

Fund 40140: Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations

Mission

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) provides municipal refuse and recyclable collection services in an environmentally sound and economically viable manner to County residents within sanitary collection districts and other County and State government agencies. These operations are dedicated to keeping Fairfax County clean by preventing pollution associated with the improper disposal of refuse. The SWMP refuse collection operations also strives to reduce the County's overall municipal solid waste stream through the effective development, implementation and management of comprehensive waste reduction and recycling strategies to ensure Fairfax County meets or exceeds the Commonwealth of Virginia's recycling mandate of 25 percent of the solid waste stream.

Focus

Refuse Collection and Recycling operations in the SWMP are responsible for the collection of refuse and recyclable materials from approximately 44,000 residential customers within Fairfax County's sanitary refuse collection districts, properties owned or occupied by county agencies, and two public college campuses. The SWMP provides collection services to prevent health and safety hazards including the Community Cleanup Program, the Health Department Referral Program, the Sheriff's Office Evictions Program, and the Court/Board-directed Cleanup Program. The SWMP provides staff and equipment for these operations. Additionally, SWMP responds to community emergencies and recovery efforts in the wake of floods, hurricanes, snow events, and other emergencies.

The SWMP manages the system to promote recycling of Fairfax County generated wastes, including:

- Overall management of solid waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Plans for future recycling programs and waste reduction systems.
- Reducing the amount of waste sent for disposal through recycling programs that divert reusable or recyclable items from the waste stream to avoid disposal.

Refuse and recyclable materials collection is provided to residents within sanitary refuse collection districts, which are created by the Board of Supervisors upon receipt of petition to provide said service. Residents are charged an annual fee for weekly refuse and recycling collection service through the semi-annual property tax collection system. The annual collection rate in FY 2023 is increased to \$475 from the FY 2022 rate of \$400. The rate increase will assist SWMP in meeting increased labor and contractual costs necessary to operate the collections programs.

SWMP County Agency Route Program (CAR) is responsible for the collection of refuse and recycling from County agencies, and George Mason University. Revenue is derived from billings based upon the cubic yard capacity of the containers at each location, labor, equipment, and overhead costs as needed to provide adequate service.

The SWMP operates two programs designed to address oversized piles of waste and illegal dumping throughout the County. The first program, *MegaBulk*, provides residents with a convenient and cost-competitive way to remove oversized piles of waste while providing a revenue stream for the collection program. This service is billed individually to each customer based on the size of the pile of refuse that is placed at the curb.

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The second program, Clean Streets Initiative (CSI), partners with the Fairfax County Health Department to respond to complaints about uncollected waste dumped or illegally placed on properties throughout the County. The Health Department refers the complaint to the SWMP which contacts the property owner to compel them to remove the waste. If the owner refuses, SWMP staff removes the material for disposal and the owner is billed for the service.

Agency performance measures for Solid Waste are displayed at a program-wide level. Please refer to the Solid Waste Management Program Overview in Volume 2 of the [FY 2023 Adopted Budget Plan](#) for those items.

Organizational Chart



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Budget and Staff Resources

Category	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Adopted	FY 2022 Revised	FY 2023 Advertised	FY 2023 Adopted
FUNDING					
Expenditures:					
Personnel Services	\$8,601,509	\$9,487,321	\$8,979,403	\$9,961,257	\$9,961,257
Operating Expenses	9,180,086	9,395,012	10,347,420	9,971,638	9,971,638
Capital Equipment	1,534,625	1,330,893	1,575,238	1,610,000	1,610,000
Capital Projects	90,148	0	966,609	100,203	100,203
Subtotal	\$19,406,368	\$20,213,226	\$21,868,670	\$21,643,098	\$21,643,098
Less:					
Recovered Costs	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)
Total Expenditures	\$19,332,911	\$20,139,769	\$21,795,213	\$21,569,641	\$21,569,641
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)					
Regular	109 / 109	109 / 109	105 / 105	105 / 105	105 / 105

FY 2023 Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2023 program. Included are all adjustments recommended by the County Executive that were approved by the Board of Supervisors, as well as any additional Board of Supervisors' actions, as approved in the adoption of the Budget on May 10, 2022.

