

At Your Disposal – Quarterly News You Can Use

Fourth Quarter Edition – November 2025

COLLECTORS' MEETINGS

Happy Fall! The Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) invites all licensed waste collectors to join us in regular and timely discussions about safety, compliance, customer communications, and any topical issues that come up throughout the year.

At our last meeting on August 14, 2025, we provided guidelines to stay safe during hot summer months and while on site, as well as provided updates to the CTO renewal process and sanitary district application process. We discussed various initiatives including a waste characterization study, a food waste collection pilot, and the review of CY2024 recycling data. We also discussed two ongoing requirements for collectors, including to provide recycling collection as part of the base level of service and to notify customers as well as SWMP regarding changes in services, accounts, and/or fees/rates.

SAFETY FIRST

 **Wet Leaf Awareness Season**  Wet leaves create slick conditions that reduce traction for both vehicles and boots. A loss of grip can lead to slips, falls, or loss of control when turning or braking.  **On-Foot Safety:** Always maintain three points of contact—two hands + one foot, or two feet + one hand. Test surfaces before committing your full weight; avoid leaf piles whenever possible.  **Personal Protection:** Wear grip-rated gloves and slip-resistant safety footwear to improve traction and protect against hidden debris. Wipe boots before re-entering the cab to avoid tracking slippery materials inside.  **Remember!** Slow down, take your time, and maintain traction awareness to prevent injuries and keep operations running smoothly. 

 **I-66 Transfer Station Parking Rules**  Drive lanes, crosswalks, and fire lanes are never parking areas. These zones must remain open at all times to allow safe traffic flow and emergency access. If you have paperwork to complete or need to use the portable restrooms, pull into the truck inspection area. If no parking is available, you must keep moving until space opens.   **Safety & Compliance Check:** We are actively patrolling to ensure compliance and protect everyone on site. Let's keep traffic flow efficient and safe. 

🚫 **Distracted Driving Awareness** 📱 We continue to observe texting and driving at the I-66 Transfer Station. Using a phone while behind the wheel, *even for a moment*, takes your eyes off the road and hands off the controls, *putting everyone at risk*. ⚡ **Texting while driving is strictly prohibited on County property.** Handle all communication only when parked safely. 🚫

PERMITTING UPDATES

FOUR TOUCH POINTS (4TP)

- ✓ 4th Quarter touch point is due by December 31, 2025. More information here: [Four Touch Points Initiative | Public Works and Environmental Services](#)

CERTIFICATES TO OPERATE (CTO) & DISPOSAL PERMITS

- We continue work on developing an online permit feature via our SWMP website to minimize the need for collectors to visit the I-66 Permit Office in person. Our goal is to have this feature operational in 2026.
- Based on feedback from collectors whose loads consist primarily of dry waste, we are weighing the option of keeping the I-66 facility on West Ox road open on Sundays, during posted hours. We will be reaching out in the next few weeks to both CTO and Disposal Permit holders to gauge your interest and estimated need.

SANITARY DISTRICT UPDATES

- Five Sanitary District petitions went to public hearing on October 14, 2025. One petition has been deferred, and the public hearing will take place on November 18, 2025.

ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Multi-Family Housing Requirements

Chapter 109.1 requires that the owners (or their designees) of multi-family housing (MFH) provide a waste management and recycling system that meets the following general criteria:

1. Residents/tenants can recycle cardboard, mixed paper, metal food and beverage containers, plastic bottles and jugs, and scrap metal.
2. The refuse and recyclables storage containers must be large enough or be collected frequently enough that there is no need for material to be placed on the ground or in the wrong container.

3. Containers must be:
 - a. Well-signed with easy access;
 - b. Recycling containers must be as convenient to the user as refuse containers;
 - c. Containers must be emptied at a minimum of once per week.
 - d. Refuse containers of two cubic yards and above must be accompanied by a recycling container of at least 25% of the volume of the refuse container.
 - e. Containers must be clearly marked with the owner's contact information, name, phone number, and type of materials accepted.
4. Litter, loose refuse, and spillage around the containers must be cleaned up within 24 hours. Containers must be rodent and insect resistant, free of foul odors, and watertight to prevent leakage.
5. Residents/tenants must be provided with information on how to recycle upon occupancy, and annually thereafter.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

I-66 TRANSFER STATION

Over the next few months there are several capital projects currently scheduled for the I-66 Transfer Station that could impact collectors. Notice will be sent to the collectors once the schedule has been finalized.

- Pit 2 Repairs – Repairs to the Pit 2 are estimated for mid to late November and will take approximately 2 weeks. Impacts to collectors is expected to be minimal.
- Scale Repairs – Repairs to the concrete ramp at the commercial scales located at the Transfer Station building will take approximately 3 weeks. Traffic will be re-directed and one scale will be non-operational during this time.

OPERATIONS REMINDERS

I-66 TRANSFER STATION

Scale Procedures: Drivers should slow down and stop prior to pulling onto the scale. Additionally, CTOs must inform scale staff about the load's origin and material type. If drivers are unable to dump a load for any reason, drivers must return to the scale.

Fire Lane Rules: No standing or parking in fire lanes is permitted.

Yard Waste Schedule:

- Weekly removal (March 1 - December 24) allows for up to ten bags, containers, or bundles.
- Yard waste outside this period may be collected with regular refuse.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Last quarter, we discussed our continued efforts to conduct waste characterization studies. One objective of these studies is to identify recyclable materials in the waste stream that may be diverted/sorted at the point of generation, collection, or disposal. We are reviewing the feasibility of diverting/sorting non-putrescible refuse such as wood, metal, cardboard, inert material, shingles, furniture, and carpet. We expect further outreach to those collectors who are the most active in collecting such material and implement a possible pilot project in late 2026.

ANNUAL RECYCLING DATA REVIEW

In August, the SWMP Sustainability Team initiated an audit of recycling data submitted for CY2024. Our review process included comparing the information submitted for this audit to that submitted for the Annual Recycling Report in March 2025. We also sought to verify the information provided by collectors with the end processor(s) listed. On October 13, 2025, we notified all collectors of our findings and requested any additional information needed (i.e., in the event of numerous discrepancies and/or inability to verify the information provided in September).

FAIRFAX RECYCLES DAY

Please share with your customers that they will be able to recycle e-waste, household batteries (single-use and rechargeable), glass bottles and jars, books, and other items **for free** on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025 at the Backlick Road VRE Parking Lot (6900 Hechinger Drive in Springfield, VA) from 11AM-3PM. We will also have a Touch-A-Truck for families to check out. Flyer in multiple languages under separate cover. More information here: [Fairfax Recycles Day 2025 | Public Works and Environmental Services](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

NEXT COLLECTORS' MEETING

Please save the date for the First Quarter Collectors' Meeting next year on **Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, at 5 PM** via TEAMS. Email with link will be sent out under separate cover.