

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District
Earl L. Flanagan, Mount Vernon District
James R. Hart, At-Large, Chairman
Kenneth A. Lawrence, Providence District
James T. Migliaccio, Lee District
Timothy J. Sargeant, At-Large

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Walter L. Alcorn, At-Large
Jay P. Donahue, Dranesville District

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Smithberger, Director, Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling (SWCR)
Joyce M. Doughty, Director, Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery
Pamela Gratton, Recycling Program Manager, SWCR

OTHER FAIRFAX COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

Noel H. Kaplan, Senior Environmental Planner, Environment and Development Review
Branch (EDRB), Planning Division (PD), Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ)
Mary Ann Welton, Environmental Planner, EDRB, PD, DPZ
S. Robin Ransom, Assistant Director, Planning Commission Office
Kara A. DeArrastia, Clerk to the Planning Commission

ATTACHMENT:

"Integrated Solid Waste Management" PowerPoint presentation

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Chairman James R. Hart called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., in the Board Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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Commissioner Flanagan MOVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2011 BE APPROVED.

Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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Jeff Smithberger, Director, Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling (SWCR); Joyce Doughty, Director, Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery; and Pamela Gratton, Recycling Program Manager, SWCR, all with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Fairfax County's integrated solid waste management and recycling programs, as shown in the attachment. They responded to questions from Committee members regarding the following topics:

- User fee rates for recycling and refuse collection and vacuum leaf collection;
- Collection and removal of brush and large debris due to tornados or other major weather events;
- Removal of ferrous and nonferrous metals from the ash produced at the I-95 Energy/Resource Recovery Facility;
- Refuse and recycling collection;
- Single-stream recycling;
- Solid Waste Management Ordinance (Fairfax County Code, Chapter 109.1) violations and enforcement protocols for handling such violations;
- Code requirement for recycling of cans, bottles, mixed paper, and cardboard in all multi-family residential properties built on or after July 1, 2007;
- Fairfax County's fleet of trash and recycling collection vehicles;
- County's first hydraulic hybrid trash and recycling collection vehicle (first of its kind in Virginia);
- Restriction on movement of vehicles accessing the I-95 Landfill Complex and staff monitoring of vehicle traffic; and
- Monitoring and enforcement of vehicle access to the ESI (EnviroSolutions, Inc.) landfill in Lorton.

Mr. Smithberger explained that DPWES staff had been working with the architectural engineering community to establish rules and regulations to ensure that ingress and egress to waste and recycling collection facilities were designed and built to allow safe movement of refuse and recycling collection vehicles. He pointed out that the County's Public Facilities Manual included provisions on the proper location of waste and recycling collection and storage bins, dumpsters, and compacter units. He said he believed that an active and easily accessible area that housed waste and recycling containment facilities would enable high-quality service and help the community. Mr. Smithberger reported that County residents and businesses generated a little over one million tons of waste per year and approximately 500,000 tons of that was recycling. He explained that staff sought to increase the recycling rate through establishing recycling requirements in the Ordinance and informing people on the economic benefits of recycling. He noted that the current recycling market for cardboard was approximately \$145 per ton and businesses should profit from the receiving market prices for recyclable materials instead of paying for the disposal of such materials.

Committee members and staff briefly discussed whether certain items were recyclable, recycling collection bins, bottle recycling, and sufficient space allocations for the safe movement of trash and recycling collection vehicles on commercial properties.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that he collaborate with DPWES and Department of Planning and Zoning staff to formulate a model proffer to address the appropriate placement of and sufficient access to refuse and recycling collection containers at high-rise multi-use buildings in the Tysons Corner area. Mr. Smithberger agreed with this suggestion and added that if staff could educate people about recycling at their workplace, they would be more likely to also recycle at home.

Mr. Smithberger noted that he had distributed a document listing potential recycling proffers, a copy of which is in the date file. Chairman Hart recommended that this document be distributed electronically to all the Commissioners.

Commissioner de la Fe pointed out that some of the recycling proffers were already required as part of the LEED certification process. Mr. Smithberger concurred with this statement.

Answering a question from Commissioner Lawrence, Mr. Smithberger said the County was prohibited by the State to influence the kinds of vehicles used by privately-owned refuse and recycling collection companies. Ms. Doughty noted, however, that the County required that all collection vehicles be designed and manufactured specifically for the collection of municipal solid waste.

Mr. Smithberger and Ms. Doughty replied to questions from Commissioner Flanagan regarding the sorting and processing of recyclable materials at privately owned and operated Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) and burning of trash at the I-95 Energy/Resource Recovery Facility. Mr. Smithberger said although recyclable materials were not separated from trash, if a noticeable item such as a refrigerator, washer, or dryer was thrown away, the loader operator would remove that item.

