



## Howard County Recycling

### What You Need to Know

#### Coordinator/Staff

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Web Site : <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Bureau-Of-Environmental-Services/Recycling>

#### Waste Diversion Rate

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- ▶ For calendar year 2017, 44.06% recycling rate + 5% source reduction credit = 49.06 % waste diversion rate.

#### Residential Program

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##### *Curbside*

- ▶ Curbside collection serves just under 85,000 single-family, townhouse and mobile home households with once per week single stream recycling of metal food and beverage containers, 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 [HowardCountyRecycles.org/Bulk](http://HowardCountyRecycles.org/Bulk).

##### *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 drop-off location or container; 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, mowers, piping, swing sets, and other miscellaneous household scrap metal
  - Lead acid batteries, used motor oil, antifreeze, tires,
  - Compressed gas tanks and bottles
  - Reusable building materials
  - Reusable bicycles
  - Textiles and clothing
  - Commingled recyclables such as mixed paper, plastic bottles and cans, glass bottles and jars
  - Rigid plastics and cardboard
  - Styrofoam™, used cooking oil, compostable foodscrap, 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, with once per month collections in the winter months. Dates are announced via County website and social media. A wide variety of materials including latex paint, rechargeable batteries, pesticides and other chemicals are accepted for proper disposal.
  - ▶ Foodscrap, 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, scrap metal, motor oil and recyclables are tied to market price indexes.

#### *Yard Trim & Food scraps*

- ▶ From April through January, just under 65,000 households receive weekly collection of yard trimmings including leaves, grass, and light brush. The yard trimmings are collected in paper bags or reusable containers, yard trim in plastic bags is not accepted. 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 (choice of 12, 35, or 65 gallons) which can hold both food scrap and yard trim; the two are co-collected. The materials are composted on-site at Alpha Ridge Landfill. Details about the program can be found at [FeedTheGreenBin.org](http://FeedTheGreenBin.org).

## **Commercial Program**

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- ▶ 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 disposal.
- ▶ The County has a 'Work Green Howard' certification program to encourage businesses to recycle as well as report their recycling to the County. Certified Work Green Howard businesses receive a window cling as well as public recognition for their efforts.
- ▶ The County provides technical assistance to local businesses in the form of literature and site visits.

## **Public Buildings**

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- ▶ 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. A number of schools collect food scraps for composting.
- ▶ County fleet maintenance and Bureau of Highway personnel recycle antifreeze, waste oil, scrap metal, woodwaste 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

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- ▶ Active compost demonstration sites operated by the Master Gardeners are located throughout the County; information about the sites can be found at <https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/composting>.
- ▶ 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, online advertising, presentations to community groups, the County recycling webpage ([HowardCountyRecycles.org](http://HowardCountyRecycles.org)), a twitter account (@HoCoRecycles), a monthly electronic newsletter, 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

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- ▶ The FY2019 tipping fee is \$80.00/ton for commercial solid waste. A complete landfill fee schedule is available by calling (410) 313-6444 or visiting [HowardCountyMD.gov/ARL](http://HowardCountyMD.gov/ARL).

## Financing/Budget

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

## Procurement

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- ▶ Howard County encourages the purchase of “green” products, including those with recycled content. Details are available through the County Purchasing Department and at [HowardCountyMD.gov/Purchasing](http://HowardCountyMD.gov/Purchasing).