

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 strive 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 44,500 residential customers within Fairfax County's sanitary refuse collection districts. The SWMP provides collection services to prevent health and safety hazards including the Community Cleanup Program, the Health Department Referral Program, the Office of the Sheriff's 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.

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 2025 is recommended to increase to \$555 from the FY 2024 rate of \$490. The proposed rate increase will assist SWMP in meeting increased disposal fees, personnel, equipment, and contractual costs necessary to operate the collections programs. Additional rate increases are projected in future fiscal years as the rate stabilization reserve is drawn down. A preliminary rate of \$610 is estimated for FY 2026 and subject to further review with an outside rate consultant.

SWMP County Agency Route Program (CAR) was discontinued effective January 1, 2024. SWMP County Agency Route Program (CAR) was responsible for the collection of refuse and recycling from County agencies and George Mason University. Revenue was 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. This service is now being provided through a private contractor.

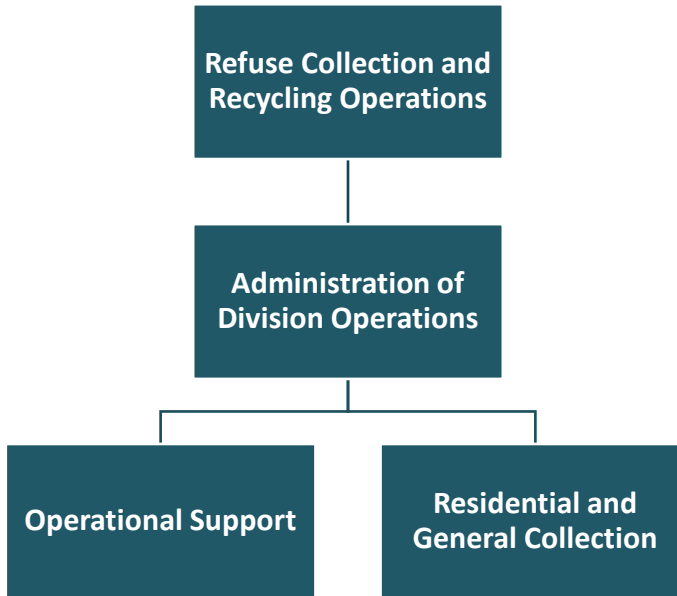
The SWMP operates two programs designed to address oversized piles of waste and illegal dumping throughout the County. The first program, *Bulk Service*, provides sanitary refuse collection district customers with a convenient and cost-competitive way to remove oversized piles of waste while providing 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 2025 Advertised Budget Plan](#) for those items.

Organizational Chart



Budget and Staff Resources

Category	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2024 Revised	FY 2025 Advertised
FUNDING				
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	\$9,037,037	\$10,796,308	\$10,796,308	\$11,386,503
Operating Expenses	11,804,767	11,088,676	11,088,676	13,138,941
Capital Equipment	802,590	2,129,000	3,329,238	1,898,000
Capital Projects	320,848	500,000	1,221,340	235,000
Subtotal	\$21,965,242	\$24,513,984	\$26,435,562	\$26,658,444
Less:				
Recovered Costs	(\$82,245)	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)	(\$73,457)
Total Expenditures	\$21,882,997	\$24,440,527	\$26,362,105	\$26,584,987
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	104 / 104	104 / 104	101 / 101	101 / 101

**FY 2025
Funding
Adjustments**

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2024 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2025 program:

Employee Compensation **\$626,335**
 An increase of \$626,335 in Personnel Services includes \$200,925 for a 2.00 percent market rate adjustment (MRA) for all employees and \$119,629 for performance-based and longevity increases for non-uniformed merit employees, both effective July 2024. The remaining increase of \$305,781 is included to support employee retention and recruitment efforts that will reduce pay compression and align the County's pay structures with the market based on benchmark data.

Operating Expenses **\$2,050,265**
 An increase of \$2,050,265 in Operating Expenses is related to an increase of refuse disposal fees, contracted services for recyclable material and trash collection, and the cost increase in transportation services and vehicle maintenance.

Other Post-Employment Benefits **(\$36,140)**
 A decrease of \$36,140 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 2025 Advertised Budget Plan.

Capital Equipment **(\$231,000)**
 Funding of \$1,898,000 in Capital Equipment reflects a decrease of \$231,000 over the FY 2024 Adopted Budget Plan. In FY 2025, the funding for Capital Equipment includes \$580,000 to replace two Rear-Loading Packers, \$670,000 to replace two Side Loaders, \$53,000 to replace one Pick-up Truck, \$85,000 to replace one Box Truck, \$350,000 to replace one Crane Truck, and \$160,000 to replace one Pack Rat Rear Loading Packer. 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 **(\$265,000)**
 A decrease of \$265,000 in Capital Project reflects reduced funding required in FY 2025 for the infrastructure improvement to the Newington Operations facility.

**Changes to
FY 2024
Adopted
Budget Plan**

The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2024 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2024 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2023 Carryover Review and all other approved changes through December 31, 2023.