In response to questions from Commissioner Flanagan, Mr. Smithberger noted that the amount of trash collected in the County had been reduced by recycling by approximately 40 percent, which helped decrease the amount of materials being burned at the I-95 Energy/Resource Recovery Facility, created more jobs for the recycling industry, and saved money for the companies that recycled. He reported that according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, each person threw away approximately four pounds of trash per day. He indicated that a single-family home in the County generated an average of approximately two tons of waste per year.

Replying to a question from Chairman Hart, Ms. Doughty said the landfill crane operator visually inspected the waste for unacceptable materials such as a compressed gas container.

Mr. Smithberger answered additional questions from Committee members regarding the following topics:

- Use of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices in County trash and recycling collection vehicles and routing software that created the most accurate and efficient routes for the drivers;

- Installation of fuel efficient engines in newer vehicles;
- Drawbacks of "split body" trash and recycling collection vehicles;
- Most privately-owned refuse and recycling collection companies offered twice-a-week trash collection based on customer demand, even though the minimum Code requirement was once per week;
- Economic benefits of recycling versus paying a municipality to burn the materials;
- Efficiencies of collecting all recyclable materials in the same compartment and later separating them by type at the MRF, and using the same type of vehicle to collect recyclable materials and trash but not at the same time;
- Use of methane gas at the I-66 and I-95 Landfill sites as a renewable energy source;
- Use of both County and private trash and recycling collection services in a neighborhood; and Strong support among County residents for the right to choose their trash collection company.

Ms. Doughty distributed a flyer promoting the Electric Sunday e-waste recycling program, a copy of which is in the date file.

Chairman Hart thanked Mr. Smithberger, Ms. Doughty, and Ms. Gratton for their interesting and informative presentation.

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Chairman Hart announced that the Committee would meet again on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Conference Room, to continue discussion on the Green Building Comprehensive Plan Policy Review strawman document.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
James R. Hart, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Planning Commission Office, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Minutes by: Kara A. DeArrastia

Approved: April 14, 2011

Kara A. DeArrastia, Clerk to the
Fairfax County Planning Commission

Integrated Solid Waste Management



Fairfax County Department of Public Works and
Environmental Services
Solid Waste Management Program



Joyce Doughty
Jeff Smithberger
Pamela Gratton

Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling

Responsibilities:

- **The collection of all solid waste and recyclables in Fairfax County for 44,000 households and for county agencies.**
- **Seasonal collection of leaves for approximately 23,000 customers in established Sanitary Districts.**
- **Oversight of the Countywide Recycling Program.**
- **Eight Community Recycling Drop-off Centers.**
- **Outreach and educational efforts for the entire Solid Waste Management Program.**

Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery

Responsibilities:

- **The I-66 Transfer Station and the closed I-66 Landfill.**
- **The Energy/Resource Recovery Facility rated at 3,000 tons-per-day with 80 MW output.**
- **The I-95 landfill – including the Landfill Gas-to-Energy Program.**
- **The county's Household Hazardous Waste Program.**
- **The county's yard waste mulching operation.**
- **Permitting of solid waste and recycling collection service providers and code enforcement.**
- **Invoicing and collections for approximately 4,000 system users (approximately \$50 million/yr).**

Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Ordinance



- **Regulates the storage, collection, transportation and disposal of all solid waste.**
- **Establishes recycling requirements for single family and townhouses, multi-family residential properties and nonresidential properties.**
- **Establishes permit qualifications and minimum service standards for private solid waste and recycling collection services (e.g. collect at least once per week, provide collection for recyclables).**
- **Outlines enforcement protocols for handling ordinance violations.**

Recycling in Fairfax County

EVERYONE Recycles Paper & Cardboard as of July 2007!

Non-Residential Properties (Businesses, Schools, & Institutions)



- **Must recycle mixed paper and cardboard**
- **Commercial establishments producing large amounts of other recyclable materials may be required to recycle additional materials.**

Where does recycling go?



Where they are:



Sorted

Recyclables are transported to privately-owned and -operated Material Recovery Facilities



Processed



Sold for reuse

What Happens at the Recycling Facility?



