

# Year-Round Yard Waste Collection: *Arlington County's Experience*

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*MWCoG Recycling Committee  
September 15, 2016*



# About Arlington County...

- **Land area** = 26.2 miles
- **Population** = ~230,000
- **Households** = ~96,000
  - ~**64%** of households are apartments or condos served by private haulers
  - ~**36%** of households are single family style homes served by the County's residential collection program
- **211,000 at-place employees each day**
- **Educational Attainment** = 71% with BS/BA or higher
- **Income Levels** = \$110,900 per HH; \$84,400 per capita



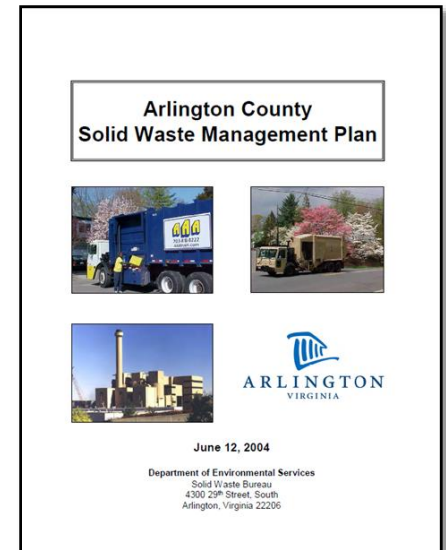
# Residential Solid Waste Services

- Weekly curbside recycling, yard waste and trash collections to 33,100 homes (contracted)
  - HHSWR = \$307.28
- On-call collection fee-based services for E-waste, scrap metals and bulk appliances (contracted)
- On-call brush collection
- Mulch pickup & on-call mulch delivery (SWB)
- Self-haul options for CDD materials (to Earth Products Recycling Yard)
- HHM drop-off events

