

COG RECYCLING UPDATE

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ACPAC
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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Review

- Background
- Trends in Recycling
- Possible Expansion of List of Materials Collected for Recycling
- Solid Waste Disposal Update
- Composting Update

Background

- Regional Recycling Rate is around 48%
- Total waste generation in the region is about 6 million tons per year
- All localities provide or require haulers to provide curbside residential recycling service.
- All localities require businesses to recycle certain materials
- All residential systems use single-stream collection with all materials mixed together with the exception of Montgomery County

Sample Residential Recycling Info

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING:

Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse

Cartons



Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and rinse

Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Flattened Cardboard

Plastic



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

NO!



Do Not Bag
Recyclables
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags
(return to retail)



No Clothing
or Linens
(don'te or bring to
recycling center)



No Tangles
(no hoses, wires,
chains or electronics)



No Food
or Liquid
(empty all
containers)

hotline: 703-248-5160
web: www.fallschurchva.gov/recycle
email: recycling@fallschurchva.gov

Spring 2017. Graphics provided by The Recycling Partnership



Trends in Recycling: Change in Mix

- The evolving recycling bin
 - Less newspaper and magazines
 - Less glass, aluminum and steel
 - More plastic containers of all types
 - More corrugated cardboard – The Amazon Effect

Trends in Recycling: Market Uncertainty

- Single Stream collection creates material quality problems
- Some material needs additional sorting and cleaning
 - Older facilities cannot perform this function
 - If intermediate facility is even available, what is cost?
- Heavy dependence on export market, China is raising some concerns

Trends in Recycling: New Packaging

- Flexible packaging
 - It is replacing many traditional packages
 - It can save money on transport because it is smaller and more lightweight
 - Does it need to be/Can it be recycled?
 - What is the trade-off for the environment?

Trends in Recycling: Education Needed

- Recycling must always be enforced by education, especially in DC area
- Recycling gets more confusing as more materials are added
- COG Go Recycle Campaign ran in 2017
 - Broadcast radio, digital radio, digital ad, paid social media
 - 17 million impressions on \$81,000 media buy

Trends in Recycling: Education Needed

GOrecycle
GIVE YOUR WASTE A SECOND CHANCE.



Thousands of products are made from recycled materials.

LEARN HOW



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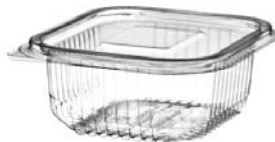
LEARN HOW



Expansion of Materials

- DC is planning to expand material required to be recycled residentially and commercially on January 1, 2018
- List has been verified with area processing facilities
- Would notably add for following food-focused items
 - Cups (paper and plastic)
 - Containers
 - Boxes
 - Bags (paper only)
- May be possible to add these material to other local government programs

Expansion of Materials



Solid Waste Update

- About 40% of waste disposed goes to waste-to-energy plants and 60% to landfills
- The three waste-to-energy plants in the region are owned or operated by Covanta
- A February 2017 fire the Covanta plant in Fairfax County closed the facility. It may reopen in November 2017
- COG is exploring a cooperative contract for solid waste long-haul and disposal
- Several jurisdiction are exploring options for the next generation of waste disposal options

Composting Update

- Many jurisdictions offer year-round grass, leaf, and brush curbside composting for residents
- Food composting is seen as the next frontier in boosting waste diversion rates
- Food composting infrastructure is limited in the region; it is complicated to establish and to operate
- Some private haulers take commercial and residential food
- Several localities are piloting the collection of food from residents curbside or at dropoff sites
- New capacity will be coming online next year that may boost commercial and residential food options

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