

# **Review of Regional Composting Programs and Facilities of Metropolitan Washington, DC**

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# Outline

- The jurisdictions of COG surveyed
- Overview of Survey Results
  - Materials collected
  - Programs offered
  - Collection Service
  - Facilities
- Money saved
- Jobs in composting
- Room for growth

# The Jurisdictions of COG

1. City of Alexandria
- ~~2. City of Bowie~~
3. City of College Park
- ~~4. City of Fairfax~~
5. City of Falls Church
- ~~6. City of Frederick~~
- ~~7. City of Gaithersburg~~
8. City of Greenbelt
9. City of Manassas
- ~~10. City of Manassas Park~~
- ~~11. City of Rockville~~
12. City of Takoma Park
13. Arlington County
14. Fairfax County
15. Frederick County
16. Howard County
17. Loudoun County
18. Montgomery County
19. Prince George's County
20. Prince William County
21. District of Columbia
- ~~22. Town of Bladensburg~~



# Materials Collected

Jurisdiction	Materials Collected	Set-Out Requirements	Frequency of Collection
Arlington County	Leaves, Wood/Branches, Garden Trimmings (only in spring and fall), Brush	Paper bags, Compostable Bags	Weekly
City of Alexandria	Leaves	n/a	Seasonal (end October to January 1)
City of College Park	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<5'), Garden Trimmings (<5'), Brush	Paper bags, Durable containers	Weekly
City of Falls Church	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Trimmings	Brown compostable bags that are 30 gal size	Weekly (Mondays)
City of Greenbelt	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Trimmings (<4'), Brush	Paper bags, Durable containers	Weekly (Fridays)
City of Manassas	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<4' L, <3" D), Garden Trimmings	Paper bags, Durable containers	Weekly (Mondays)
City of Takoma Park	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<4' L, 3" D), Garden Trimmings, Brush	Paper bags, Durable containers	Weekly
District of Columbia	Leaves	Rake leaves to curb	Seasonal (end-Novemeber to mid-January)
Fairfax County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<4' L, 6" D), Brush	Paper or <b>plastic</b> bags, Durable containers	Weekly/Hauler-dependent
Frederick County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<8' L, 6" D), Brush	N/A, since self-haul to facility	N/A
Howard County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<4' L, 4" D), Garden Trimmings , Brush, Pallets, Manure	Paper or <b>plastic</b> bags, Durable containers	Weekly
Loudoun County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Trimmings (<3'), Brush	Paper bags, Durable containers	Hauler-dependent
Montgomery County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (<4' L, <4" D), Garden Trimmings, Brush	Paper bags, Durable containers w/ county "Yard Trim" labels	Weekly
Prince George's County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Wood/Branches (4' L, 3" D), Brush, Thatch	Heavy-duty paper or <b>plastic</b> bags, Durable containers	Weekly
Prince William County	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Trimmings, Brush, Stumps	Paper or <b>plastic</b> bags, Durable containers	Hauler-dependent

