



Maryland Department
of the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Recycling

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING

Coordinator/Staff

Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator

Phone: 240-777-6480 Fax: 240-777-6465 TTY: 301-251-4850

E-mail: alan.pultyniewicz@montgomerycountymd.gov

Web Page: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

Waste Diversion Rate

- ▶ For calendar year 2013, 55.18 % recycling rate + 5 % source reduction credit = 60.18 % waste diversion rate.
- ▶ The County has adopted a goal of reducing waste and recycling 70% of waste generated by the end of calendar year 2020.

Residential Program

Curbside

- ▶ The County serves over 213,000 single-family homes with mandatory, weekly curbside recycling collection of yard trim materials (grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and brush), mixed paper, commingled materials (aluminum cans and aluminum foil products, bi-metal containers, aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, containers, jars, tubs, lids, pails, buckets, flower pots, and #1 PET thermoform plastics including clamshell containers, trays, deli containers, domes, cups and lids), scrap metal (large metal items such as appliances, lawn mowers, metal furniture, etc.) and Christmas trees.
- ▶ Curbside recycling collection of scrap metal items (appliances, lawnmowers, bikes, etc.) must be scheduled in advance by calling 311 or 240-777-0311 by 7:00 p.m. on the business day before the regular recycling collection day or by completing an on-line request at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311 by 11:59 p.m. the day before the regular recycling collection day.

Drop-off

- ▶ There are two drop-off-locations: the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood for mixed paper, commingled materials, yard trim materials, and other items listed under Other Materials and Special Programs, and the Poolesville Beauty Spot Drop-Off located in the Poolesville Highway Maintenance Depot, 19200 Jerusalem Road in Poolesville for up to 499 pounds of



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
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residential loads of bulky trash, mattresses, wooden fencing, lumber, demolition debris and antifreeze.

Multi-family Program

- ▶ All multi-family properties are required to have on-site recycling programs for mixed paper, commingled materials, yard trim materials, Christmas trees, and scrap metal.
- ▶ Multi-family properties with 101 or more units must submit a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan and all properties must submit annual recycling and waste reduction reports detailing the quantities of materials recycled and disposed. A comprehensive on-site assessment program provides feedback, technical assistance, education and training.
- ▶ The TRRAC (Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums) Program acts as an information resource for multi-family properties. The County has developed a Property Manager's Guide Handbook that provides step-by-step guidance to multi-family properties on starting, maintaining and expanding recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled efforts.

Processing/Marketing

- ▶ The County owns a materials recovery facility (MRF) and contracts with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) for the operation of the facility and materials marketing. The MRF serves over 213,000 single-family households and processes about 105 tons/day of commingled containers and receives approximately 180 tons/day of mixed paper. Mixed paper is processed by a County contractor. Multi-family properties are able to bring and/or direct their recyclable materials to the County's MRF for processing.

Municipalities

- ▶ There are approximately 37, 000 single family households located in municipalities and special taxing districts within the County. Each municipality runs their own recycling program; the Cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville have enacted ordinances requiring commercial and multi-family properties to follow Montgomery County recycling regulations.

Yard Trim Materials

- ▶ The County has banned yard trim materials from disposal as refuse.
- ▶ Curbside recycling collection of yard trim materials is provided to over 213,000 single-family homes in the unincorporated areas of the County. Loose yard trim materials must either be placed in a reusable container labeled "Yard Trim", or in paper bags. Yard trim cannot be placed in plastic bags. Limbs and brush must be tied into manageable bundles. Each can, paper bag or bundle must weigh less than 45 pounds.
- ▶ Yard trim materials may also be dropped off at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. Seasonal vacuum collection of leaves is provided in some areas.
- ▶ Grass and leaves are composted at the Dickerson Composting Facility operated by MES for the County. Shredded brush is given away free to residents.
- ▶ Grasscycling and backyard composting are promoted through public education efforts.



- ▶ Compost bins are provided to residents at no added charge and can be obtained at numerous locations throughout the County, at the Solid Waste Transfer Station Administrative Office and the Division's office at the Executive Office Building in Rockville. For a complete list of sites, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim.
- ▶ The Neighborhood Mulch Preserve Program provides two locations where chipped brush is available at no charge. This "green" mulch must be aged at least 6 - 8 months.
- ▶ Christmas trees are collected curbside year-round on a resident's recycling collection day for chipping into mulch.