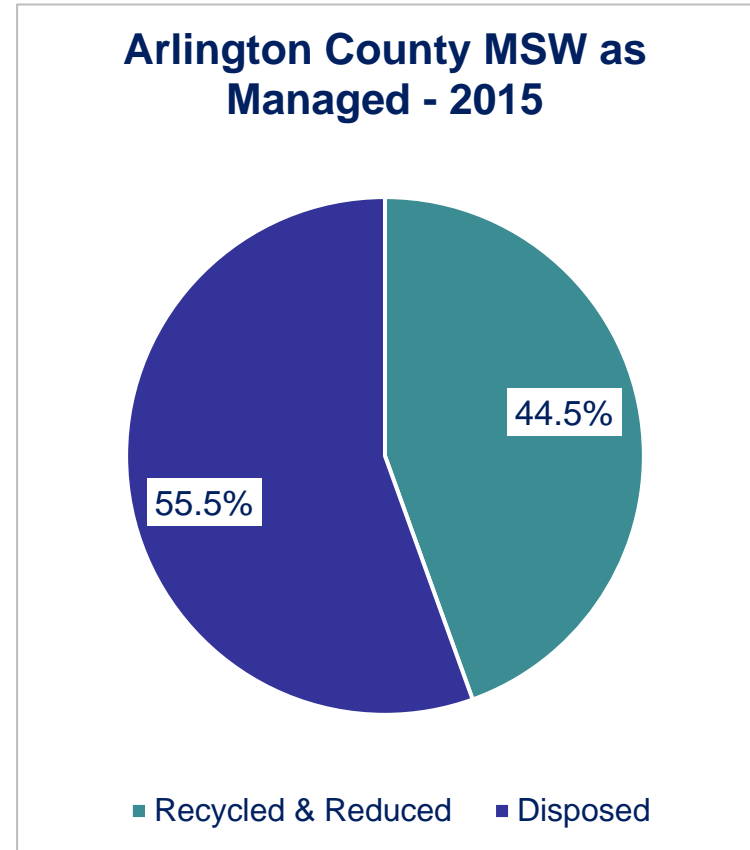
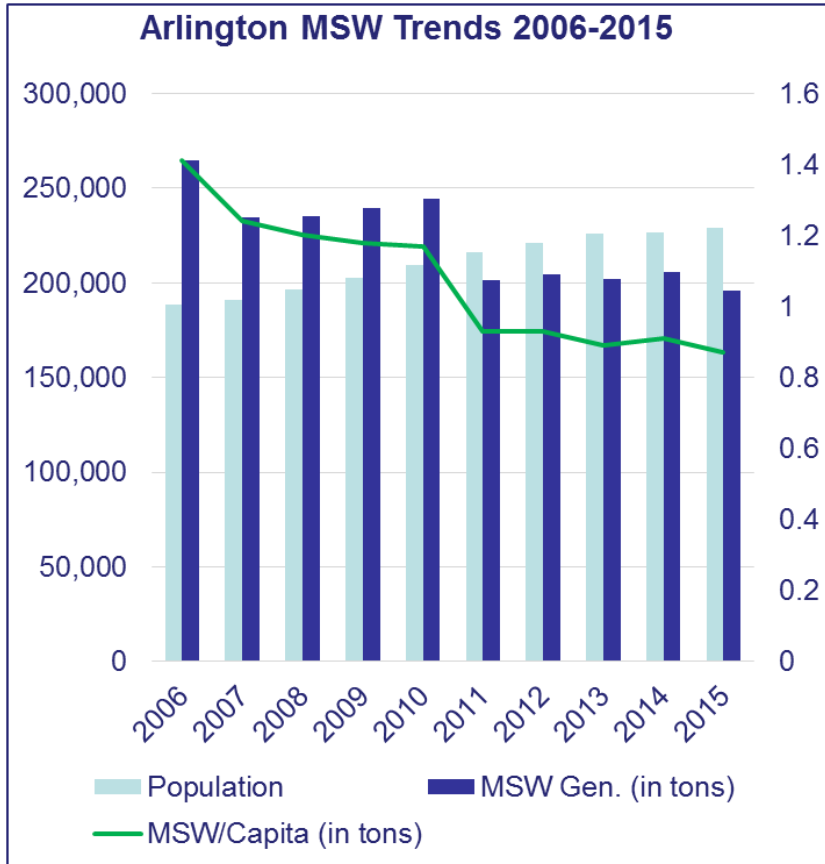


# Solid Waste Management Plan

- 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
- Adopted by County Board in June of 2004
- 2015 recertification
- Guide for the future growth of the County's solid waste management system
- Provides roadmap for program enhancements over time
- Established recycling rate goals:
  - 37% by 2014
  - 42% by 2019
  - 47% by 2024\*



# Overall MSW Management in Arlington



~70% of MSW is generated by commercial and multi-family sectors

# Multi-family & Commercial Recycling

- Approximately 50% of Arlingtonians live in multi-family housing not eligible for County collections
- Original ordinance became effective 1994 (all businesses)
- ~1,400 properties required to submit recycling & solid waste plans and be inspected
- Increased to ~6,000 after 2015 code changes, includes:
  - Tenant businesses in multi-unit structures now inspected
  - Co-location requirement
  - Interior bins and exterior bins
- Top compliance challenges:
  - Only 43% with co-location
  - Only 56% with sufficient # of containers
  - 63% meeting education & outreach requirements



Photo courtesy of Portland Oregon Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

