

**Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Waste Management Division
2011 Recycling Report**

The primary agency responsible for the County's recycling programs is the Department of Environmental Resources, Waste Management Division's, Recycling Section. Recycling in Prince George's County remains voluntary, with the exception of multifamily properties. Mandatory apartment recycling legislation continues to be monitored and enforced for multifamily buildings containing three or more dwelling units. Business reporting, under certain circumstances is also mandatory and continues to be enforced. Through improved reporting by recycling processors, most business reporting is required of larger businesses that direct market their recycling to end users.

In Calendar Year 2010, Prince George's County achieved a waste diversion rate of 45.35%, surpassing the State's mandate under the Maryland Recycling Act to recycle 20%, and surpassing the State's voluntary goal of a 40% diversion rate. The County has always surpassed the required 35% recycling rate, as mandated under County Law (CB-58-1989). The County continues to expand ways to promote source reduction initiatives and has received the maximum 5% waste diversion credit in 2010. The Calendar Year 2011 MRA Recycling Report has not yet been released by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

CURBSIDE SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING PROGRAM

The County sponsored curbside recycling program now services approximately 165,000 single family households. This program has been servicing County residents since 1990, as a dual stream collection process. In 2007, Prince George's County made a significant commitment to increasing recycling in the County by embracing Single-Stream Recycling. The County invested time and resources to ensure that this decision would be a step forward in recycling. In 2007, the County's Materials Recycling Facility was converted from a dual stream processing facility to a single-stream processing facility. In 2010, new collection contracts were awarded for the collection of single-stream recyclables and the County completed delivery of 165,000 64-gallon, wheeled carts with lids to residents for curbside collection service. The 22-gallon recycling bins may still be used in conjunction with or instead of the carts. Results indicate that single-stream collection has increased the participation rate by 11% and overall curbside recycling rate by 51%. The types of materials now collected at curbside include:

- All paper products including, paper, newspaper with inserts, paper board, corrugated cardboard, wrapping paper, craft paper and bags, hard and soft bound books, catalogs, magazines, telephone books
- Food and beverage containers (aluminum and bi-metal cans, glass bottles and jars, all plastic containers #1 through #7)
- Aluminum foil and trays
- Aseptic/gable-top milk and juice cartons

- Plastic grocery bags, shrink wrap and stretch-film which are inserted into a plastic bag and tied
- Wire and plastic coat hangers
- Small sized rigid plastics such as nursery flower pots and small toys
- Empty aerosol cans

The County contracts four recycling haulers to make weekly collections between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All materials collected in the curbside program are delivered to the County owned Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) located in Capitol Heights, Maryland. The facility is operated under a contract between the County and Waste Management-Recycle America Incorporated. The renovated facility is now capable of processing over 600 tons of recyclables per day.

MULTIFAMILY RECYCLING PROGRAM

Apartments

Prince George's County law provides that all apartment owners and managers of multifamily properties with three or more dwelling units must provide convenient recycling programs for their residents. Properties consisting of 100 or more units must have an approved recycling plan on file with the Department of Environmental Resources. The property owners are responsible for maintaining their programs and for promoting them to their residents. While recycling by the residents is voluntary, the property owners are responsible for providing the opportunity to recycle. It is also required that the property owners report yearly recycling tonnages to the County. Staff from the Recycling Section will assist property owners with educational materials and by providing technical assistance in planning and maintaining effective multifamily recycling programs.

Over 600 properties throughout the County are monitored for compliance. In instances where an apartment owner has failed to maintain the recycling program, violation notices are issued. In most cases, when a complaint is received from a resident that they have no recycling program available, investigations reveal that the program is available, but the owner or manager has not sufficiently informed the new residents about recycling opportunities. Education is a major component of the mandated recycling program, and the County enforces this aspect. This program ensures that all of the County's residents have an equal opportunity to recycle. Property managers and owners have also been provided with information about single-stream recycling. Typically, collection costs and maintenance costs can be reduced by converting to single-stream collections. With less complicated rules for the residents and possible cost savings for the owners, it is anticipated that recycling from this sector will also increase over the next several years.