# Other Programs Offered

Jurisdiction	Grassclipping Program	Backyard Composting	Fall Leaf Collection
Arlington County	Encourage grasscycling via mulching mowers (otherwise grass goes to WTE facility with refuse)	Give promotional brochures, explain benefits of home composting on cart hangers, sell compost bins for \$17/bin	Vacuum leaves from mid-Nov. to late-Dec.; residents can drop off leaves for \$32/ton
City of Alexandria	Promoting by making an informational video	Promoting by making an informational video	Vacuum leaves from end-October to January 1
City of College Park	Encouraged, but still collect w/ weekly curbside	The Committee for a Better Environment has mad informative brochures and plans to hold composting workshops in the Spring	Vacuum leaves from Nov. to Jan.
City of Falls Church	Encouraged, but still collect w/ weekly curbside	YES (not very active though), offer classes 2x a year and students receive a free compost bin	Vacuum leaves from mid-Oct. to mid-Dec. To make leaf mulch
City of Manassas	Encouraged by educating residents about grasscycling	No program -- but are open to providing demonstrations	Vacuum leaves from mid-Oct. to early-Jan.
City of Takoma Park	Encouraged (on website) to leave clippings on lawn	Montgomery County provides free bins (Geobins) for free to residents with user guide	Vacuum leaves in the fall
District of Columbia	No program	Discussing options	Vacuum leaves from end-Nov. to mid-Jan.
Fairfax County	Encouraged alongside backyard composting	Have information for residents on website and brochures	Vacuum leaves for about 23K residents that have payed an exxtra fee (\$0.15/\$100 assessed value of resident's home and property)
Frederick County	Promote grasscycling as a source reduction method	Have a promotional program, sell bins, have literature upon request, info on website, training via other entities (Master Gardeners)	The differnt municipal governments have their own
Howard County	Encourage residents to grasscycle, and have a 'rake and take' program	Provide free bins and information to residends (who must sign a pledge form), work with the Master Gardeners to promote the porgram and provide demos	Not county provided
Loudoun County	No program	No program	Not by County, towns or HOAs may have set schedules
Montgomery County	Provide information on website	Provide compost bins and information on website	Vacuum leaves from November to January. Households in the Leaf Vacuuming Service Area pay \$93.96/year
Prince George's County	Information provided on the web and brochures for grasscycling	Encourage residents to backyard compost yard waste and food scraps	Cut out the program last year, otherwise they vacuum in late fall
Prince William County	Residents are encouraged to grasscycle but there is no heavy marketing campaign	County sells Presto Compost Bins for \$20/bin	No Program

# Collection Service

Jurisdiction	Tons Collected	Service Provider	Composting Facility	Payment by Residents
Arlington County	16,122	Government	Arlington County facility	Included in household solid waste rate
City of Alexandria	4,450	Government	City of Alexandria temp site	Part of Solid Waste User Fee
City of College Park	4,814	Government	City of College Park DPW	Included in city taxes
City of Falls Church	2,290	Government	Fairfax County transfer station	General fund (taxes), cost of city collection sticker (\$0.50/bag)
City of Greenbelt	?	Government	City of Greenbelt facility	Part of Waste & Recycling fee
City of Manassas	3,020	American Disposal Services	Prince William County (Balls Ford) facility; local sod farms (leaves only)	Monday collection - part of refuse charge on utility bill; Fall leaves - part of city enterprise fund and tied into utilities
City of Takoma Park	No record of it	Government	City of Takoma Park facility	In general tax program as a part of the opportunity costs
District of Columbia	4,500	Government	POGO Organics	Included in taxes
Fairfax County	200,416	Government and Private Haulers	Fairfax County transfer station	Residents in the Eastern part of the county pay \$345/year for weekly refuse and recycling collection. Other residents have contracts directly with haulers.
Frederick County	20,000	Private Haulers	The Reichs Ford Road Yard Trimmings	No tip charge for residents
Howard County	27,376	Government	Recycled Green	Part of "trash fee" included in property taxes
Loudoun County	13,245	Private Haulers	Loudoun Composting	Residents pay haulers. If self-haul, \$60/ton with \$5 minimum
Montgomery County	?	Government and Private Haulers	MES Dickerson facility	Systems Benefit Charge
Prince George's County	35,757	Government	MES Western Branch	Pay a solid waste tax
Prince William County	35,757	Private Haulers	Prince William County (Balls Ford) facility	Residents pay haulers only for collection, and pay a fee or real estate tax bill (solid waste fee) that funds the system of disposal and recycling.