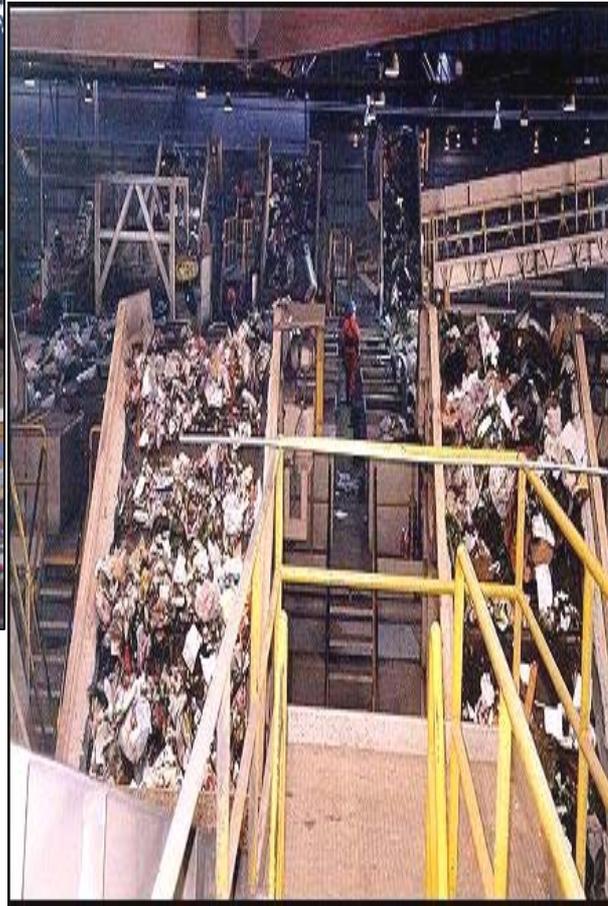
Collected materials are taken to a Materials Recovery Facility, or MRF (pronounced “murf”).

Here they are weighed, and dumped on the floor.

Recyclables enter the MRF



Bales ready for shipping



Where does trash go?

Depending on where you live, your trash will either go...

or to the...



I-66 Transfer Station



I-95 Energy/Resource Recovery Facility

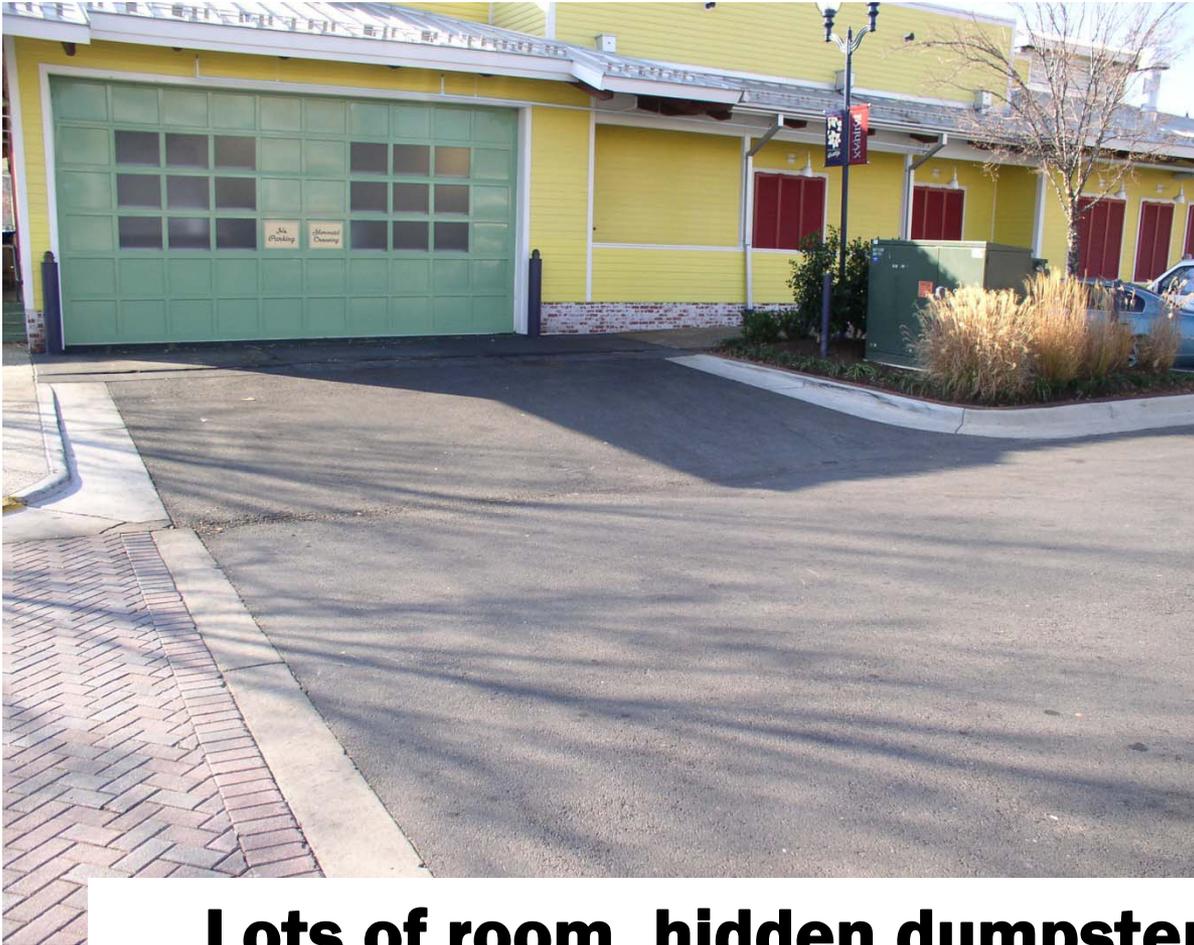
Where trash is consolidated and shipped to the...