Condominiums

Generally, most condominium homes in the County are collected through the curbside program. However, nearly 15,000 condominium units are garden-style and are difficult to collect through the curbside program. As an alternative, the County developed a program which

enables garden-style condominium associations to contract directly with their own recycling haulers. The County, through a legal agreement, reimburses the association and the condominium owners for the cost of their recycling program. Currently, approximately 5,000 condominium units participate in this program. Condominiums are eligible to participate in the County's program, even if they are located within municipalities that do not participate in the County's curbside program. Single-stream recycling information has been provided to all of the licensed recycling contractors in the area. With this information available to them, many of the condominium programs will have begun to collect their recycling single-stream. By adopting single-stream, many of the condominiums will need fewer collection containers within their communities. In some instances, it is anticipated that some properties will start programs in their communities for the first time, as space issues that previously prevented recycling can be successfully addressed.

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

Commercial recycling continues to contribute over two-thirds of all of the recycling tonnages reported to the State throughout the years. Over 270,000 tons of recyclable materials were recovered from the Commercial Waste Stream in Prince George's County in calendar year 2010. This includes large portions of corrugated containers, white and mixed office paper, aluminum and steel cans, wood pallets, compost, and textiles recovered from industrial sources.

Commercial recycling efforts sponsored by the Recycling Section include providing technical assistance to businesses on how to start recycling programs. Staff from the Section visit the business site and assess the "recyclability" of the waste stream and provide information concerning markets for the materials that can be recycled. Information is also provided concerning local recycling haulers and ways to reduce their overall waste stream through source reduction practices. The most significant change to business recycling has been the promotion of single-stream collections for the commercial sector. The principals for single-stream collections apply to businesses as well as the residential sector. In some ways, by allowing all materials to be collected in one container, recycling programs for smaller businesses are easier to plan. The Recycling Section also provides educational materials to employees concerning how to prepare materials for recycling and offer advice concerning procurement of products made from recycled materials.

COUNTY OFFICE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The County Office Recycling Program (CORP) was expanded in October 2011 and is now using a single-stream collection system similar to the County's curbside program. The program now collects from over 75 County and some State facilities located in the County. Offices were equipped with new single-stream containers. An educational and awareness global email was distributed electronically to County personnel and a newly designed single-stream CORP program poster was strategically placed within office buildings. An increase in participation and tonnages are anticipated. In Calendar year 2011, over 150 tons of recyclables were collected from these facilities. In addition to the single stream program, used toner cartridges are also collected in County facilities.

SOURCE REDUCTION

Prince George's County's recycling programs incorporates and encourages source reduction and reuse. Source reduction has proven economical benefits for consumers and has positive environmental impacts. Source reduction, also known as waste reduction, waste prevention or pollution prevention, is eliminating waste before it is created. It involves the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials and products to reduce the amount of toxicity that is thrown away.

The Waste Management's Division's Recycling Section is committed to reducing and eliminating waste before it is ever started. Source Reduction can result in substantial savings through reduced purchasing and disposal costs. Waste prevention also has environmental benefits including reduced energy consumption and pollution, conservation of natural resources, and less dependency on landfilling. The Recycling Section includes source reduction educational information in all of its public outreach materials including the Division's webpage, advertisements, and brochures, includes source reduction tips within special displays, and discusses source reduction in presentations. The business sector is also provided assessment, technical assistance, and recommendations on how to reduce waste. The Recycling Section coordinates and partners with the County's Procurement Office and Reuse centers to notify County contractors, residents and businesses where they can donate unwanted building materials for reuse. The Recycling Section is committed to working County-wide in incorporating source reduction education and implementing source reduction.

