



Maryland Department  
of the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: Recycling

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### CHARLES COUNTY RECYCLING

#### Coordinator/Staff

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#### Waste Diversion Rate

- ▶ For calendar year 2013, 50.86 % recycling rate + 4% source reduction credit = 54.86 % waste diversion rate.

#### Residential Program

##### *Curbside*

- ▶ Approximately 41,300 single-family households have every-other week single stream curbside collection of aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, newspapers, white paper, magazines, glossy inserts, telephone books, and flattened cardboard.

##### *Drop-off*

- ▶ Four permanent recycling centers accept all of the above materials plus scrap metal, yard debris, oyster shells, textiles, batteries, used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, and scrap tires (2 free per visit)

##### *Processing/Marketing*

- ▶ Curbside materials are hauled by the contractor, and recycling center materials are transported by County staff to a single stream facility in Capital Heights, MD.

##### *Municipalities*

- ▶ Indian Head and LaPlata operate their own curbside programs. The programs serve 3,800 and 8,700 households, respectively, and collect glass, plastic, metal cans, newspaper, paper and cardboard.
- ▶ The County curbside program serves Port Tobacco.

##### *Yard Trimmings*

- ▶ From April through December, yard debris and bundled brush is collected curbside weekly. Residents use the container of their choice (marked with a large “X”).



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- ▶ Yard waste is accepted from residents at four dedicated yard debris drop-off sites at no charge. The compost is used on County parks and grounds and mulch is given away to the residents.
- ▶ Commercial yard waste is accepted at \$30/ton.
- ▶ Piney Church Road Mulch Facility accepts bulk loads of yard waste. Open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Commercial loads must weigh in at the scale house first.

#### *Other Materials*

- ▶ Non-commercial traffic at the landfill is routed through the recycling center, and all *scrap metal* is removed for recycling.
- ▶ *Christmas trees* are collected at numerous drop-offs.
- ▶ A Re-Use Barn, for usable items diverted from landfilling, operates as a co-op effort with a local non-profit organization.

#### *Household Hazardous Waste*

- ▶ The County holds nine *Household Hazardous Waste Days* the first Saturday of the month, April through December at the Department of Public Works in La Plata. Latex paint is not accepted.

#### *Electronics*

- ▶ The County currently has a permanent electronics recycling program at its recycling centers. There is no charge for residential use.

### **Commercial Program**

- ▶ The County provides guidance for businesses wishing to start recycling programs.

### **Public Buildings**

- ▶ Paper, cardboard, cans, glass containers, plastic containers and ink cartridges are collected from County government offices.
- ▶ All schools in the County have single stream recycling. The County provides blue bins upon request to all schools.

### **Special Programs**

- ▶ “Tag-A-Bag” is the County’s volume-based refuse disposal program. Residents can dispose of 32-gallon bags or containers of household waste for \$ 1.75 each at four recycling sites. Tags are purchased at the landfill, Treasurer’s office or local stores near the sites. “Tag-A-Bag” and tipping fees are dedicated to the operation of the landfill.
- ▶ Each recycling center offers a full range of recycling for free, thus encouraging recycling in conjunction with the “Tag-A-Bag” program.

### **Ordinances**

- ▶ Free flowing liquid waste and construction/demolition debris are banned from the landfill as well as out-of-county waste and yard debris.



## **Disposal**

- ▶ The tipping fee at the landfill is \$70.00/ton.
- ▶ Flat rate fees: \$5.00/car tire, \$15.00/pick-up truck tire.
- ▶ Open-top rolloff containers are accepted at \$70.00/ton.

## **Financing/Budget**

- ▶ The recycling and litter control programs, 9 Household Hazardous Waste Days, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, community clean-ups and environmental education are all financed through an Enterprise Fund. The revenues come from a \$78.00/year environmental service fee attached to each improved property on the tax bill.



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