# Multi-family & Commercial Recycling Tools

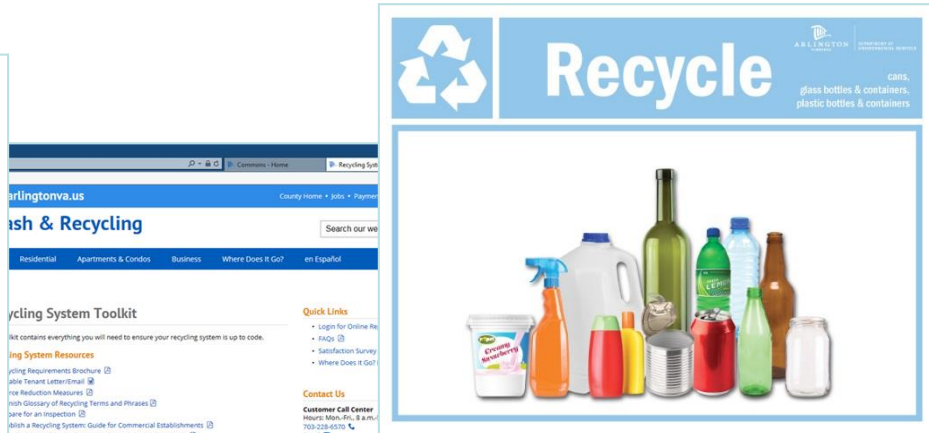
Business Name Here  
Address  
Phone

### Which Bin Does It Go In?

 Office paper, newspaper, folder, binder, book, magazine, carton	 Soft-plastic take-out containers, plastic stretch, coffee cups & lids	 Fire extinguishers, hand sanitizer & pens, OTC, household items
 Plastic bottles & containers	 Cups, trays, bowls, wrappers	 Crayons & markers, latex paint
 Aluminum beverage cans, metal cans	 Refrigerator parts & coils, power tools, appliances	 Refrigerators
 Glass bottles & jars	 Food scraps	 Refrigerators, OTC, aerosols & cartridges, electronics

Where Are the Bins?  
Recycling bins should be placed in a common area accessible to all tenants, employees, and customers. For more information, contact your office manager or administrator for the location of these items.

**Including NEW Requirements Effective January 1, 2016**



**Recycle**  
CANS, glass bottles & containers, plastic bottles & containers

Search our website

Residential Apartments & Condos Business Where Does It Go? en Español

### Recycling System Toolkit

This toolkit contains everything you will need to ensure your recycling system is up to code.

**Recycling System Resources**

- Recycling Requirements Brochure
- Joint Tenant Letter-Email
- Recycling Reduction Measures
- Recycling Glossary of Recycling Terms and Phrases
- Checklist for an Inspection
- Recycling System Guide for Commercial Establishments
- Recycling System Guide for Multi-Family Dwellings

**Information on Haulers**

- Approved Haulers List
- Working with a Hauler

**Quick Links**

- Login for Online Registration
- FAQs
- Satisfaction Survey
- Where Does It Go?

**Contact Us**

Customer Call Center  
Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST)  
Email

**Know Your Recycling**

Here/How/Know Your Recycling

## Arlington County Multi-Family & Commercial Recycling Requirements



## Developed Online Toolkit Property Managers and Owners:

- Printable sign templates
- Facts sheets
- List of Haulers

**ARLINGTON VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### PREPARING FOR A RECYCLING INSPECTION

**WHAT IS A RECYCLING INSPECTION?**  
All commercial establishments and multi-family dwellings are required by Arlington County Code to provide a recycling system for tenants, employees, and customers. A Recycling Outreach Specialist (ROS) will inspect the property to determine if the property's recycling system is compliant and meets the Code requirements as well as provide feedback and suggestions to improve the recycling system.

**WHEN WILL THE INSPECTION OCCUR?**  
The Recycling Outreach Specialists will visit the property Monday through Friday between regular business hours. You have the ability to mark your preferences for day and time on the Multi-Family/Commercial Trash and Recycling Systems Plan. Please note that while we will do our best to honor those preferences, there are thousands of properties which require annual recycling inspections and scheduling individual inspections is unrealistic.

**HOW LONG WILL THE INSPECTION LAST?**  
The duration of the inspection will depend on the size of the building and type of commercial establishment or multi-family dwelling. Please plan for up to an hour for the inspection and debrief of each property.