Carryover Adjustments **\$1,921,578**
 As part of the *FY 2023 Carryover Review*, the Board of Supervisors approved funding of \$1,921,578 due to \$792,218 in encumbered carryover, an appropriation of \$408,020 for the purchase of two electric rear loaders and chargers, and \$721,340 in unexpended Capital Projects balances.

Position Adjustment **\$0**
 In order to better support the overall Solid Waste Program, 3/3.0 FTE positions were transferred from Fund 40140, Refuse Collection & Recycling Operations, to Fund 40170, I-95 Disposal.

Position Detail

The FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan includes the following positions:

REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OPERATIONS – 101 Positions			
Admin. of Division Operations			
1	Deputy Director, DPWES	1	Human Resources Generalist II
1	PW Environmental Services Manager	1	Human Resources Generalist I
1	Human Resources Generalist III	3	Administrative Assistants IV
1	Financial Specialist III		
Operational Support			
1	PW Environmental Svcs. Specialist	1	Welder II
1	Management Analyst II	1	Administrative Assistant IV
2	Asst. Refuse Superintendents	3	Administrative Assistants III
1	Trades Supervisor	4	Administrative Assistants II
Residential and General Collections			
1	Solid Waste Oper. Div. Director	1	Administrative Assistant IV
1	Safety Analyst II	11	Heavy Equipment Operators
1	Management Analyst II	3	Equipment Repairers
1	Asst. Refuse Superintendent	20	Motor Equipment Operators
1	Senior Maintenance Supervisor	7	Senior Maintenance Workers
3	Heavy Equipment Supervisors	18	Maintenance Workers
4	Lead Refuse Operators		
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 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2024 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan
Beginning Balance	\$4,109,334	\$2,575,213	\$5,550,589	\$3,288,186
Revenue:				
Interest on Investments	\$178,704	\$12,147	\$12,147	\$92,550
Refuse Collection Fees ¹	22,914,153	24,132,357	24,132,357	24,697,500
Sale of Assets and Recyclables	21,117	26,607	26,607	200,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	47,451	18,761	18,761	18,761
Charges for Services	433,367	241,366	241,366	47,687
Replacement Reserve Fees	16,000	16,000	16,000	0
State Litter Funds ²	207,460	146,464	146,464	189,668
Total Revenue	\$23,818,252	\$24,593,702	\$24,593,702	\$25,246,166
Total Available	\$27,927,586	\$27,168,915	\$30,144,291	\$28,534,352
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	\$9,037,037	\$10,796,308	\$10,796,308	\$11,386,503
Operating Expenses	11,804,767	11,088,676	11,088,676	13,138,941
Recovered Costs ³	(82,245)	(73,457)	(73,457)	(73,457)
Capital Equipment	802,590	2,129,000	3,329,238	1,898,000
Capital Projects	320,848	500,000	1,221,340	235,000
Total Expenditures	\$21,882,997	\$24,440,527	\$26,362,105	\$26,584,987
Transfers Out:				
General Fund (10001) ⁴	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$539,815
Total Transfers Out	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$539,815
Total Disbursements	\$22,376,997	\$24,934,527	\$26,856,105	\$27,124,802
Ending Balance⁵	\$5,550,589	\$2,234,388	\$3,288,186	\$1,409,550
Rate Stabilization Reserve ⁶	\$1,387,647	\$558,597	\$822,047	\$352,387
Capital Equipment Reserve ⁷	2,775,295	1,117,194	1,644,093	704,776
Operating Reserve ⁸	1,387,647	558,597	822,046	352,387
Unreserved Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Levy per Household Unit¹	\$475/Unit	\$490/Unit	\$490/Unit	\$555/Unit

¹ The FY 2025 levy/collection fee per household unit will increase from \$490 to \$555 per unit based on additional program requirements. These fees are collected as a separate levy included on the Real Estate Tax bill.

² SWMP receives funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia through 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 2023, an amount of \$207,460 and in FY 2024 an amount of \$146,464 were received and distributed for this purpose. It is estimated that \$189,668 will be received in FY 2025.

³ 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.

⁴ Funding in the amount of \$539,815 is transferred to the General Fund to partially offset central support services supported by the General Fund, which benefits Fund 40140. These indirect costs include support services such as Human Resources, Purchasing, Budget and other administrative services.

⁵ 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.

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⁶ The Rate Stabilization Reserve provides funds to mitigate any need for an unusually large rate increase in a future year.

⁷ The Capital Equipment Reserve is for future capital equipment requirements based on replacement value and age of equipment.

⁸ 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.

Fund 40140: Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Total Project Estimate	FY 2023 Actual Expenditures	FY 2024 Revised Budget	FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan
Newington Refuse Facility Enhancements (SW-000001)	\$3,690,833	\$320,847.94	\$1,221,340.31	\$235,000
Total	\$3,690,833	\$320,847.94	\$1,221,340.31	\$235,000