Difficult design: New Oakton library



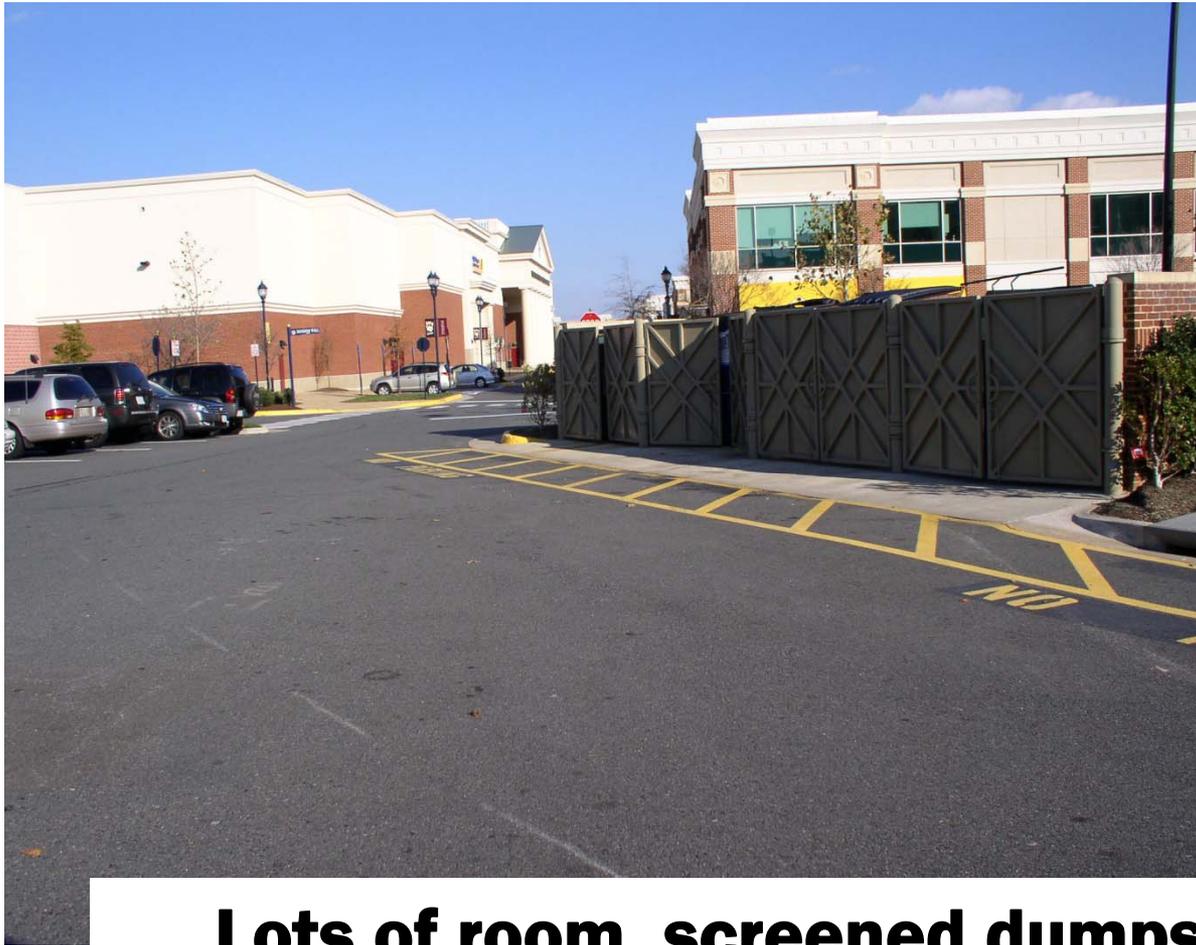
Backing up is difficult!

Good designs enable good service



Lots of room, hidden dumpsters

Good designs enable good service



Lots of room, screened dumpsters