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

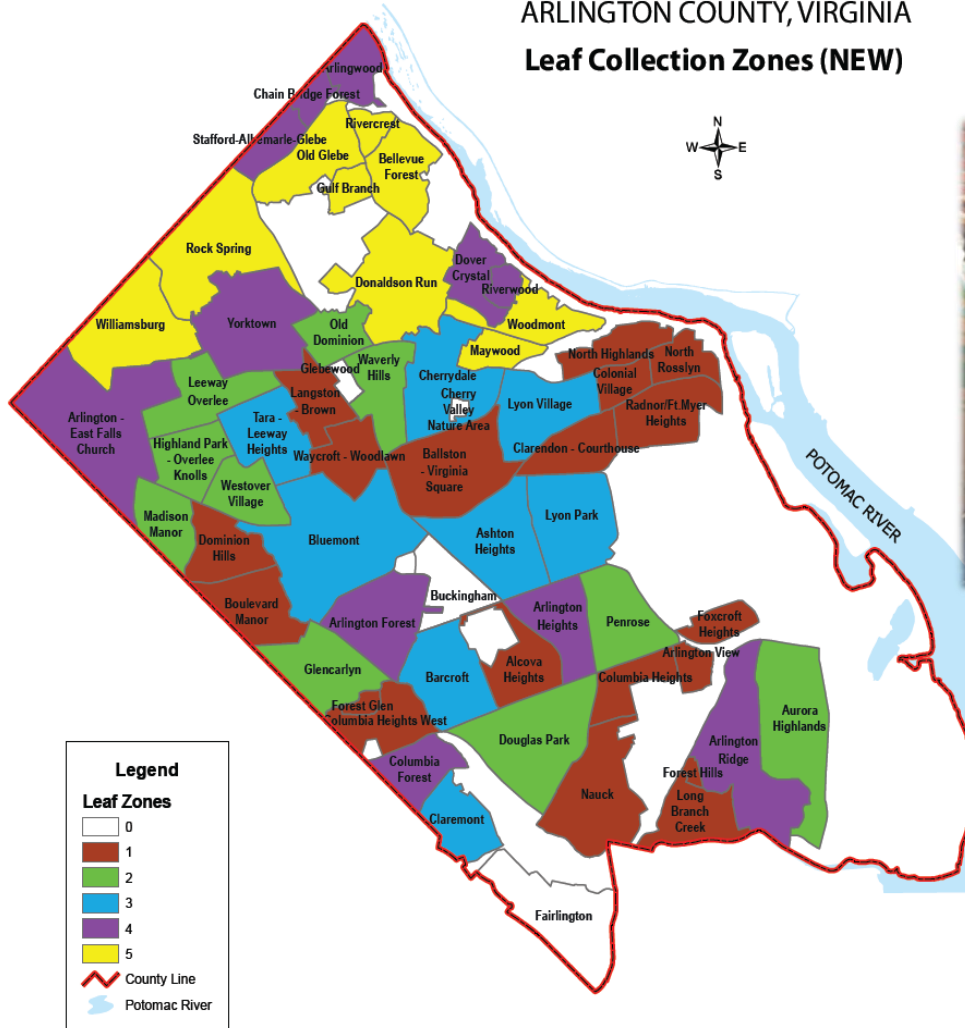
- Provide a recycling system that includes a sufficient number of recycling containers for tenants, residents, employees, and customers.
- Properly label all recycling containers to clearly distinguish them from trash containers.
- Arrange for collection and transportation of recyclable materials at least once per week by:
  - Contracting a permitted collection company; or
  - Self-hauling to a designated recycling drop-off center or a residence outside of Arlington County.
- Maintain all containers in a sanitary and serviceable condition.
- Educate tenants, residents, and employees through written or electronic means upon occupancy and at least annually thereafter.
- Effective January 1, 2016:
  - Provide a recycling container adjacent to any trash container provided for use by tenants, customers, and visitors if it is reasonable expected that recyclable materials would be disposed at that location.

