

Road to Zero Waste: Proposed Strategies

Public Information Webinar

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Working for You!

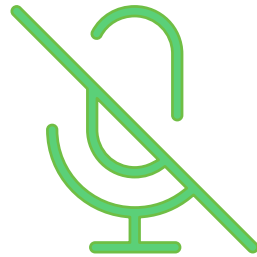


A Fairfax County, VA, publication
September 19, 2024

Webinar Info



Webinar is
being
recorded



All attendees
are muted



Use Q&A to
submit
questions





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Solid Waste Management Program

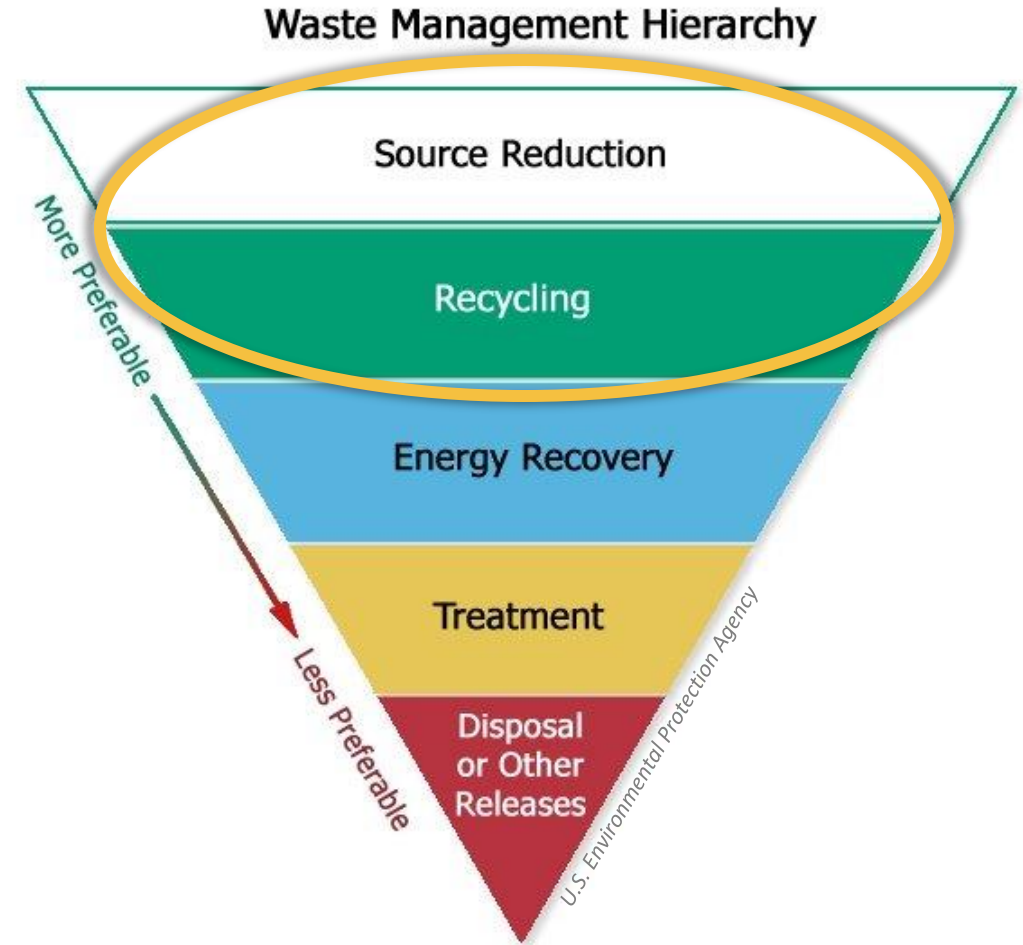
Fairfax County

Fairfax County Current State



What is Zero Waste?

- Minimizing waste **as close to zero** as possible
- **Making changes** to everyday actions:
 - Reducing waste
 - Reusing items
 - Repairing items
 - Donating unwanted items
 - Recycling materials
 - Composting food scraps, yard waste, compostables



Why Move Toward Zero Waste?