Employee Compensation **\$532,013**
 An increase of \$532,013 in Personnel Services includes \$337,826 for a 4.01 percent market rate adjustment (MRA) for all employees and \$119,767 for performance-based and longevity increases for non-uniformed merit employees, both effective July 2022. The remaining increase of \$74,420 is included for employee pay increases for specific job classes identified in the County's benchmark class survey of comparator jurisdictions.

Other Post-Employment Benefits **(\$58,077)**
 A decrease of \$58,077 in Personnel Services reflects required adjustments associated with providing Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEBs) to retirees, including the Retiree Health Benefits Subsidy. For more information on Other Post-Employment Benefits, please refer to Fund 73030, OPEB Trust, in Volume 2 of the FY 2023 Adopted Budget Plan.

Operating Expenses **\$576,626**
 An increase of \$576,626 in Operating Expenses is related to an increase of Refuse Disposal for recyclable material collections and the cost increase in vehicle maintenances.

Capital Equipment **\$279,107**
 Funding of \$1,610,000 in Capital Equipment reflects an increase of \$279,107 over the FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan. In FY 2023, the funding for Capital Equipment includes \$900,000 for the replacement of three rear loaders, \$620,000 for the replacement of two side loaders and \$90,000 for two pick-up trucks. These items have exceeded their useful life and are required to be replaced based on the overall age and condition of the equipment.

Capital Projects **\$100,203**
 An increase of \$100,203 in Capital Project reflects additional funding required in FY 2023 for the infrastructure improvement to Newington Operations facility and the mechanical repairs.

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Changes to FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan

The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2022 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2021 Carryover Review, FY 2022 Mid-Year Review, FY 2022 Third Quarter Review, and all other approved changes through April 30, 2022.

Carryover Adjustments **\$1,655,444**

As part of the FY 2021 Carryover Review, the Board of Supervisors approved funding of \$1,655,444, including \$92,082 in Personnel Services for a one-time compensation adjustment of \$1,000 for merit employees and \$500 for non-merit employees paid in November 2021. The remaining amount of \$1,563,362 is due to \$352,408 in encumbered carryover, \$244,345 in unencumbered carryover, and \$966,609 in unspent Capital Project balance.

Position Adjustments **\$0**

In order to properly align staff with workload requirements, 4/4.0 FTE positions were transferred from Fund 40140, Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations, to Fund 40150, Refuse Disposal.

Position Detail

The FY 2023 Adopted Budget Plan includes the following positions:

REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OPERATIONS – 105 Positions			
Admin. of Division Operations			
1	Deputy Director, DPWES	1	Human Resources Generalist I
1	PW Environmental Services Manager	1	Financial Specialist III
1	Human Resources Generalist II	3	Administrative Assistants IV
Operational Support			
1	PW Environmental Svcs. Specialist	1	Welder II
1	Management Analyst II	3	Administrative Assistants III
2	Asst. Refuse Superintendents	3	Administrative Assistants II
1	Trades Supervisor		
Residential and General Collections			
1	Solid Waste Oper. Div. Director	1	Maintenance Supervisor
1	Safety Analyst II	3	Equipment Repairers
1	Management Analyst II	21	Motor Equipment Operators
1	Asst. Refuse Superintendent	1	Administrative Assistant IV
4	Heavy Equipment Supervisors	1	Administrative Assistant II
7	Lead Refuse Operators	8	Senior Maintenance Workers
11	Heavy Equipment Operators	18	Maintenance Workers
County Agency Routes			
1	Heavy Equipment Supervisor	5	Heavy Equipment Operators

A Fund Statement and a Summary of Capital Projects are provided on the following pages. The Summary of Capital Projects may include some projects without a Total Project Estimate amount. These projects are considered "continuing" projects or projects for which funding is necessary on an ongoing basis (e.g., a contingency or planning project).

