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Chapter

4

Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Objectives

Incorporating the Overall Objectives for Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program in the SWMP

This chapter presents the overall objectives for Fairfax County in developing its future solid waste management (SWM) Program and discusses the manner by which the SWMP actions accomplish these objectives for the planning period.

Objectives

Fairfax County's future SWM Program has the following objectives:

- Reduce the volume of the solid waste stream through the implementation of waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Maintain a balanced SWM system which benefits the community while following regulatory requirements.
- Provide efficient and economical refuse collection, recycling, and disposal services.
- Provide facilities for the sanitary, efficient and economical reception and transportation of solid waste generated in Fairfax County.
- Provide for the operation of sanitary waste disposal facilities, utilizing the most economically viable and environmentally acceptable methods available.
- Provide regulatory oversight of the county's ordinances regarding solid waste.

Manner in Which the Objectives are Accomplished

Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Strategy

Fairfax County's Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling (DSWCR) and Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery (DSWDRR) administer the county's SWM Program. These divisions facilitate the execution of the SWM Program objectives by:

- Maintaining and enhancing an integrated SWM strategy.
- Continuing to seek financial viability through sound financial practices.
- Maintaining a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce through internal process improvements.
- Improving customer service through enhanced awareness, better working relationships, and a stronger workforce.
- Engaging the community and protecting the environment through regulatory enforcement, certification, and community dialogue.

Source Reduction and Reuse

Fairfax County is selecting SWMP actions that maximize source reduction and reuse in order to minimize waste generation. Fairfax County, following the SWM hierarchy, considers source reduction followed by reuse as the preferred method of waste management. Both source reduction and reuse help reduce waste disposal and handling requirements, reducing costs and decreasing resource use.

Fairfax County's SWMP actions for source reduction and reuse will help accomplish the SWM objectives by:

- Expanding source reduction and reuse programs in Fairfax County to minimize waste generation.
- Promoting public/private partnerships to increase program efficiency and minimize county costs.
- Increasing public awareness to increase participation in source reduction and reuse initiatives.

Recycling

Fairfax County is selecting SWMP actions that increase recycling opportunities in the county in order to minimize waste disposal requirements. Fairfax County, following the SWM hierarchy, prefers solid waste recycling to disposal methods of waste management. Recycling

appropriate materials helps reduce the environmental affects of waste disposal, produces revenue, reduces SWM system costs, and saves energy and natural resources.

Fairfax County's SWMP actions for recycling will help accomplish the SWM objectives by:

- Increasing overall recycling quantities in Fairfax County to reduce the amount of material to dispose of.
- Expanding types of materials collected and recycled to increase recycling quantities, e.g. collecting cardboard, plastic bottles, and mixed paper curbside.
- Revising county ordinances to support increased recycling by businesses and other provisions.
- Supporting facilities for the sanitary, efficient and economical management of recyclables.
- Promoting public/private partnerships to increase program efficiency and minimize county costs.
- Increasing public awareness to increase participation in recycling initiatives.

Collection

Fairfax County is selecting SWMP actions that promote an efficient, effective, and environmentally sound refuse and recyclables collection system. Fairfax County's primary objective for the future of its collection system is to ensure all residents receive first-rate trash collection services.

Fairfax County's SWMP actions for collection will help accomplish the SWM objectives by:

- Providing excellent customer service to all residents of the county.
- Partnering with waste collection companies and other stakeholders to address service issues identified during the development of this Plan.
- Strengthening and enforcing the Fairfax County Code.
- Developing cooperative agreements to handle waste generated by disasters or emergencies.
- Evaluating the use of lower emissions fuels for collection vehicles.

- Developing consistent messages for public outreach about recycling and collection of waste.

Transfer

Fairfax County is selecting SWMP actions that continue to provide facilities for the sanitary, efficient and economical reception and transfer of solid waste generated in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County's SWMP actions for transfer will help accomplish the SWM objectives by:

- Providing disposal capacity at the I-66 Transfer Station for solid waste at reasonable costs.
- Consolidating wastes generated in the county at the I-66 Transfer Station or other locations, reducing travel time and distances that smaller collection vehicles must travel.
- Improving system efficiency by consolidating waste loads provided by smaller trucks into larger trailers for transport to the waste-to-energy facility (Energy Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF)) at the I-95 Landfill Complex or to out-of-county landfills, thus reducing truck traffic and air emissions.
- Increasing efficiency, customer safety, and potentially increasing recycling by reconfiguring or constructing new waste handling areas at the transfer facilities.
- Enhancing the screening and sorting done at the transfer facilities to increase recycling of CDD and other materials.
- Supporting potential waste exchanges with neighboring jurisdictions by the ability to transport waste to and from other facilities.

Disposal

Fairfax County is selecting SWMP actions that continue to provide for the operation of sanitary waste disposal facilities, using the most economically viable and environmentally acceptable methods available. Fairfax County's SWMP actions for disposal will help accomplish this SWM objective by securing cost-effective and environmentally sound disposal capacity for county-generated wastes over the SWMP planning period. County waste will continue to be managed within the county or as part of waste exchanges or recycling programs.

Fairfax County's SWMP actions for disposal will help accomplish the SWM objectives by:

- Continuing to use the E/RRF after negotiating a new contract with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. when the current agreement expires in 2011.
- Maintaining sufficient waste quantities to maximize efficiency and meet contractual requirements of operating the E/RRF.
- Contracting for out-of-county landfill space for any contingency or emergency disposal requirements that occur above the ability of the E/RRF to meet.
- Negotiating with out-of-county landfills for all the disposal capacity that the county requires, should a satisfactory agreement not be reached with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. to continue to use the E/RRF after 2011.