



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## Collectors' Meeting via MS TEAMS February 13, 2025

### **SWMP STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Herrington  
Matt Adams  
Lainie Cooke  
Susan Davidson  
Charles Forbes  
Conrad Mehan  
Brooke Nielsen  
Catie Torgersen  
Prabhjot Usmani  
Carlos Leiva

### **COLLECTORS PRESENT:**

Dan Ciesla (Republic)  
AJ Costigan (KmG)  
Jack Debell (Republic)  
Jeff Edwards (Evergreen)  
John Kay (Evergreen)  
Phillip LeMaster (Garby)  
Thomai Nassiri (Patriot)  
Gustavo Ramirez (Trash Away)  
Joel Washok (Waste Connections)

Rob Ratcliffe (Gettier)  
Larry Foster (Evergreen)  
Daniel Dumas (Republic)  
Brad Dennen (Apple Valley Waste)  
Steve Simoneau (Elite Disposal)  
Brandon Cook (Waste Not Want Not)  
Marc Shaener (JLT Trucking)  
Jordan Berkley (Waste Connections)  
Tracy Lane (Prime Disposal)  
Vernice Colley (JLT Trucking)  
Cheryl Freeman (Trash Away)  
Byron Rodriguez (Waste Management)

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Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Program

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Tad Phillips  
Elite Disposal Services  
Anonymous

## **NOTES:**

### **Introduction**

Catie Torgersen welcomed everyone and acknowledged the attendance of Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) staff.

### **Operations**

Suzie Davidson let everyone know that SWMP will extend operating hours at the I-66 Transfer Station on Saturday, February 15, due to the inclement weather. She also conveyed that Reworld has scheduled spring outages March 2, 2025, through March 23, 2025, and April 6, 2025, through April 27, 2025. She confirmed that there may be longer lines at Reworld and/or the I-66 Transfer Station, but the county will keep collectors informed.

### **Permitting**

Lainie Cooke reminded everyone that the Four Touch Points content for the first quarter was made available in January. 4TP distribution must be completed by March 31. Brooke Nielson has assumed permitting duties and correspondence will now come from her. There are six Sanitary District petitions moving forward to a public hearing in May- four for leaf collection removal and two for enlargement. One of the enlargement petitions is for one lot and the other for eight lots.

Conrad Mehan noted that SWMP staff will no longer attach documents to CTO application packages. CTO applications should include all required documents. Conrad also provided a summary of the Sanitary Districts for those new to the market.

### **Enforcement**

Charlie shared the attached presentation with reminders on the required base level of service and required notification for changes in rates and/or fees. He highlighted relevant sections in Chapter 109.1 of the Fairfax County Code. Collectors can't provide refuse collection only; they must also provide recyclables collection. Collectors also can't unbundle refuse and recycling service, charge extra for recycling, or offer a discount for "refuse only." SWMP staff can provide guidance on unusual service requests from customers and help with problematic customers. Residential customers must be notified in writing of all changes in collection rates, charges, and fees. Both residential customers and SWMP must be given 30 days' written notice of increases

in rates and charges. The notice should include the amount of the increase. Collectors cannot charge more than \$25.00 to recover containers from residences. To reach out to Charlie or his team, see the contact information in the attached presentation. Conrad asked if these requirements apply to commercial collection. Charlie clarified that requirements only apply to residential collections.

Dan Ciesla asked if the notice submitted to the county with the rate increases can be FOIAed. He noted that rate increases are proprietary data. Matt Adams and Chris Herrington replied that the county will investigate the question, consult with the county attorney's office and colleagues, and provide a response.

### **Annual Recycling Report**

Prabhjot Usmani reminded everyone that the deadline to submit Annual Recycling Report data is March 1, 2025. This year, collectors should submit data via the [new online form](#).

### **Safety**

Catie asked attendees to please review the safety alerts in the most recent *At Your Disposal* newsletter and reach out to Christopher Cole with any questions.

### **Unified Sanitation Districts**

Matt provided an overview of the Unified Sanitation Districts (USD) proposal discussed at the December 2024 Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee. The Board of Supervisors will vote on moving forward with the five-year displacement period following a public hearing in June 2025. USD is contract collection for residential areas in the county. If the Board votes to move forward with displacement, the county would conduct outreach and engagement with stakeholders, including collectors, regarding implementation.

Jeff Edwards mentioned the press release said commercial was included as well. For clarity, here is the [county press release](#) which mentions residential only.

Phillip LeMaster asked if, as a county resident, he would be taxed with the five-year displacement period and then get a rebate if USD are not implemented. Matt Adams clarified that the zero waste fee being discussed is for projects and programs that SWMP would like to implement. It is separate from USD and could be used to help build a compost facility, develop zero waste centers, and other services. The zero waste fee has not been approved by the Board.

Dan Ciesla asked for confirmation that the five-year displacement period is tied to the displacement of private waste companies required by state law. Matt Adams confirmed and

explained that the Board can elect not to go implement USD or change directives during the period.

Tad Phillips asked if there will be a Board or Supervisors vote in June. Matt noted that SWMP plans to schedule a public hearing at a June Board of Supervisors meeting.

Jeff Edwards commented that the five-year notice is for small haulers to plan for losing their business. Collectors can't invest in new trucks or equipment. They cannot wait to see if they get a contract under USD. By the end of the five-year period, small collectors will be out of business. Jeff asked if the county understands the impact of the five-year displacement period on small collectors.