Other Materials

- ▶ Used motor oil, antifreeze, tires, automotive/lead acid batteries, textiles, vegetable oil, propane and helium tanks, scrap metal, computers, electronic items and televisions may be dropped off at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station for recycling.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- ▶ A permanent HHW drop-off facility is located at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station and is open to County residents seven days a week.

Electronics

- ▶ The County has a permanent drop-off for computers and computer-related equipment, electronic items and televisions that is open 7 days a week at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.
- ▶ Periodic electronic recycling collection events are held at various locations throughout the County.
- ▶ The program is open to Montgomery County residents and businesses.

Commercial Programs

- ▶ All businesses, non-profit organizations, federal, State, and local government facilities are required to recycle mixed paper, commingled materials, yard trim materials, Christmas trees, and scrap metal. Large and medium-sized businesses, as well as property owners of multi-tenant facilities must submit a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan and an annual Recycling and Waste Reduction Report detailing the quantities of materials recycled and disposed. Small businesses are required to submit a Plan and file an Annual Report when requested by the County.
- ▶ Commercial model recycling demonstration projects have been implemented.
- ▶ The SORRT (Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons) Program acts as an information resource for businesses. The County has developed a Business Recycling Regulation Handbook that provides step-by-step guidance to organizations in starting, maintaining and expanding recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled efforts.
- ▶ The Partners-in-Recycling Program matches a successfully recycling business (also serving as a mentor) with a similar type of business to exchange expertise and provide guidance on setting up and/or improving their recycling programs.



- ▶ The County provides one-on-one business and site specific assistance to organizations.

Public School Facilities

- ▶ Montgomery County's recycling program staff, Montgomery County Public Schools staff, and the Board of Education have developed a close partnership to maintain a strong, successful recycling program for schools and administrative offices that meet all requirements of the County's Recycling Regulations.

Procurement

- ▶ The County has legislation requiring agencies to purchase recycled products. The legislation includes a goal of purchasing at least 80% post-consumer waste recycled paper products, and allows a price preference of up to 10%.

Public Education & Outreach

- ▶ On-going public education activities (e.g., direct mail, service media, press releases, community events, educational materials and special promotions) keep residents informed about recycling requirements and various programs.
- ▶ Community education and outreach is increasing backyard or on-site composting and grasscycling participation rates.
- ▶ The County operates a Recycling Volunteer Program with trained volunteers who give presentations, supplement staff at special events and fairs, conduct demonstrations and workshops, provide office assistance, and offer other, more peer-to-peer education on waste reduction and recycling issues.

Recycling Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement

- ▶ The County requires all sectors (single-family, multi-family and non-residential) to recycle. Recycling Investigators initiate visits and follow-up on complaints to ensure compliance with the recycling regulations. Enforcement includes and is not limited to: verbal warnings, written notices of violation, citations, and/or abatement orders. Fines are associated with citations.

Special Programs

Waste Reduction

- ▶ The County has established a waste reduction goal of no increase in the amount of waste each resident generates and no increase in the per employee generation of commercial waste over 1992 levels. This goal includes the reduction of both the amount and the toxicity of the waste stream and is reflected in the County's projections for waste generation used for planning purposes.
- ▶ The County operates a "Don't Dump - Donate" program for redistribution of bulky items, construction and used building materials in conjunction with the Loading Dock and other reuse organizations helping those in need.



Mandatory Recycling

- ▶ Recycling is mandatory for all sectors in the County, including residents and businesses. Furthermore, a ban on the disposal of yard trim materials and all required recyclable materials is in place.

Disposal

- ▶ The current tipping fees at the Transfer Station are \$56.00/ton for refuse; \$66.00/ton for materials delivered for disposal in open top roll-off containers; and \$46.00/ton for yard trim materials over 500 lbs. delivered by residents, commercial haulers, contractors and landscapers. No charge for yard trim loads under 500 lbs. delivered by residents, commercial haulers, contractors and landscapers.
- ▶ The County's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) handles all processible waste. The ash produced from the RRF and all non-processible rubble delivered to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station are processed for recycling. Ash is sent via rail and truck to Old Dominion Landfill in Henrico County, Virginia, where it is screened into two grades for use as road base and alternate daily cover for the landfill. Metals are recovered both at the RRF and during the screening process at Old Dominion Landfill and recycled.
- ▶ All trash managed by the County is rail-hauled from the Transfer Station to the RRF for processing.

Financing/Budget

- ▶ The County uses a method of financing the solid waste system called the Systems Benefits Charge. Through this system, the County bills residents and businesses directly for the services they receive. The fees under the Systems Benefits Charge system are set annually to reflect the cost of the programs provided by the County to each sector.

