



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 14, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Bryan J. Hill
County Executive *B. Hill*

SUBJECT: Zero Waste Plan Development Update

The Zero Waste Team, which includes the Department of Procurement and Material Management, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Solid Waste Management Program, Facilities Management Department, Park Authority, and Fairfax County Public Schools, has prepared the below information as an update for the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee on the status of the Zero Waste Plan (Plan) and its next steps. The request to develop a plan for County government and school operations to achieve Zero Waste by 2030 is part of the Joint Environmental Task Force's (JET) recommendation on waste management and recycling.

Status of Zero Waste Plan

Staff initially planned to complete the Zero Waste Plan by June 30, 2021, as requested by the JET, and present it to the Environmental Committee on July 20, 2021. On this very ambitious timeline, staff and their consultant completed the majority of the work to prepare the Plan, including conducting waste and recycling composition assessments (audits), analyzing existing County and school programs and practices related to Zero Waste, developing a matrix of strategies to reduce and divert waste, designing an initial implementation structure, and more.

Due to some unforeseen challenges, as well as facing a short time window for soliciting feedback from key stakeholders, staff requested to instead distribute the Plan to the Environmental Committee in September 2021 and present it at the September 28, 2021 Environmental Committee meeting. Staff are confident that with this additional time to resolve issues and obtain a more thorough review by stakeholders they will deliver an effective, inspiring, and actionable Plan.

Completing and Presenting the Zero Waste Plan

Next steps are planned as follows:

- July 2021: Finalize the Plan's data, recommendations, and narrative
- August 2021: Obtain feedback from County and school departments
- Early September 2021: Incorporate stakeholder feedback
- September 2021: Share and present Plan to Environmental Committee
- Fall 2021: Board of Supervisors adopts Plan¹

The Plan document and presentation will include the following elements:

- Background, Purpose, and Vision for the Plan
- Where We Are Now
 - Includes waste volumes and composition and relevant existing programs
- Where Others Are Now
- Zero Waste Strategies
 - Includes prioritization of recommendations, timeline, and COVID-19 considerations
- How We Will Achieve Zero Waste
 - Includes initial implementation structure

Environmental Committee Input

Staff look forward to discussing the completed Plan with the Environmental Committee in September and also welcome any feedback before then regarding next steps or the Plan structure.

Contact

For questions or comments regarding this memo, contact Nathalie Owen (DPMM) at Nathalie.Owen@fairfaxcounty.gov.

¹ The School Board will be consulted on a similar timeline.

cc: Joe Mondoro, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Jose Comayagua, Director, Facilities Management Department
Christopher Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
Cathy Muse, Director, Department of Procurement and Material Management
Sara Baldwin, Acting Director, Park Authority
Justin Moss, Director, Facilities Management, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
Chris McGough, Department of Procurement and Material Management
Nathalie Owen, Department of Procurement and Material Management
Eric Forbes, Solid Waste Management Program, DPWES
Emmanuel Waleola, Facilities Management Department
Keith Snyder, Park Authority
Ali Culhane, Get2Green, FCPS
Scott Larson, Facilities Management, FCPS