Chris Herrington responded that SWMP does understand the impact. The Board would like more local control. They have directed staff to preserve that option, which SWMP cannot do unless the county starts the five-year displacement window required by Virginia law. The Board has not provided directions on procurement or consideration for small or disadvantaged businesses. At the December Board Environmental Committee Meeting, SWMP staff recommended providing specific considerations for small and disadvantaged businesses.

Phillip LeMaster echoed Jeff Edwards' concerns regarding small collector impacts. With the five-year displacement notice, he notes that his business will be worth nothing.

Chris Herrington reiterated that the Board directed staff to bring forward USD and the five-year displacement at the Board Environmental Committee meetings (archived [here](#)). Collectors can speak to their elected officials as business owners and as members of the regulated community.

Larry Foster questioned how the county could propose USD without a plan. Chris Herrington replied that SWMP is following the direction that the Board of Supervisors has provided.

Phillip LeMaster asked about the proposed 60 new county staff positions for enforcement. Matt Adams clarified that the county would need fewer enforcement personnel for residential USD. He pointed out that SWMP currently only has three enforcement positions.

John Kay asked what the process is to get out of the current sanitation district program. Lainie Cooke walked through the [petition process](#). She stated that the residents are responsible for getting the petition signatures.

Steve Simoneau requested the date of the public hearing. Matt Adams and Chris Herrington said that they don't have the exact date, but it will be publicized once available. Chris also summarized that the Board would have a public hearing for public input then vote on initiating the five-year displacement period per Virginia law. It is possible that the Board could make the decision to proceed, proceed with additional direction, defer the decision, or not to proceed.

Chris Herrington noted he is the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services and provided his contact information.

**Adjourn**

Matt Adams closed the meeting after noting the date and time of the next Collectors' Meeting.

**Next Meeting Date**

May 15, 2025, at 5:00 pm via TEAMS.

Link and meeting agenda to be sent out approximately one week prior to the meeting.

# Reminders On Required Base Level of Service and Fees

Review for Collector's Meeting, February 13, 2025

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
*Working for You!*



A Fairfax County, VA, publication  
February 13, 2025

# Base Level of Service

**109.1-5-3(d)** – The base price for any collection contract shall include the minimum level of service unless otherwise approved by the Director. The minimum level of service for collection by material type shall be as follows:

- (1) **Refuse:** For residential customers, weekly removal of all refuse that is set out and prepared in accordance with [Section 109.1-5-3\(c\)](#). For non-residential customers, weekly collection is required unless specifically approved by the Director in writing.
- (2) **Recyclable Materials:** weekly removal of all recyclable materials from residential and non-residential customers properly prepared and set out. Other collection frequencies may be adopted for containerized and non-residential recycling service through application for and approval of an alternative recycling system.
- (3) **Yard waste from single-family and townhouse residential units, including brush:** from March 1 to December 24, weekly removal for recycling of up to ten individual paper bags, reusable containers, or bundles. Yard waste may be limited to individual pieces or bundles of no greater than 50 pounds in weight, four feet in length, and no piece larger than six inches in diameter. Yard waste set out for collection shall not be placed in plastic bags. Outside this period, yard waste may be collected with refuse.
- (4) **Christmas trees from single-family and townhouse residential units:** removal and recycling of all trees of less than 8 feet in length that are set out during the first two weeks of January.



# Base Level of Service (continued)

## The Simplified Version

- Collectors can't provide refuse collection only – must also provide recyclables collection.
- Collectors can't “unbundle” refuse and recycling service and can't charge extra for recycling or offer a discount for “refuse only” or otherwise non-compliant service (e.g., less than weekly collection).
- SWMP can help with problematic customers - recycling is mandatory for them too!
- For unusual service requests by customers, it's always better to ask SWMP for guidance ahead of time. SWMP Enforcement are the best people to ask - see Mario, Courtney, or Charlie.





# Changes In Schedule & Service Fees

## 109.1-5-9 - Rates and Charges for Residential Collection.

- a) Collection companies shall explicitly notify residential customers in writing of all rates, charges, and fees (including, but not limited to, fuel surcharges, environmental fees, equipment recovery fees, and service cancellation fees) that will be billed as part of the service provided or at termination of that service. Such notification shall be made prior to commencement of service.
- b) Rates and charges shall be increased only after each residential customer and the Director have been given 30 days' written notice in advance. Such notice shall include the amount of the increase. A rate change shall be deemed invalid if the collector fails to provide this notification.
- c) All notifications to the Director required by this Section shall include evidence that all affected customers have been notified.
- d) No refuse or recycling collector shall charge a fee greater than \$25.00 to remove its containers from a customer's residence. (13-15-109.1.)



# Changes In Schedule & Service Fees

## The Simplified Version

- Collectors can't change collection schedules w/o giving 30 days' notice\*.
- Collectors can't change service fees or introduce surcharges w/o giving 30 days' notice.
- Required notices must go to the customers **AND** to SWMP.
- Collectors must provide proof/written certification that required notices have been sent.
- Required change notices should stand out – can't be buried somewhere on the bill.
- Schedule or rate changes w/o proper notice will be deemed invalid by SWMP.

***It's improper to assign SWMP as the reason for schedule or rate changes unless it's true.***

\* - Exceptions are allowed for inclement weather and/or County-declared emergencies.



**For additional information, please contact**

**SWMP Enforcement**

**703-324-5230**

**[trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)**

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