- 90% Diversion by 2040
- Waste Disposal Uncertainty

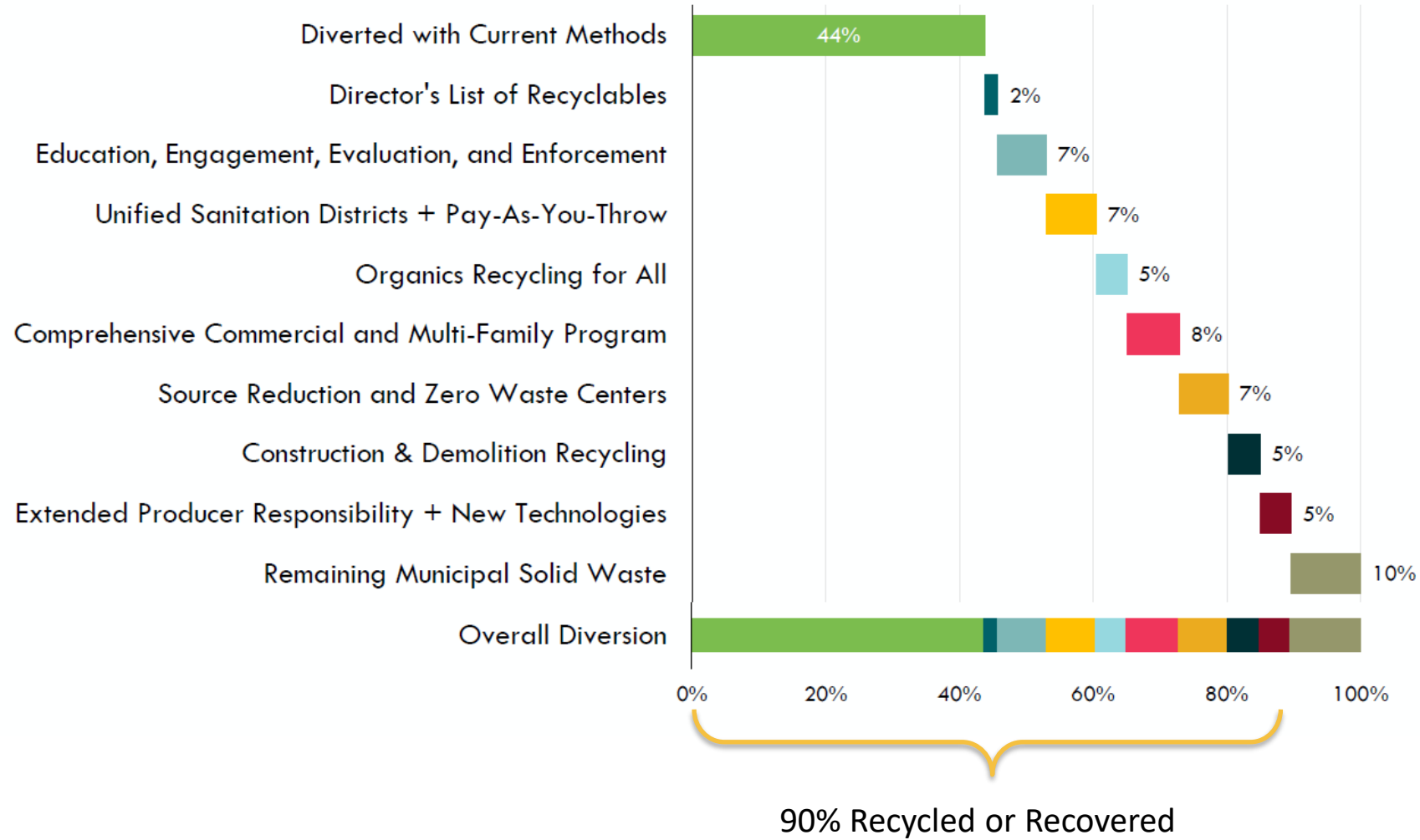
- Save Natural Resources
- Reduce GHG Emissions
- Reduce Pollution & Improve Public Health



- Reduce Inequities
- Improve Economics



How Do We Get to Zero Waste?



