The following chart (Figure IV-1) depicts the historical

quantities of recyclables collected in the county since calendar year 2000. Since the recycling program's inception in 1988, the county has recycled approximately 5.5 million tons and continues to exceed the state-mandated requirement.

**Figure IV-2.**



**b. Changes for 2006**

As discussed earlier, the county promulgated a substantially-revised solid waste management ordinance, Chapter 109.1. The revised code will require recycling as described below.

- All non-residential entities in the county are required to recycle mixed paper and flattened cardboard. All non-residential entities that recycle a Principal Recyclable Material other than mixed paper and cardboard will be required to continue to recycle that PRM in addition to the mixed paper and cardboard.
- All multi-family residential buildings in existence prior to July 2007 are required to have recycling of mixed paper and flattened cardboard.
- All multi-family residential buildings constructed after July 2007 are required to have recycling of mixed paper, flattened cardboard, metal food and beverage containers, glass food and beverage containers and plastic bottles and jugs.

- All schools and institutions are required to recycle mixed paper and cardboard by July 2007.
- All refuse and recycling collection companies providing curbside service to residential customers are required to collect mixed paper, flattened cardboard, metal food and beverage containers, glass food and beverage containers and plastic bottles and jugs.
- All construction and demolition contractors are required to recycle cardboard by July 2007.

**c. Review of Collection and Recycling Programs**

In addition to county-wide recycling program management, the SWMP is responsible for the:

- Collection of refuse and recyclables from about 44,000 residences primarily on the east side of the county in designated areas entitled Sanitary Districts.
- Collection of refuse and recyclables from county-owned buildings.
- Seasonal curbside vacuum leaf collection for approximately 20,000 residences.
- The management of eight Recycling Drop Off Centers.
- Refuse removal due to evictions and other court orders.
- Public outreach and education on recycling and waste management.

Two new service programs were instituted in 2006: the “Megabulk” program and the “Clean Streets Initiative” program.

The Megabulk program was originally established for county refuse and recycling customers in Sanitary Districts, providing collection service for oversized piles of refuse and yard debris. Customers schedule this service and pay an additional fee for the collection of oversized quantities of materials that are not part of the basic level of service for routine weekly collections. The service now is being made available countywide, based upon equipment and personnel availability.

Working in conjunction with the Fairfax County Health Department, the SWMP’s Clean Streets Initiative is designed to address complaints from residents about piles of refuse that are placed in neighborhoods where the property owner does not take responsibility for its timely removal or where no responsible party can be found. Under CSI, the property owner is notified that the refuse must be removed. If the property owner fails to respond in a timely manner or refuses to cooperate, CSI removes the refuse and bills the property owner for removal of the material. If the

property owner refuses to pay the county for the removal of the material, a lien is placed on the property.

i. Yard Waste

Recycling of yard waste (brush, leaves and grass) is required for residential units in Fairfax County. Curbside collection of yard waste is required to be provided by all refuse collection companies operating in the county, from March through December of each year. The revisions to Chapter 109.1 clarified that yard waste collection would begin in March each year and that no special separation would be required during January and February, other than Christmas tree collection.

Woody materials, referred to as brush, comprise a significant portion of the yard waste collected in the county. Brush is managed at either the I-66 or I-95 facility and is ground into mulch. The mulch from these facilities is available free to county residents who can self-haul the material to the end use location. Typically, mulch is used as a top-dressing around decorative plantings to reduce weed growth and to maintain soil moisture.

Leaves and grass comprise the balance of the yard waste managed in the county. This material is generally collected in bags or by curbside vacuum collection and is sent to either of two composting facilities where the material undergoes biological decomposition to turn it into compost. Typically, compost is used as a soil amendment or substitute. In 2006, just under 150,000 tons of yard waste was recycled in Fairfax County.

ii. Recycling Drop Off Centers

Fairfax County operates eight Recycling Drop Off Centers at various locations throughout the county. The RDOCs are unmanned facilities, open 24 hours and there is no fee to use them. No new RDOCs have been added to the county system in approximately ten years.

iii. County Agency Routes

All county agencies receiving refuse collection and recycling services from the SWMP participate in the county recycling program. In calendar year 2005, county agency locations recycled approximately 730 tons of material. The SWMP provides the necessary support to ensure adequate communication of the recycling requirements, as well as operational support for general programs or special events as needed.

iv. Public Education and Outreach

Public education and outreach are key components of any successful municipal recycling program. To that end, the SWMP has focused on developing creative education programs that take advantage of its partnerships with county agencies, Fairfax County Public Schools, community organizations (e.g., Scouts, Youth Groups, Jaycees), commercial businesses and privately-owned collection companies. Outreach programs consist of activities and displays at county festivals, the support and advertisement of several days throughout the calendar year that are specifically dedicated to recycling, public speaking opportunities and technical support in the research of recycling technologies and issues.

In FY 2006, the SWMP worked closely with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on a regional public information program entitled “KnowToxics”. The purpose of this program is to educate business owners about their responsibility to comply with federal and state regulations that require proper disposal or recycling of spent fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and computers and related electronics. The program is centered on its Web site: [www.KnowToxics.com](http://www.KnowToxics.com), which provides a resource where businesses can learn how to manage these materials legally and appropriately.