CONVENIENCE CENTERS (DROP-OFF CENTERS)

With the expansion of curbside recycling throughout the County, the importance of both private for-profit and non-profit drop-off facilities has diminished. Still, the County operates two drop-off locations for residents at the Brown Station Road and Missouri Avenue Convenience Centers. A third drop-off is in the planning stages and will be located in the southern portion of the County. The two existing drop-offs have been updated to allow for single stream collection of all materials currently being accepted in the County's curbside program. These centers also provide residents with the opportunity to recycle their Christmas trees, car batteries, used oil and antifreeze, and large rigid plastic materials, such as large toys and outdoor furniture. Residents may deliver scrap metal to the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill for recycling or if they wish to sell scrap metal there are several privately owned recycling facilities located throughout the County. Ultimately, the drop-offs serve to compliment the County's curbside program. Most of the materials collected at the County sponsored drop-offs are processed at the County's Materials Recycling Facility.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Recycling Section's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection program is important in reducing the amount of hazardous materials that might otherwise inadvertently end up in the County's waste disposal facilities. The materials collected at this site are those materials typically used by homeowners to clean and paint their homes, control household pests or garden insects, and fertilize their yards. In addition to cleaning agents, and pesticides,

insecticides and herbicides, the County contracts with a licensed hazardous materials contractor to also collect items such as, lead and mercury batteries, used oil and petroleum products, inoperative smoke detectors, empty propane tanks, and other potentially hazardous materials found in and around the home. All of the materials are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, and those items which can be reused or recycled, such as lead batteries are delivered for recycling. While latex paint is non-hazardous and residents are highly encouraged to donate left-over or unused paint or to allow the paint to dry for disposal with their regular trash, currently latex paint is being accepted at the HHW facility. The Recycling Section is working with non-profit organizations for the possibility of accepting latex paint which assists the poor and/or the homeless. Since 2007, the County has maintained the Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Facility located at the Brown Station Road Landfill. It is open three days a week for the citizens and residents of the County to properly dispose of their potentially hazardous materials. The County also provides front door pickup of hazardous materials to seniors and physically challenged who are unable to take their materials to the site. This site is managed through the County's hazardous waste contractor. The County removes an average of 800 tons of household hazardous waste per year from the waste stream.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The County continues to operate an electronics recycling program to deal with the problem of outdated computers, monitors, televisions, and other related electronic equipment. As technology advances, obsolete equipment is being thrown away. Recently, the television industry changed from analog to digital broadcasting and the impact on the waste stream has been alarming. While the land filling of these items has not been banned, the County continues to help reduce the flow of this waste to the landfill. The electronics drop-off is located inside the Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Facility at the Brown Station Road Landfill. About 95% of the materials collected here, including televisions, monitors, CPU's, copiers, fax machines, mice, keyboards etc. are either reused through charitable donations or recycled. County residents may take their obsolete equipment to the site three days per week (Thursday – Saturday). In 2010, over 350 tons of electronics were collected at this location.

YARD WASTE

Composting of leaves and grass, and wood waste recycling contributed over 60,000 tons of recyclable materials in 2010. Approximately 50% of this total came from the residential sector. Curbside collection of leaves, grass, small brush, and Christmas trees is accomplished through County contracted waste haulers. Over 154,000 homes receive yard waste collection.

The materials are delivered by County contractors to the County's Western Branch Yard Waste Composting Facility located in Upper Marlboro. Once delivered, the material is processed through a shredder and screened to remove contaminants. The clean yard waste is placed in windrows to compost and, within a year, is available for marketing to landscapers and retail distributors. This material is marketed under the Leafgro trademark and is sold in bulk from this facility. Larger, woody materials such as Christmas trees and tree limbs are also delivered to the site. This material is processed through a large tub grinder. Much of this material is used as a bulking agent in the composting process. Over the past eleven years, the

County has sponsored a Mulch-Giveaway Event where residents can obtain free mulch derived from their recycled Christmas trees. The mulch event is eagerly anticipated and has become one of the County's most popular recycling activities.