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FUND STATEMENT

Category	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2022 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2023 Advertised Budget Plan	FY 2023 Adopted Budget Plan
Beginning Balance	\$4,816,847	\$974,002	\$3,495,248	\$865,802	\$865,802
Revenue:					
Interest on Investments	\$21,590	\$122,648	\$122,648	\$21,590	\$21,590
Refuse Collection Fees ¹	17,882,243	19,150,745	19,150,745	22,980,066	22,980,066
Sale of Assets and Recyclables	306,971	38,500	38,500	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	53,323	24,413	24,413	25,966	25,966
Charges for Services	108,133	195,347	195,347	154,109	154,109
Replacement Reserve Fees	12,000	8,000	8,000	16,000	16,000
State Litter Funds ²	121,052	120,114	120,114	113,247	113,247
Total Revenue	\$18,505,312	\$19,659,767	\$19,659,767	\$23,310,978	\$23,310,978
Total Available	\$23,322,159	\$20,633,769	\$23,155,015	\$24,176,780	\$24,176,780
Expenditures:					
Personnel Services ³	\$8,601,509	\$9,487,321	\$8,979,403	\$9,961,257	\$9,961,257
Operating Expenses	9,180,086	9,395,012	10,347,420	9,971,638	9,971,638
Recovered Costs ⁴	(73,457)	(73,457)	(73,457)	(73,457)	(73,457)
Capital Equipment	1,534,625	1,330,893	1,575,238	1,610,000	1,610,000
Capital Projects	90,148	0	966,609	100,203	100,203
Total Expenditures	\$19,332,911	\$20,139,769	\$21,795,213	\$21,569,641	\$21,569,641
Transfers Out:					
General Fund (10001) ⁵	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000
Total Transfers Out	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000
Total Disbursements	\$19,826,911	\$20,633,769	\$22,289,213	\$22,063,641	\$22,063,641
Ending Balance⁶	\$3,495,248	\$0	\$865,802	\$2,113,139	\$2,113,139
Rate Stabilization Reserve ⁷	\$873,812	\$0	\$216,451	\$528,284	\$528,284
Capital Equipment Reserve ⁸	1,747,624	0	432,901	1,056,570	1,056,570
Operating Reserve ⁹	873,812	0	216,450	528,285	528,285
Unreserved Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Levy per Household Unit¹	\$370/Unit	\$400/Unit	\$400/Unit	\$475/Unit	\$475/Unit

¹ The FY 2023 levy/collection fee per household unit will increase from \$400 to \$475 per unit based on additional program requirements. The vast majority of these fees are collected as a separate levy included on the Real Estate Tax bill. Approximately 364 units must be billed directly by the agency.

² SWMP receives funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia from the State Litter Grant on an annual basis. This funding is then transferred to the Clean Fairfax Council, Inc. to fund its operations on behalf of the County. In FY 2021, an amount of \$121,052 was received and distributed for this purpose and it is estimated that \$113,247 will be received in FY 2023.

³ Audit adjustments have been reflected as a decrease of \$710.85 to FY 2021 expenditures to record expenditures in the appropriate fiscal year. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) reflects all audit adjustments in FY 2021. Details of the audit adjustments were found in Attachment VI of the FY 2022 Mid-Year Review.

⁴ Recovered Costs represent billings to Fund 40130, Leaf Collection, for its share of the total administrative costs for the Division of Collection and Recycling. Also included is an amount billed to Fund 40150, Refuse Disposal, for administrative costs for the recycling program, which is coordinated by Fund 40140, Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations.

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⁵ Funding in the amount of \$494,000 is transferred to the General Fund to partially offset central support services supported by the General Fund, which benefit Fund 40140. These indirect costs include support services such as Human Resources, Purchasing, Budget and other administrative services.

⁶ Ending Balance fluctuations are a result of operating and revenue requirements that change annually. Funding is carried forward each fiscal year to provide flexibility given the uncertainty of market conditions and expenditure requirements.

⁷ The Rate Stabilization Reserve provides funds to mitigate against any need for an unusually large rate increase in a future year.

⁸ The Capital Equipment Reserve is for future capital equipment requirements based on replacement value and age of equipment.

⁹ The Operating Reserve is for the purchase/replacement of single-stream recycling and trash collection containers for sanitary district customers, the timely replacement of obsolete computer equipment, and other operating requirements.

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SUMMARY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Total Project Estimate	FY 2021 Actual Expenditures	FY 2022 Revised Budget	FY 2023 Advertised Budget Plan	FY 2023 Adopted Budget Plan
Newington Refuse Facility Enhancements (SW-000001)	\$2,955,833	\$90,147.81	\$966,609.46	\$100,203	\$100,203
Total	\$2,955,833	\$90,147.81	\$966,609.46	\$100,203	\$100,203