



County of Fairfax, Virginia

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

August 2018
Solid Waste Advisory No. 18-002

Contact: Charlie Forbes, Chief
Recycling, Compliance, and Planning
Solid Waste Management Program
charles.forbes@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-5230

Registering With the Food Waste Composting Pilot Program

Fairfax County implemented a pilot program in April 2017 to register companies that offer food waste collection service and composting to residential and commercial clients. The purpose of this Solid Waste Advisory is to provide food waste collection businesses with guidance on how to register.

Background

While food waste can be considered a recyclable, the potential for insects, nuisance odors, vermin, and escaping decomposition by-products require that it be collected and transported as refuse. To encourage the development of this promising new recycling sector, the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) has established a pilot program to ensure that food waste composting service providers meet basic public health and sanitation standards, while allowing some flexibility (compared to refuse collection requirements).

How to Register as a Food Waste Composter

The requirement to register does not apply to companies that already hold a CTO and are collecting source-separated food waste using traditional refuse containers and County-permitted collection vehicles.

Companies that wish to establish a food waste compost collection service must complete the attached application form and submit their collection vehicles for inspection. If the key concerns summarized below have been addressed, the SWMP will provide written authorization to commence food waste compost collection service. Registration does not need to be renewed, but must be updated in the event of changes in ownership, equipment, services offered, or other substantive changes to the organization.

Key Issues

1. Customers must be provided with a means to separately store food waste in robust, rigid, and clearly-labeled containers of sufficient capacity to prevent leakage, control odors, and vermin.
2. Collection service must effectively control the potential for issues associated with the build-up of residue and detritus inside storage containers.
3. Vehicles used for collection must be designed or modified for the express purpose of collecting refuse or similar putrescible solid waste, including a means to contain free liquids that may escape during transportation, and a cover or tarpaulin to minimize absorption of rain and other precipitation.
4. Food waste must be collected no less than weekly, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.

For questions, or to obtain an application for a Food Waste Composting Pilot, please contact the SWMP at 703-324-5230.