

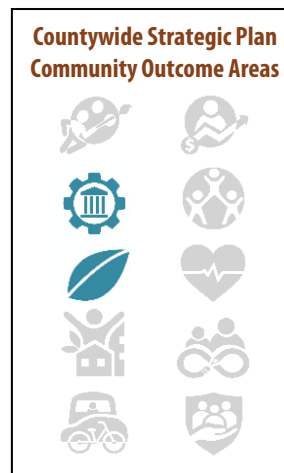
# Solid Waste Management Program Overview

## Mission

To protect the public interest through solid waste management planning and regulatory oversight of the County's refuse ordinances by providing efficient and effective collection, recycling, and disposal of solid waste for customers in an environmentally responsible manner.

## Connection to the Countywide Strategic Plan

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the first-ever Countywide Strategic Plan on October 5, 2021. The Countywide Strategic Plan serves as a road map to help guide future work, focusing on the 10 Community Outcome Areas that represent the issues of greatest importance to the community, and uses the County's One Fairfax policy to invest in people and places that have limited access to opportunity. On February 17, 2026, the fourth Annual Report on the work of the strategic plan was released to the public. The report contains point-in-time progress highlights for each of the community outcome areas, plus a number of additional initiatives to embed the elements of the plan within department-level work. The report also includes eight data dashboards and data stories that are being replicated across all of the outcome areas. In addition to helping engage residents, these dashboards will serve as a resource to leadership who can utilize the data to focus and guide the overall work of the County. For more information on the Countywide Strategic Plan, please visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan). The Solid Waste Management Program primarily supports the following Community Outcome Areas:



Community Outcome Area	Vision Statement
<b>Effective and Efficient Government</b>	<i>All people trust that their government responsibly manages resources, is responsive to their needs, provides exceptional services and equitably represents them.</i>
<b>Environment and Energy</b>	<i>All people live in a healthy sustainable environment.</i>

## Focus

The Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) is responsible for the management and oversight and long-range planning for all refuse collection, recycling, and disposal operations within the County. During FY 2024 and FY 2025, the SWMP developed a new 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan for Fairfax County as required by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The plan is required to show long-range planning for all waste including system capacity. The County's Community Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan has prescribed a goal for Fairfax County to divert 90 percent of all waste from landfill and incineration by 2040.

Following analysis of the current data and the FY 2026 approved rate increases, Fund 40130, Leaf Collection, is projected to remain balanced with no additional rate increase needed in FY 2027. Fund 40140, Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations, and Fund 40170, I-95 Refuse Disposal, are also projected to maintain positive fund balances, requiring only modest annual adjustments of up to five percent to ensure revenues align with expenditures. In contrast, Fund 40150, Refuse Disposal, faces a projected shortfall exceeding \$10 million. To address this, the County is pursuing a

# Solid Waste Management Program Overview

combination of revenue enhancements, operational efficiencies, and cost reductions; however, annual rate increases of approximately nine percent will be required in Fund 40150 for the foreseeable future to sustain financial stability.

Current operations include a County-owned and operated refuse transfer station, two closed municipal solid waste landfills, a regional ash-fill operated by the County, two recycling and disposal facilities, and equipment and facilities for refuse collection, disposal, and recycling operations.

- **Fund 40130, Leaf Collection:** Provides curbside vacuum leaf collection in Fairfax County's designated leaf collection districts. For FY 2027, approximately 25,000 properties are included in these districts. Revenue is generated from a levy on property owners that remained at \$0.019 per \$100 of assessed real estate value in FY 2027.
- **Fund 40140, Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations:** Supports the collection of waste and recycling from approximately 45,600 households within approved sanitary districts. The FY 2027 collection rate increased from \$610 to \$630 per home to cover rising personnel, equipment, and contractual costs.
- **Fund 40150, Refuse Disposal:** Covers operations at the I-66 Transfer Station, which processes refuse from northern and western Fairfax County and transports it to Reworld Fairfax, LLC in Lorton, Virginia. When Reworld is unavailable, waste is sent to alternative landfills. This fund also supports the recycling program. The disposal rate increased from \$90 per ton to \$98 per ton in FY 2027 to address rising labor and contractual costs.

