



Facts About...

Recycling

HARFORD COUNTY RECYCLING

Coordinator/Staff

C. Robert Ernst, Recycling Program Manager

Becky Joesting, Recycling Coordinator

Ph: 410-638-3417 **Fax:** 410-638-4019

E-mail: crernst@harfordcountymd.gov

Web Page: www.harfordcountymd.gov/dpw/envaffairs/

Waste Diversion Rate

- ▶ For calendar year 2006, 52.80 % recycling rate + 4% source reduction credit = 56.80 % waste diversion rate.

Residential Program

Curbside

- ▶ A trash hauler, licensed to serve residences in the County, must offer trash collection and recyclable collection at least once a week to single family homes. Trash haulers serving commercial customers must also offer a separate and appropriate recycling collection method.
- ▶ Commingled containers including aluminum and steel cans, glass, and #1 and #2 narrow-neck plastic bottles and jugs are collected in blue bags.
- ▶ Mixed paper including newspaper, magazines, mail, catalogs, and paperboard boxes are collected in brown paper bags or corrugated boxes.
- ▶ Flattened corrugated cardboard is collected loose.
- ▶ Recyclables are picked up once a week on an alternating schedule with paper one week and containers the following week.
- ▶ Curbside recycling is available to all 90,000 households.

Drop-off

- ▶ The following may be dropped off free of charge at the Harford Waste Disposal Center (HWDC) located at Scarboro Landfill: aluminum and steel cans, glass, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, newspaper, mixed paper and corrugated cardboard. Yard debris, lead-acid batteries, antifreeze, motor oil, white goods, scrap metal, textiles, computers and contaminated gasoline are also accepted.
- ▶ Banned from the Waste to Energy Facility and the HWDC, yard debris is collected, for a fee, through the residents' trash hauler. Residents may also drop off yard debris, free of charge, at the Composting Facility located at the HWDC, and at one other location.

Processing/Marketing

- ▶ Maryland Environmental Service (MES) currently holds the contract with the County to process and market commingled containers.

- ▶ CANUSA currently holds the contract to process and market mixed paper.
- ▶ Contracted transportation delivers containers of recyclables to MES and CANUSA on a six day per week schedule. Approximately five 10-ton loads per day are delivered for processing.

Municipalities

- ▶ The Town of Bel Air offers its residents municipal refuse/recyclables collection through its own department of public works. The recyclables are delivered to the County's transfer station. The 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. Bags of recyclables do not require a trash sticker. Aberdeen offers municipal refuse/recyclable collection
- ▶ Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) currently contracts with a private trash hauler for collection of trash and recyclables for all residences on post. Mixed paper is collected from APG offices. The recyclables collected follow County guidelines.
- ▶ The City of Havre de Grace contracts with a private trash hauler to provide refuse/recyclables collection to its residents. Recyclables collected follow the County's guidelines. Yard debris collection is once a month.

Yard Trimmings

- ▶ The County operates a nine-acre Composting Facility located at the HWDC.
- ▶ County ordinance mandates separate collection of yard debris. Delivery to the Composting Facility is left to the discretion of private haulers.
- ▶ County residents may drop off yard debris, free of charge, at the HWDC or at the Bel Air, Tollgate Road drop-off site.
- ▶ Three 30-gallon bags of mulch and/or compost are available free to County residents or larger quantities can be purchased.
- ▶ County officials offer backyard composting workshops, how-to videos and 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 exchanged for evergreen seedlings. Trees are dropped off by residents at the HWDC and Tollgate Road, Bel Air drop off site, transported to the Composting Facility and ground into mulch that is made available to the public.
- ▶ *White goods, scrap metal, lead-acid batteries, tires, oil, antifreeze, contaminated gasoline, inkjet cartridges, textiles, computers and yard debris* are accepted at the HWDC for recycling.
- ▶ *Oil and antifreeze* are accepted free of charge at 10 drop-off locations throughout the county.
- ▶ *Latex paint* recycling is offered in the spring and the fall. Useable paint is mixed and donated to The Loading Dock.
- ▶ 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 1995. Families, schools, and civic organizations have adopted more than 373 miles of roadway. Of the litter collected, approximately 36% is recycled.

Household Hazardous Waste

- ▶ The County currently does not have a HHW program. Contact the County for details.

Electronics

- ▶ The County accepts computers at the HWDC for recycling.

Commercial Program

- ▶ 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.

Public Buildings

- ▶ White office paper, mixed paper, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles are collected in all County government agencies and departments.
- ▶ All 52 public schools in the county collect mixed paper in every classroom and each school is set up with a separate recycling dumpster.
- ▶ 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 paper printed on both sides.

Public Education & Outreach

- ▶ The County's Recycling Coordinator continues to promote recycling and solid waste management education 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

- ▶ The County's only municipal landfill is the Harford Waste Disposal Center (formerly Scarboro Landfill). The tipping fee at the landfill and the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility is \$50/ton.

Financing/Budget

- ▶ The County-operated recycling programs are funded in part by the solid waste fund financed by the tipping fee and by the general fund.