\*A list of permitted haulers can be obtained from the Solid Waste Bureau.  
\*Haulers have an approved Certificate of Self-Haul with Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau.  
Last Revised: November 2015

## Listserv for MF/C property owners/ managers

# Seasonal Leaf Collections

## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA Leaf Collection Zones (NEW)



### Leaf Season:

- Bag collection (weekly)  
November-January
- Vacuum Collection (2 passes)  
November-December



### 2015 Tonnages:

- 659 bagged materials
- 552 vacuum



# Brush Collection



- On-call service (paid as part of HSWR)
- Performed by SWB crews
- 5,372 tons in 2015
- Processed at SWB Earth Products Recycling Yard

# Earth Products Recycling Yard

Recycle all organic materials in a closed loop system



Leaf Collection



Leaf Mulch



Tub Grinder



Brush Collection



Brush Mulch

Recycle and reuse as much inorganic material as possible



Crusher- concrete/asphalt/brick into aggregate

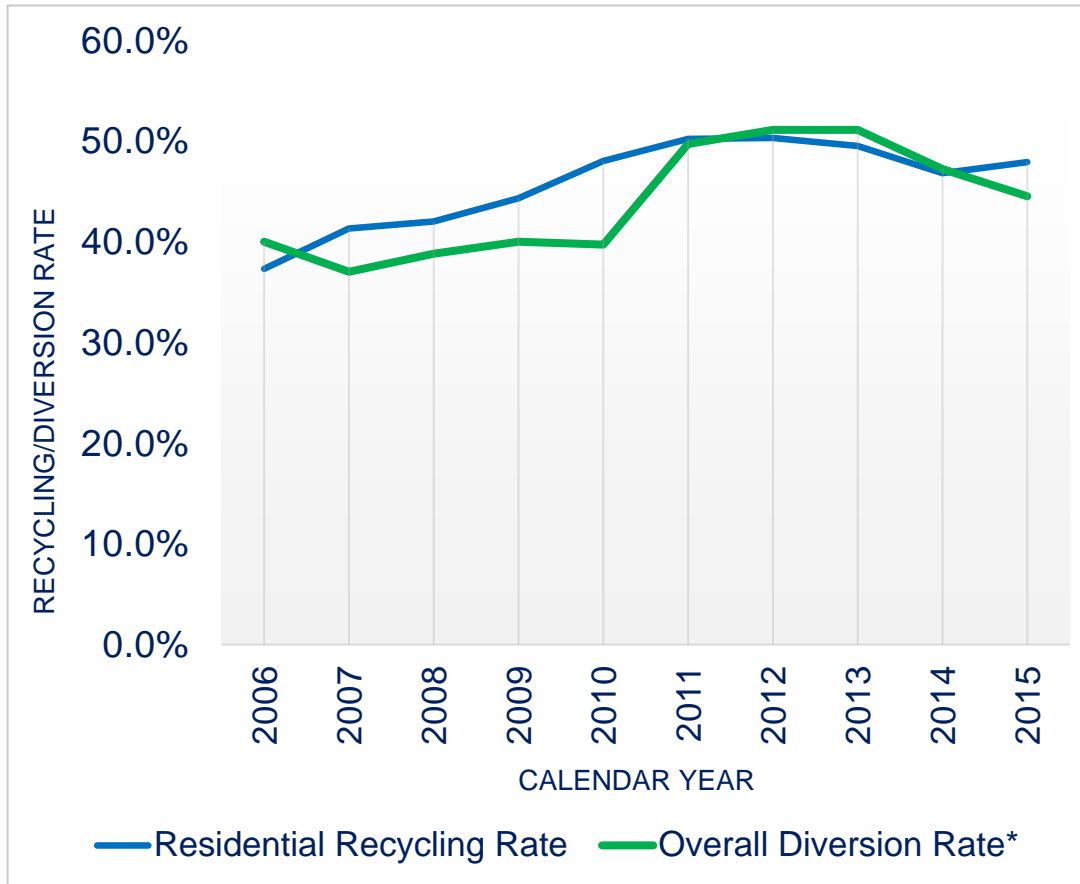


Trommel- topsoil



Dirt shaker-separates clean dirt from aggregate

# Recycling & Diversion Rates



- Leveling off or slight decrease in diversion rates since 2010
- Residential MSW stream changes (light-weighting, less paper, etc.)
- Commercial sector reporting challenges

\*Includes 5% DEQ credits