Moving Toward Zero Waste



Expand List of Recyclables



Education, Engagement, Evaluation & Enforcement



Unified Sanitation Districts



Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)



Mandatory Organics Recycling



Expand Commercial & Multi-Family Recycling



Source Reduction Programs & Zero-Waste Centers



Construction & Demolition Debris Diversion



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & New Technologies



Zero-Waste Fee



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 1



EXPAND LIST OF RECYCLABLES

Amend the current code to:

- **EXPAND** the list of recyclable items, diverting more valuable materials into manufacturing new products
- Create a **STANDARD** list of recyclable items picked up by all waste collectors
- Invest in **NEW FACILITIES** to process recyclables and build stronger markets for recycled materials



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 2



EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT, EVALUATION & ENFORCEMENT

Increase:

- Outreach **PROGRAMMING**
- Engagement and enforcement **STAFF**
- **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** for students
- Seasonal waste **AUDITS** and annual **SURVEYS**



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 3



UNIFIED SANITATION DISTRICT

County manages waste collector contracts:

- **STANDARDIZATION** of services by all waste collectors
- **TRANSPARENT & EQUITABLE** rates and services
- Less trucks on the roads & in the neighborhoods, **REDUCING WEAR** on roads
- **COUNTY MANAGES** diversion programs, penalties, and remedies for under-performing collectors
- Community-wide residential **COST SAVINGS** of up to \$27M annually



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 4



PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (PAYT)

Establish a program that:

- Charges a **REDUCED FIXED RATE FOR RECYCLING** and organics collection no matter the amount placed out for collection
- Charges a **VARIABLE RATE FOR TRASH** based on cart size:
 - The **MORE** you throw away as trash, the **MORE** you pay
 - The **LESS** you throw away as trash, the **LESS** you pay



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 5



MANDATORY ORGANICS RECYCLING

Establish a program that collects the county's organics waste stream (yard waste, food scraps, compostable items):

- Provide **CONSISTENT** pickups
- Include **ALL SECTORS**:
 - Single-family
 - Multi-family
 - Institutional
 - Commercial



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 6



EXPAND COMMERCIAL & MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING



Establish a program to:

- Provide access to **RECYCLING COLLECTION** in all multi-family households and businesses
- Establish/Improve **REQUIREMENTS** for:
 - Education
 - Reporting
 - Regulations and Enforcement



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 7



SOURCE REDUCTION & ZERO-WASTE CENTERS



Establish programs to:

- Provide clean and convenient access to recycle **HARD-TO-RECYCLE** items
 - Household hazardous waste, electronics, batteries, plastic film, textiles, construction & demolition debris, glass, scrap metal, and others
- Provide **REUSE AND REPAIR** opportunities
- Include **STAFF** to answer questions & serve the community



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 8



CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS DIVERSION



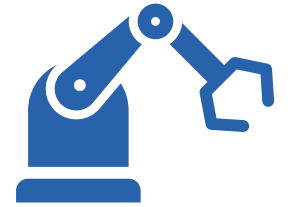
Establish programs to:

- **REDUCE** county's construction and demolition (C&D) debris waste stream - currently 23% of county's waste
- Enhance **EDUCATION & OUTREACH** to C&D contractors
- Establish a **ZERO-WASTE FACILITY OR CENTERS** that accept C&D waste from residential properties

Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 9



EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) & NEW TECHNOLOGIES



Provide support to:

- **LEGISLATION** that extends the responsibility of product & packaging manufacturers to include disposal/recycling
- Safe disposal and diversion of **HARD-TO-RECYCLE** items
- **CONTINUOUS EVALUATION** of emerging technologies for new disposal/recycling options
- Implement **NEW TECHNOLOGIES** for recycling/composting that reduce contamination & improve quality



Proposed Zero-Waste Strategy 10



ZERO-WASTE FEE

Establish a per household and business fee to fund:

- Increase **STAFF** for education, engagement, evaluation, and enforcement
- Establish **ZERO-WASTE CENTERS & FACILITIES**



Pathway to Plan Adoption



Next Steps

- Take the **RESIDENT SURVEY**

- Deadline Sept 30
- Approx. 10-15 min to complete
- <https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/a3200>



Scan to take
SURVEY

- Join the **MAILING LIST**

- Public Hearing
- Board of Supervisor Activities/Approvals
- Zero Waste Activities and Best Practices
- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/subscribe-fairfax-recycler>



Scan to join
MAILING LIST



Questions



QUESTIONS?

Please submit your **COMMENTS** or **QUESTIONS** using the Q&A button



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Additional Resources



Recycling & Trash webpage:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycle>



Fairfax Recycles Newsletter webpage:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/subscribe-fairfax-recycler>



Engage Fairfax County webpage:

<https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/>



Public Works & Environmental Services email:

trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Thank you!

Recording and slide deck will be available on www.Engage.FairfaxCounty.gov

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Working for You!



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