SCRAP TIRES, WHITE GOODS AND SCRAP METAL

Additional programs, which contribute to the County's recycling rate, include scrap tire recycling, white goods (appliances) and scrap metal recycling. During Calendar year 2011, over 390 tons of tires were collected for recycling or disposal at the Brown Station Road Landfill. Some of the tires are transferred from the staging area at the landfill to be recycled, and others are used as fuel for cement kilns or in other waste to energy plants. Only a small portion of the tires that are used for fuel or incineration is counted towards recycling.

White goods and scrap metal collected in the County, through the County's bulky trash collections and those delivered by municipalities or by the private sector to the Brown Station Road staging area, are delivered to a metal processing facility where they are shredded and sold to an end user. The County has a contract with the Maryland Environmental Service, which provides the safe removal of CFCs and other potentially hazardous materials from the white goods before they are shipped for processing. This program provided over 800 tons to the recycling rate for 2011.

SPECIAL EVENT RECYCLING

In 2009, the County Council passed Resolution CR-67-2009 encouraging recycling at County sponsored events and activities with the objective and goal for recycling to reduce waste and extend the life of the landfill capacity, and thereby protecting the County's environment and meeting its goal for recycling. Departments within the County typically contact the Recycling Section for assistance, including providing collection containers and pick-up service. The Recycling Section also provides additional recycling collection boxes and special pick-up services for Clean Your Files Day at County offices, when requested.

Over the past couple of years, there have been an increasing number of requests made to the County to provide recycling services at special events hosted by community organizations and/or non-profit organization for events such as community clean ups, Earth Day celebrations, and festivals. Most of the requests are directed to the Waste Management Division's Recycling Section and Collections Section to coordinate containers and collection for recyclables. These requests have been very popular and typically roll-off containers for recycling are now reserved a year in advance. The Waste Management Division is presently doing all it can to accommodate these types of requests.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Central to an educational program is the development of consistent, easily identifiable themes and logos. One such theme, the universal recycling chasing arrows and the Department of Environmental Resources logo, have been used on the educational and promotional pieces produced. The County utilizes various media, including television, radio, and the internet, to

promote its programs and educate the public about the benefits of recycling, source reduction and minimizing waste. Specially designed brochures, post cards and flyers, where appropriate, are utilized to help get the message out. Other methods for dissemination of information includes presentations to community, civic and school groups, providing display booths at local fairs and special events, and providing tours of the County's recycling facilities.

MUNICIPALITIES

The following municipalities participate in the County's Curbside Single-Stream Recycling Program:

Bladensburg	Capital Heights
Cottage City	Fairmont Heights
Forest Heights	Hyattsville
Landover Hills	Riverdale Park
Upper Marlboro	

The following municipalities do not participate in the County's Curbside Single-Stream Recycling Program:

Berwyn Heights	Bowie
Brentwood	Cheverly
Colmar Manor	College Park
District Heights	Eagle Harbor
Edmonston	Glenarden
Greenbelt	Laurel
Morningside	Mount Rainier
New Carrollton	North Brentwood
Seat Pleasant	University Park

All of the listed non-participating municipalities, except for Eagle Harbor, provide recycling collections for their residents. Several of the municipalities have also adopted single-stream recycling collections for their programs. Nearly all of the municipalities deliver their materials to the County's Materials Recycling Facility. Eagle Harbor residents may now recycle by taking their materials to the County's Missouri Avenue Convenience Center. It is anticipated that over the next two years, an additional drop off facility will be sited in the southern portion of the County, which has experienced significant housing development growth during recent years.

KEEP PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) is a community driven, non-profit, volunteer based organization affiliated with Keep America Beautiful. This organization offers the citizens of Prince George's County a means to improve their environment through its educational and outreach programs. KPGCB coordinates and participates in the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup on a County-wide basis. The annual event is held over a period of time in the spring. PPGCB is also instrumental in the Green Team School Program (formally Litter Free Schools) in partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools.

Additionally, KPGCB is in partnership with the Town of Bladensburg in a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program to reduce cigarette butt litter. The Recycling Section staffs the coordinator for KPGCB and works very closely in efforts to assist in achieving success and viability of the organization.