# ISO Opportunities

## Arlington Residential MSW 2015



- Just ~13% of residential MSW made up of blue-cart program materials
- Need to target other fractions of waste stream to increase diversion

# Opportunities & Approach

- Residential collection services contracts rebid in 2014 - yard waste collection pricing sought through RFP
- Pricing from successful proposer (ADS):
  - \$2.83/HH/month
  - Carts financed through ADS contract (\$57 per cart; \$1.43/HH/year maintenance)
  - FY 2016 impact of \$33.96 on HSWR
- County Board approval in November, 2015
- Processing contract with Loudoun Composting for \$32 per ton



# Asking the Customer

- County surveyed HSWR customers via Survey Monkey:
  - 31,033 customers
  - 4,283 total respondents (evenly spread across County)
  - 70% of respondents indicated increasing recycling rate was important
  - 60 percent supported adding yard waste collections
- Made it easier for County Board to approve program



# Getting the Word Out

- ✓ Local press
- ✓ Direct mail to ratepayers
- ✓ County website
- ✓ Direct mail to landscapers & lawn service providers
- ✓ February – April: carts distribution
- ✓ February – April: Social media



**YEAR-ROUND YARD WASTE in 4**

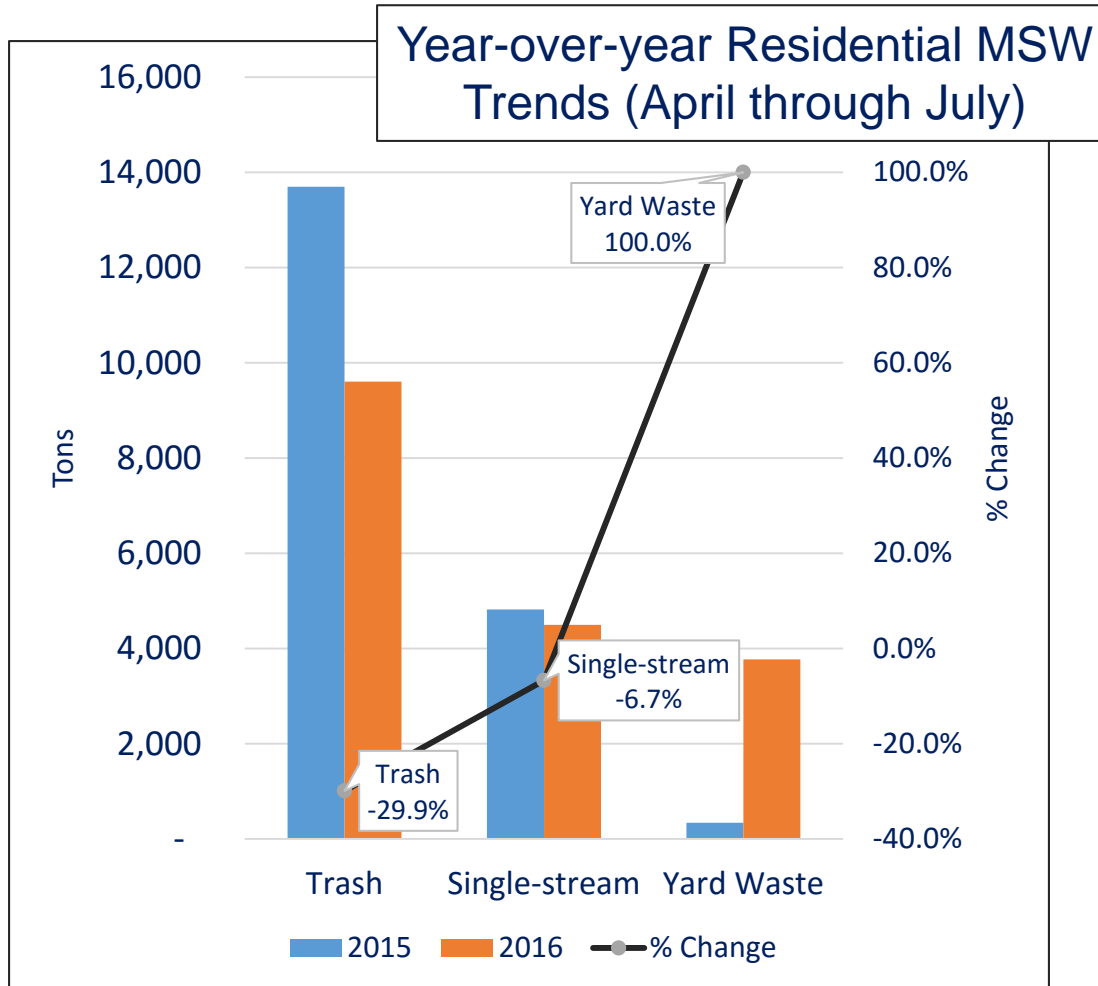
The County Board approved year-round yard waste collection. Here's a quick reference to remember four easy ways to dispose of yard waste materials.

