



County of Fairfax, Virginia

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

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Solid Waste Advisory No. 17-005

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Recycling Requirements for Non-Residential and Multi-Family Properties

Recent changes to the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Code, Chapter 109.1, are intended to ensure that all residents and workers in Fairfax County have the opportunity to recycle by expanding the recycling requirements for all non-residential and multi-family properties. In summary, all collectors and property managers are required to provide for the collection of recyclables along with refuse. Residents of multi-family properties should be able to recycle the same materials as residents of single-family homes. Non-residential properties are required to recycle mixed paper and cardboard, and may also be required to recycle a Principal Recyclable Material (PRM) material *in addition*, if they meet certain size thresholds. Finally, recycling businesses and solid waste brokers must register with Fairfax County.

Recycling at Multi-Family Properties

Owners of multi-family dwelling units (such as apartment or condominium complexes of any size) must:

- Provide a recycling system for their residents to collect mixed paper, glass food and beverage containers, plastic bottles and jugs, and scrap metal. [See Section 109.1-2-2(b)]; and
- Provide adequate capacity for the collection of recyclables. The size of the collection containers and the frequency of collection must combine to create a recycling system of sufficient capacity that there is no need for residents to deposit material on the ground or put their recyclables in a refuse container. Any refuse collection container with a capacity of two cubic yards or greater must be accompanied by one or more recycling containers with volume equal to or greater than 25 percent of that of the refuse container.

Recycling at Non-Residential Properties

Owners of all non-residential properties (which includes schools and institutions) must provide a recycling system for their tenants, occupants, employees and vendors to collect mixed paper, which includes cardboard, newspaper with glossy inserts, magazines, office paper, envelopes, junk mail, catalogues, colored paper and any clean paper that tears.

Owners of non-residential properties meeting ANY ONE of the following criteria must provide a recycling system for their tenants, occupants, employees and vendors to collect and recycle one Principle Recyclable Material (PRM) *in addition* to mixed paper: [See Section 109.1-2-3(b)]:

- An annual total waste stream of 100 tons or more from a single non-residential property; OR
- An annual combined waste stream of 100 tons or more from a complex or institution; OR
- An annual average occupancy of 200 persons or more at a non-residential facility.

Solid Waste Advisory No. 17-005 (cont.)

Recycling Requirements for Non-Residential and Multi-Family Properties

Page 2 of 2

A PRM is the recyclable material from the following list that constitutes the largest single component fraction of the property's recyclable waste stream by weight:

- Ferrous scrap metal;
- Non-ferrous scrap metal;
- Used motor oil;
- Container glass;
- Aluminum or tin cans;
- Textiles;
- Automobile bodies;
- Plastic;
- Clean wood; or
- Brush, leaves, grass, and other arboreal materials.

Recycling Business Registration

All businesses that collect recyclables in Fairfax County as a commercial enterprise must register their organization and all vehicles used for collecting recyclables annually. The following information will be required at the time of registration: [Section 109.1-4-14]

- Name of business and type of business (single propriety, partnership, corporation, etc.);
- Name of parent company (if applicable);
- Owner(s) and Authorized Agent (if applicable);
- Business address, mailing address, e-mail address (if available) and business telephone number;
- A complete list of vehicles to be used in the collection of recyclable materials, including manufacturer, model, and body capacity/style;
- Street address(es) of collection vehicle parking location(s);
- Customer service area by U.S. Postal zip code, and type of service arrangements (e.g., subscription or contract); and
- The types of recyclable material being collected (by established commercial grade), the anticipated quantity to be collected, and the final market, interim processor, or MRF to which collected materials are to be delivered.

Solid Waste Broker Registration

Any business operating in Fairfax County as a solid waste broker on behalf of customers must register annually as such with the Solid Waste Management Program. Any business or individual who knowingly or willfully contracts with a solid waste broker that is not registered to operate in Fairfax County shall be in violation of Chapter 109.1. Solid waste brokers must provide information to their customers on the applicable recycling and refuse requirements in Fairfax County. [Section 109.1-4-16]