# Composting Facilities

Composting Facility	Serves	Tip Fee	Permits
Arlington County Facility [Arlington, VA]	Arlington County, Fairfax County	\$16-32/ton	---
City of Alexandria temp site [Alexandria, VA]	Alexandria	--	--
City of College Park DPW [College Park, MD]	City of College Park, only fall leaves from: Berwyn Heights, Cottage City, Edmonston, Laurel, New Carrollton, Riverdale Park, Univ. of MD	\$4.50/yd <sup>3</sup>	---
City of Greenbelt facility [Greenbelt, MD]	City of Greenbelt, Hyattsville	No Tip Fee	---
City of Takoma Park [Takoma Park, MD]	City of Takoma Park, Montgomery College		
Fairfax County transfer station [Fairfax, VA]	Fairfax County, City of Falls Church	\$29/ton vacuumed leaves, \$54/ton yard waste	
Loudoun Composting [Chantilly, VA]	Loudoun County	\$34-40/ton	State: PBR141; County: Solid Waste Permit
Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility (Western Branch) [Upper Marlboro, MD]	Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County (10K tons)		
MES Dickerson facility [Dickerson, MD]	Montgomery County		
POGO Organics [Olney, MD]	District of Columbia, City of Rockville (tree service contract)	\$15-30/yd <sup>3</sup>	Natural Wood Waste Recycling
Prince William County (Balls Ford) facility [Manassas, VA]	City of Manassas, Fairfax County, City of Manassas	\$33/ton	VA Permit by Rule #30
Recycled Green [Woodbine, MD]	Howard County	\$38/ton	Natural Wood Waste Processing
The Reichs Ford Road Yard Trimmings [Frederick, MD]	Frederick County		

# Regional Composting Facilities

Composting Facility	Capacity (tons)	Actual Throughput	Total Acreage	Acreage Used
Arlington County Facility [Arlington, VA]	5,500	5,212	3	3
City of Alexandria temp site [Alexandria, VA]		4,480	2	
City of College Park DPW [College Park, MD]	--	2,800	5	4.5
City of Takoma Park [Takoma Park, MD]		2,000	--	1
Fairfax County transfer station [Fairfax, VA]		200,416		
Loudoun Composting [Chantilly, VA]	45,000	45,000	25	12
Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility (Western Branch) [Upper Marlboro, MD]		55,000	200	50
MES Dickerson facility [Dickerson, MD]	50,000			
POGO Organics [Olney, MD]			125	10
Prince William County (Balls Ford) facility [Manassas, VA]	50,000	35,757	30	15
Recycled Green [Woodbine, MD]	250,000	55,000	30	12
The Reichs Ford Road Yard Trimmings [Frederick, MD]		20,000	30	15



# Does composting yard debris save money in avoided disposal costs?

It is most likely cost neutral on the whole for Fairfax County.  
- *Fairfax County*

Landfill disposal is cheaper than segregated curbside yard waste disposal, but prohibited by law.  
- *Howard County*

Yes! Tipping fee for Covanta's WTE plant is \$78-80!  
- *City of Alexandria*

Yes! In fact – our composting facility was started to avoid taking *it* so far to another site!  
- *College Park*

Yes! Sending vacuumed leaves to sod farms costs us nothing.  
- *City of Manassas*

# Jobs in Composting

Facility	# Jobs / 10K tons
Arlington County Facility	12
City of College Park DPW	4
City of Takoma Park	20
Loudoun Composting	2
Recycled Green	2

Facility	Tonnage	Jobs
Arlington County Facility [Arlington, VA]	5,212	6
City of College Park DPW [College Park, MD]	2,800	1
City of Takoma Park [Takoma Park, MD]	2,000	4
Loudoun Composting [Chantilly, VA]	45,000	10
Recycled Green [Woodbine, MD]	55,000	12

# Will you take food scraps? Do you have the capacity to expand?

Want to expand one more acre and are interested in accepting food residuals.  
- *Arlington County*

Absolutely! I can take more of any type of material.  
- *Recycled Green*

We have no room to expand. We are already leasing, so its not a permanent infrastructure too. ♪  
- *City of College Park* ♪

**There is some existing capacity for grass and leaves, maybe 5-10K more per year.**  
- *Prince William County*

Not interested in this site to take food residuals, but maybe another site.  
- *POGO Organics*

# Will you take food scraps? Do you have the capacity to expand?

Already collecting all non-food materials. Could start collecting food but that's not something that could be done now – though there is interest among our residents.

- *City of College Park*

Trying to expand but it's a cost issue. Want to collect more yard waste and have put out an RFP.

- *City of Alexandria*

There's no space available. Perhaps regionally.

- *City of Falls Church*

No. Can't have the vectors so close to the airport.

- *Loudoun Composting*

By working with UDC, perhaps we could expand to year-round composting.