- 1** CARTS: Place small yard waste in your county provided green, yard waste cart.
- 2** BAGS: An alternative to your cart. Place small yard waste in county provided or personally purchased biodegradable bags.
- 3** BUNDLES: Small branches and limbs less than four feet long can be bundled, tied and placed at the curb.

**YEAR-ROUND YARD WASTE COLLECTION**  
*April 1, 2016\**  
**IS COMING!**

\* Starting with Spring Yard Waste Collection on 3/14/2016

# Results Are In!

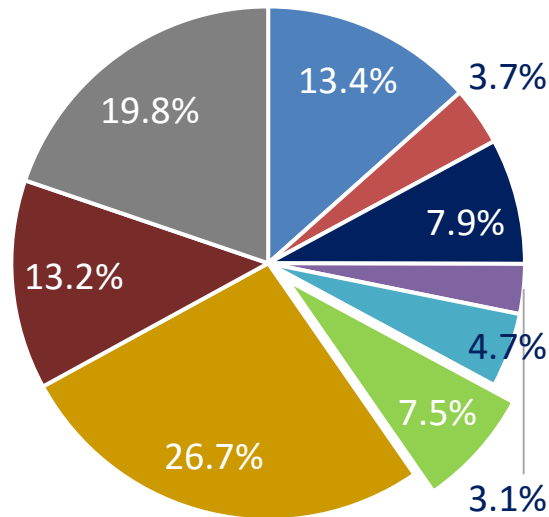


- 3,430 tons of yard waste collected April through July 2016
- Corresponding trash *reduction* of 4,094 tons
- 5.2% *reduction* in total MSW generation



# Results Are In!

**Arlington Residential MSW 2016**



- Yard waste now accounts for 7.5% of residential MSW
- Food waste now largest single component
- Projected net fiscal benefit = \$68,300
- Additional tonnages could add 10%+ points to residential diversion rate

# Next Steps?

- Success of yard waste program pushing up consideration of food waste collection
- Processing infrastructure & capacity key
- Consideration of other program costs (in-home pails, bags, etc.)
- In-vessel composting unit for special events and schools pilot project



Photo courtesy of Recycling Product News

***Thank You & Questions!***

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