The Recycling Program includes:

- Overall solid waste reduction and recycling initiatives.
- Future recycling programs and waste reduction systems.
- Ensuring sufficient disposal capacity by diverting recyclable items from the waste stream.
- The SWMP operates two staffed recycling locations: one at the I-66 Transfer Station and one at the I-95 Landfill Complex.
- **Fund 40170, I-95 Refuse Disposal:** Funds the operation of the I-95 Landfill Complex, which accepts only ash from waste combustion. The landfill, constructed in four phases, complies with federal and state standards, including double liners and leachate collection systems. The Refuse Disposal fee for FY 2027 is set at \$34.26 per ton. Operational and maintenance costs for environmental controls at the closed portion of the landfill are expected to rise. These activities ensure compliance with permits and environmental regulations.

Detailed descriptions, discussions, and funding requirements for each of the Solid Waste Funds can be found on the pages following the SWMP Overview.

# Solid Waste Management Program Overview

Solid Waste Operations Fee Structure<sup>1</sup>

	Fund 40130, Leaf Collection	Fund 40140, Refuse Collection and Recycling Operations	Fund 40150, Refuse Disposal	Fund 40170, I-95 Refuse Disposal <sup>2</sup>
<b>FY 2027 Fee</b>	\$0.019/\$100 Assessed Property Value	\$630 Curbside	\$98/Ton, System Fee Recycling and Disposal Center	\$34.26/Ton
<b>FY 2026 Fee</b>	\$0.019/\$100 Assessed Property Value	\$610 Curbside	\$90/Ton, System Fee Recycling and Disposal Center	\$34.57/Ton
<b>Who Pays</b>	Leaf District Residents	Sanitary District Residents	Private Collectors, Residents, and County Agencies	Fund 40150 and Participating Jurisdictions

<sup>1</sup> There are numerous special rates that have been negotiated and implemented as needed, which are not reflected in the structure above. Examples include varying miscellaneous charges for yard debris (e.g., brush, grass, and leaves), tires, and others.

<sup>2</sup> The Ash Disposal Rate is set in contract with Reworld and adjusted at the beginning of each fiscal year since the residual disposal rate is escalated after the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is published in early July for each fiscal billing year. The new rate for each fiscal year becomes effective every July after CPI data is available.

## Performance Measurement Results

### Effective and Efficient Government

The program consistently met the targeted service quality measure of 95 percent of its customers rating refuse service as good or better.

### Environment and Energy

The program achieved a recycling rate of 44.7 percent in CY 2025, well above the state-mandated recycling rate of 25 percent. The actual number of tons delivered to the Reworld facility was 718,947 tons in FY 2025. The upgraded facility allows Reworld to have a more efficient way to process waste from SWMP and produce more energy, which is then sold to the local utility company.

# Solid Waste Management Program Overview

Indicator	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
<b>Effective and Efficient Government</b>						
<b>Financial Sustainability and Trustworthiness</b>						
Collection Cost per home collected in the sanitary districts	\$461.13	\$506.95	\$622.98	\$541.92	\$615.58	\$628.26
Cost per ton for disposal operations	\$76.94	\$80.89	\$89.86	\$86.67	\$91.75	\$106.48
<b>Customer Satisfaction with County Services</b>						
Percent of customers or citizens rating refuse services as good or better	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%
Customer satisfaction deviation from 95 percent target	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Environment and Energy</b>						
<b>Supporting Sound Environmental Policy and Practices</b>						
Total tons of sanitary district refuse and recyclables	60,772	58,799	70,000	60,407	70,000	65,000
Did the division meet the mandated recycling rate?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total County tons recycled	466,081	406,387	465,000	440,938	465,000	465,000
Total County recycling rate	47.60%	43.90%	47.00%	44.70%	47.00%	45.00%
Tons of material delivered to Reworld	702,175	727,415	700,000	718,947	700,000	720,000

A complete list of performance measures can be viewed at  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2027-adopted-performance-measures-pm>