



Maryland Department
of the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Recycling

HOWARD COUNTY RECYCLING

Coordinator/Staff

Alan Wilcom, Chief, Recycling Division
Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental Services
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514, Columbia MD 21046
Gemma Evans, Recycling Program Coordinator
Alicia Moore, Recycling Program Coordinator
Kimberly Reichart, Recycling Program Coordinator
Phone: 410-313-6444
Fax: 410-313-6490
E-mail: <mailto:awilcom@howardcountymd.gov>
Web Site: <http://www.howardcountyclecyles.org>

Waste Diversion Rate

- ▶ For calendar year 2013, 45.27% recycling rate + 4% source reduction credit = 49.27 % waste diversion rate.

Residential Program

Curbside

- ▶ Curbside collection serves just under 80,000 single-family, townhouse and mobile home households with once per week single stream recycling of metal food and beverage containers, any color glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles (except motor oil), aseptic containers, juice cartons, rigid plastics, mixed paper, and cardboard.
- ▶ Materials are collected from County-provided blue carts or bins, or see through plastic bags.
- ▶ Every household that receives County-provided collection receives one recycling container (choice of 18, 35, or 65 gallons); additional containers may be purchased.
- ▶ Approximately 5,700 multi-family units (condominiums) participate in the county-provided single stream recycling program utilizing centralized wheeled containers or 6 or 8yd recycling dumpsters.
- ▶ Residents with curbside collection may call the Bureau of Environmental Services to schedule scrap metal collections as needed. This program is intended for larger items such as grills, appliances, file cabinets etc – restrictions may apply. Details can be found at www.HowardCountyRecycles.org/Bulk.htm.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.maryland.gov
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258
Larry Hogan, Governor | Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor | Ben Grumbles, Secretary

RMP/May 2015

Drop-off

- ▶ The County operates a residential and small business recycling drop-off facility at the Alpha Ridge Resident's Convenience Center. Each type of material has a designated location or container to be placed into; staff direct residents as needed. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday for the following materials:
- ▶ Metal goods such as appliances, desks, bikes, mowers, piping, swing sets, and other miscellaneous household scrap metal
- ▶ Lead acid batteries, used motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and propane tanks
- ▶ Reusable building materials
- ▶ Textiles and clothing
- ▶ Used asphalt roof shingles
- ▶ Commingled recyclables such as mixed paper, plastic bottles and cans, glass bottles and jars
- ▶ Rigid plastics, cardboard
- ▶ Polyurethane foam, Styrofoam™, used cooking oil, compostable food scraps, oyster shells and mattresses
- ▶ Recyclable electronics such as computers, TV's, computer monitors, phones, scanners, printers, VCR's and DVD players
- ▶ The County operates a HHW drop-off at the Alpha Ridge Landfill every Saturday from April thru November. A wide variety of materials including latex paint, rechargeable batteries, pesticides and other chemicals are accepted for proper disposal.
- ▶ Food scraps, wood waste and yard trimmings are accepted to be mulched and/or composted onsite. Compost, mulch and topsoil may be purchased

Processing/Marketing

- ▶ Howard County contracts for processing and marketing of single stream materials and other recyclables collected at the Resident's Convenience Center. The County's contracts for processing and marketing of single stream and scrap metal recyclables are tied to market price indexes.

Yard Trim & Food scraps

- ▶ From April through January, just under 64,000 households receive weekly collection of yard trimmings including leaves, grass, and light brush. The yard trimmings are collected in open plastic bags, paper bags, or reusable containers. Christmas trees are collected from all homes receiving yard trimming recycling collection during the first three weeks in January.
- ▶ County provides free backyard compost bins to residents who pledge to compost for 2 years.
- ▶ About 14,000 homes are in areas where weekly curbside food scrap collection is offered. Interested residents are provided with a wheeled, lidded container which can hold both food scrap and yard trim; the two are co-collected. Acceptable food scrap items include fruits, vegetables, bread, coffee grounds etc. Meat, fish & dairy products are not accepted. The materials are composted on-site at Alpha Ridge Landfill.



Commercial Program

- ▶ Small County businesses can apply for an annual commercial recycling permit for use at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. There is no charge for the permit but certain items (such as appliances) have fees associated with them.
- ▶ The County provides technical assistance to local businesses in the form of literature and site visits.

Public Buildings

- ▶ Single stream recyclables are collected from all County facilities, including offices, libraries and parks.
- ▶ Howard County Public Schools recycle paper, cardboard, and commingled food and beverage containers.
- ▶ County fleet maintenance and Bureau of Highway personnel recycle antifreeze, waste oil, scrap metal, wood waste and yard trim.
- ▶ The County also collects and recycles ink jet and laser printer cartridges and fluorescent light bulbs from County office buildings.

Public Education & Outreach

- ▶ Five active compost demonstration sites operated by the Master Gardeners are located throughout the County.
- ▶ Free composting bins are given to County Residents who sign a pledge to compost for 2 years.
- ▶ Recycling and waste reduction are promoted through mailings, literature distribution, print advertising, TV advertising, presentations to community groups, the County recycling webpage (www.howardcountyclecyles.org), a twitter account (@HoCoRecycles), a monthly electronic newsletter, RSS feed, informational displays at County facilities, staff presence at community events, and TV and newspaper interviews.
- ▶ Staff works closely with schools and community groups, providing literature and speakers as requested.

Disposal

- ▶ The FY2015 tipping fee is \$65.00/ton for commercial solid waste. A complete landfill fee schedule is available by calling (410) 313-6444 or visiting www.howardcountymd.gov/ARL.htm

Financing/Budget

- ▶ The recycling program is financed through the County's Environmental Services Fund.

Procurement

- ▶ Howard County encourages the purchase of “green” products, including those with recycled content. Details are available through the County Purchasing Department and at www.howardcountymd.gov/Purchasing.