- *District of Columbia*

# Will you take food scraps? Do you have the capacity to expand?

Cash flow and government permitting restrictions are the obstacles.  
- *Recycled Green*

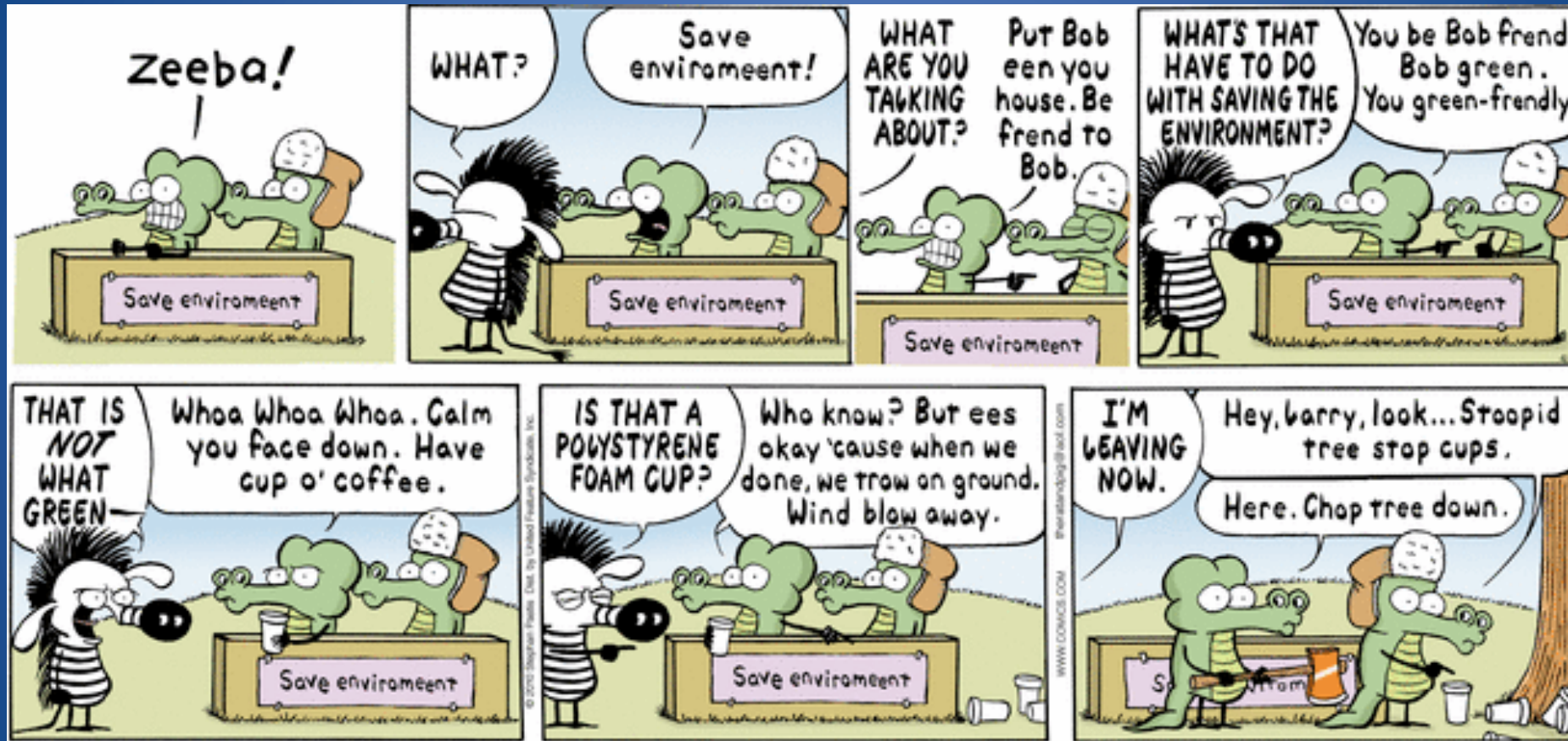
The composting yard is near a sports field, so if we can take over one of them...then maybe.  
- *City of Greenbelt*

Could probably accept a little bit more material, but not a lot.  
- *City of Greenbelt*

Can expand by promoting more backyard composting.  
- *City of Manassas*

We are exploring adding food waste to the composting operation.  
- *Prince George's County*

# Questions?



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