



Maryland Department
of the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Recycling

HARFORD COUNTY RECYCLING

Coordinator/Staff

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Waste Diversion Rate

► For calendar year 2013, 53.91% recycling rate + 5% source reduction credit = 58.91% waste diversion rate.

Residential Program

Curbside

► Trash/Recycling pick up is NOT a County service; residents must contract independently with a trash hauler licensed to serve County residents. Trash haulers must offer residential trash collection and recycling collection at least once a week.

► The single stream collection program includes aluminum cans, foil and bake ware, steel cans, glass bottles and jars, all plastics #s 1-7 (except Styrofoam) and including rigid plastic such as lawn furniture, coolers, buckets, etc., juice boxes, milk and juice cartons and mixed paper including newspaper, magazines, catalogs, unwanted mail, paperboard boxes and corrugated boxes collected loose in a container for weekly pick up by a trash hauler.

► Curbside recycling is available to all 90,000 households assuming they contract for trash/recycling collection.

Drop-off

► The following may be dropped off free of charge at the Harford Waste Disposal Center (HWDC) in Street: all curbside recyclables listed above, yard debris, lead-acid batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, contaminated gasoline, empty propane tanks, white goods, scrap metal, textiles, computers, small electronics, fluorescent & compact fluorescent light bulbs, rechargeable batteries, holiday lights and ink jet cartridges are also accepted. Charges do not apply provided the customer is only dropping off recyclables.

► Special materials accepted at the HWDC include latex paint, tires, Christmas trees, and empty pesticide containers from the farming community during the summer months.

► Banned from the Waste to Energy Facility and the HWDC since 1992, yard debris may be collected through resident's trash hauler for a fee or residents may drop off yard debris, free of



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charge, at the Mulch and Composting Facility located at the HWDC, Monday-Saturday and at the North Tollgate Road location in Bel Air on Saturdays only.

Processing/Marketing

► Harford County has contracted with Baltimore County, MD to transport, process and market recyclables through their facility on a six day per week schedule. Approximately five 11-ton loads are delivered for processing per day.

Municipalities

► The Town of Bel Air offers its residents municipal trash/recycling collection through its own Department of Public Works. The recyclables are delivered to the County's transfer station. Bel Air's recycling program mirrors the County's curbside guidelines.

► The City of Aberdeen is unique in that its trash removal is a volume-based sticker system. The program offers financial savings to residents who recycle. Trash "stickers" can be purchased from many Aberdeen merchants and prices are based on the size of trash bag used. Recyclables do not require a sticker. Aberdeen offers municipal trash/recycling collection.

► Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) currently contracts with a private trash hauler for collection of trash and recyclables for all residences on post. Recyclables are also collected from APG offices. The recyclables collected follow County guidelines.

► The City of Havre de Grace contracts with a private trash hauler to provide trash/recycling collection for its residents. Recyclables collected follow the County's guidelines. Yard debris collection is offered once a month.

Yard Trimmings

► The County operates an eleven-acre Mulch and Compost Facility located at the HWDC.

► County ordinance mandates separate collection of yard debris from trash/recycling. Pickup and delivery service of yard debris from their customers to the Compost Facility is left to the discretion of private trash haulers.

► County residents may drop off yard debris, free of charge, at the HWDC Monday-Saturday or at the Bel Air Tollgate Road drop-off site on Saturdays only.

► The equivalent of three 30-gallon containers of mulch and/or compost are available (for self loading) free of charge to County residents. Larger quantities are available for purchase.

► County officials offer backyard composting and grasscycling instructional brochures educating residents to the benefits of composting as a convenient, cost effective and time saving method of dealing with yard debris.

Other Materials

► Each year, Christmas trees are accepted free of charge. Trees are dropped off by residents at the HWDC and Tollgate Road, Bel Air drop off site, transported to the Compost Facility and ground into mulch that is later made available to the public.

► White goods, scrap metal, lead-acid batteries, tires, oil, antifreeze, propane tanks, contaminated gasoline, ink jet cartridges, clothing & textiles, computers, small electronics, fluorescent & compact fluorescent light bulbs, rechargeable batteries, holiday lights and yard debris are accepted at the HWDC for recycling.



- ▶ Oil and antifreeze are accepted free of charge at nine drop-off locations throughout the County.
- ▶ Latex paint is accepted at the HWDC for recycling April-November.
- ▶ With assistance from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, empty pesticide container recycling is offered to local farmers during the summer.
- ▶ An Adopt-a-Road program began in 1994. Families, schools, and civic organizations have cleaned over 4,455 miles of Harford County roads and have removed over 175,000 lbs. of roadside litter and 54,000 lbs. of recyclables

Household Hazardous Waste

- ▶ The County currently does not have a full-time HHW program. However, as budget conditions allow, the County may periodically hold HHW collection days held at the HWDC. Contact the Recycling Office for details.

Electronics

- ▶ The County accepts computers and small electronics such as cell phones, iPods, at the HWDC for recycling.

Commercial Program

- ▶ Trash haulers serving commercial customers must offer a separate and appropriate recycling collection method.
- ▶ The County has developed a commercial outreach program that encourages businesses to recycle and become one of Harford County's Partners in Recycling. Present outreach campaigns encourage waste reduction as well as recycling. The County also offers an annual awards program that recognizes businesses that are recycling.

Public Buildings

- ▶ White office paper, mixed paper, aluminum cans, foil and bake ware and steel cans, glass bottles and all plastics except Styrofoam are collected in all County government agencies and departments.
- ▶ All 53 public schools in the County collect mixed paper in every classroom and each school is set up to collect single stream recycling with separate recycling dumpsters.
- ▶ Harford Community College recycles mixed paper and commingled containers.
- ▶ All County Government agencies and departments are required to practice waste reduction and recycling. Guidelines require the purchase of recycled products that meet or exceed EPA standards, to include janitorial papers, insulation, plastics, aggregate and cartridge refills. Any consultant or outside party producing reports for the County must use recycled-content paper printed on both sides.

Public Education & Outreach

- ▶ The County's Office of Recycling continues to promote recycling and solid waste management education through presentations to elementary and secondary schools and offers literature and "teacher-tools" to support ongoing environmental education.
- ▶ Presentations are also made to community organizations.



► Local media are used consistently when advertising new pilot programs, reminders, and congratulatory messages for well-received programs.

Disposal

► Municipal Solid Waste is disposed at both the Harford Waste to Energy Facility as well as the Harford Waste Disposal Center landfill. The tipping fee changes yearly. In Fiscal Year 2015, the tipping fee will be \$72/ton.

Financing/Budget

► The County-operated recycling programs are funded through the Harford County Solid Waste budget.



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