The SWMP has also continued a rechargeable battery recycling program, in collaboration with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program. RBRC is an industry-funded program where rechargeable batteries can be collected and sent for recycling at no charge. Collection boxes for rechargeable batteries are now located at all offices of members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and at major county buildings. A complete listing of collection locations is on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-bat.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-bat.htm). Also, as mentioned earlier, partnered with MWCOG to produce the Builder’s Guide to Refuse and Recycling.

Annually, the Solid Waste Program participates in Celebrate Fairfax and Fall for Fairfax. These events are a major portion of the county's overall public outreach campaign and provide the program with opportunities to disseminate technical guidance and practical information on using the county's solid waste management system.



The SWMP is a proud sponsor of the annual Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations promoted by the Clean Fairfax Council. This year, the SWMP supported the Johnie Forte Jr. Environmental Scholarship, which awarded twelve \$500 grants to applicants from the Fairfax County Public Schools. Student groups receiving the grants are invited to make a presentation regarding their use of the grant in front of members of the board of supervisors, at the annual Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration at Northern Virginia Community College. The annual Fairfax County Business Recycling Awards are also presented at this same event, recognizing businesses that excel in their recycling efforts.

This scholarship program is a portion of SCRAP, the Schools/County Recycling Action Partnership. The SCRAP partnership was created by the Fairfax County Public Schools and the SWMP to provide opportunities for the students of Fairfax County Public Schools to learn about recycling and other environmental issues and to enhance recycling throughout the system. The SWMP developed the scrapbook, a resource tool distributed to all science teachers in the FCPS system, that details all of the opportunities provided by the SWMP and the Clean Fairfax Council to aid in the instruction of students, including training and presentations, tours and how to apply for the Johnie Forte grant award.

The SWMP also supports the county's Employee Recycling Committee. The ERC meets monthly and works on projects designed to encourage county employee participation in recycling. The group coordinated the county

employee's Earth Day Expo celebration and the Employee Recycling Committee Recycler of the Year Award.

The county Earth Day Expo is held annually at the Government Center, in conjunction with another event for all administrative assistants in the county. Many county agencies with responsibility for environmental protection and stewardship in the county participate, with informational booths staged in the Government Center during the lunch hour. These booths provide an opportunity for attending employees to better understand the services provided by these agencies.

America Recycles Day 2005 was celebrated on November 5th with the Community Recycling Road show at Herndon High School. County staff again partnered with volunteers to show how recycling activities can support the local community. Students Against Global Abuse, the student environmental club at Herndon High School, helped staff collect computers, cell phones, bicycles and eyeglasses. ServiceSource, a sheltered workshop for adults with disabilities, collected used computers and other electronic equipment at this event.

Another aspect of the SWMP's public outreach and education effort is its active involvement in community events, public speaking opportunities and support to various community special interest groups such as the Lorton Citizens Alliance Team, the Business Advisory Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Solid Waste.

The SWMP also utilizes the Internet, by posting pertinent information about timely subjects on the program's Web site. Information about the program's involvement in community events, as well as new information about solid waste matters, can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling).

Staff routinely updates the site to account for changes in programs and activities. Hard-copy publications are regularly reviewed for clarity of content and are revised as necessary to ensure that they remain informative and address topical questions or issues. All publications will eventually be available on the county Web site, to allow easier access and distribution. Additionally, the county maintains an automated recycling information line (703-324-5052) for resident access to recycling opportunity information.

The SWMP also published an electronic e-mail to county collection customers, to automatically send updates to customers on the program, as well as updates regarding service changes due to inclement weather. A similar "listserv" tool was developed to give vacuum leaf collection customers the most up-to-date information on the exact date that the leaf collection will be conducted on their street, to ensure that residents have time to rake their leaves to the curb.

#### **d. Clean Fairfax Council**

Clean Fairfax Council is a private, nonprofit (501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the education of the residents of Fairfax County on issues relating to litter prevention and recycling. Environmental education is provided to students and adults throughout the county. All of the council's informational brochures are translated into the six major foreign languages used in Fairfax County: Korean, Spanish, Urdu, Farsi, Vietnamese and Chinese.

The council has many programs relating to litter, the primary one being the sponsorship of spring and fall cleanups. These cleanups are accomplished by the council sending information regarding the cleanups to all homeowner associations, public schools and assorted churches and businesses. The council asks volunteers to plan their cleanup by selecting a site, gathering volunteers and setting a date and time. Then, if they fill out a sign-up form and send it to the council, they are provided trash bags, recycling bags, vests and safety tips along with an automobile litter bag and a memento for each participant.

The council also sponsors an "Adopt-A-Spot" program whereby residents can adopt a spot for two years and pledge to clean it up four times a year. Additionally, the council produces the Fairfax County Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration held in late April.

There are many other programs offered by the Clean Fairfax Council, including programs that are beyond litter prevention/control aspects. For more information, please visit the web site at [www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org](http://www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org).

### **C. RECOMMENDATIONS**

No recommendations are proposed this year.

### **REFERENCES**

Much of the narrative and illustrations were supplied by the following agencies of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services:

- Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling.
- Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery.

The information about the Clean Fairfax Council was provided by Rosemary Byrne, Executive Director, Clean Fairfax Council

