



Solid Waste

Update to Yard Waste Bag Policy

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Outline

- Messaging
- Target Audience
- Plastic Alternatives
- Survey
- Compost Processors
- Next Steps



Messaging

- Website
- Press Release
- FAQ
- Fliers
- Presentations
- Events
- Yard Waste Customers

PHASING OUT PLASTIC BAGS FOR YARD WASTE COLLECTION



On Feb. 25, 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to begin the transition away from the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection. During the 2020 yard waste season, which runs March through December, staff from Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program will be working with the community and private haulers to help customers transition to using only compostable paper bags or reusable containers for setting out yard waste. For more information: [Fairfax County Begins Transition from Plastic Yard Waste Bags; No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste flyer](#) 📄

[Read FAQs →](#)

Target Audience

- Homeowners- Presentations, Email contact, Phone calls
- Landscapers- Phone calls, Fliers at the Scalehouses
- Licensed Collectors- Survey, Newsletters, Fliers, Website

No More Plastic Bags for Yard Waste!

Plastic bags are bad for the environment – they get torn and mixed in with yard waste. That becomes part of the compost that we use in our gardens, and those microplastics can end up in local streams, affecting water quality.

Beginning this spring, Fairfax County will start to transition away from using plastic bags for yard waste.

What can you do instead?

- If you use a landscaper to manage your property, talk to them about this change.
- Let the grass clippings fertilize and hydrate the lawn.
- Start backyard composting.
- Repurpose an old trash can or try a reusable, collapsible can for yard waste.
- Use paper yard waste bags – they are designed to hold yard waste and can get wet without falling apart.



If you have questions, please call 703-324-5230, email recycling@fairfaxcounty.gov or check out <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste>

Plastic alternatives

- Grasscycling
- Backyard Composting
- Reusable Containers
- Paper Yard Waste Bags



Use paper yard waste bags for grass clippings, leaves, and brush; they are durable, sustainable, and available in stores and online.



Recent Survey

- Over 5500 homes
- Based on Census tracts
- 50/50 split
- Clusters of like set outs

Home Value	Total Set Outs	Yard Pile	Plastic Bags	Compost Bags	Containers	Paper Bags
High	348	7%	53%	0.29%	28%	11%
Medium	438	5%	50%	0.23%	36%	10%
Low	279	8%	53%	0.36%	28%	11%
Grand Total	1065	6%	51%	1%	31%	11%



Then and Now



Yard Waste Processors

- Freestate Farms
 - New Regional Scale Compost Facility
 - Partnership Agreement w/PWC
- Fees:
 - \$35.00 per ton Clean, Unbagged/Paper
 - \$37.00 per ton for Plastic Bagged
- Loudoun Compost
 - Closing current operation November 2020

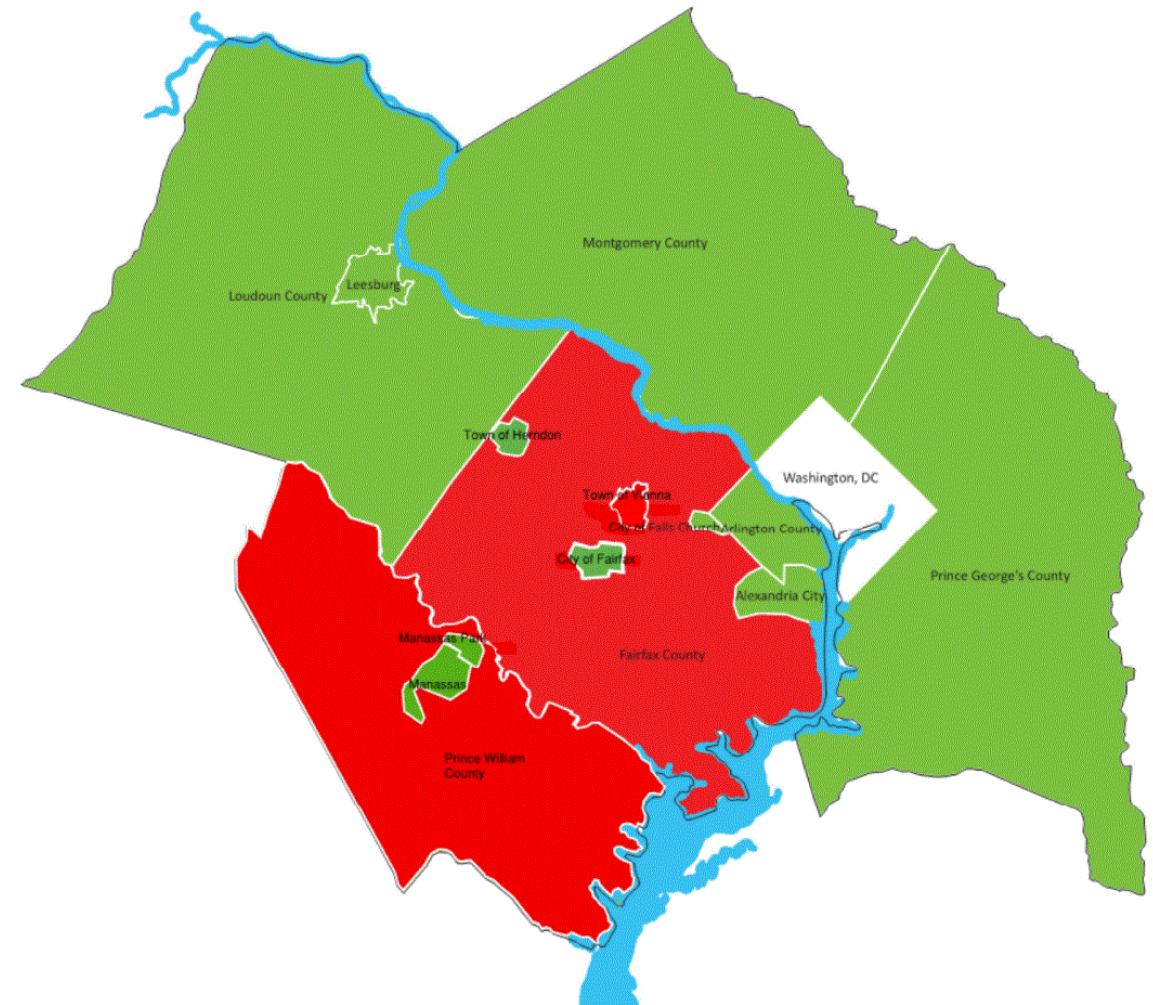


<https://www.freestatefarmsva.com/>



Our Neighbors

Community	Year	Requirements
Loudoun County	2002	Paper Bags or Containers
Montgomery County	2009	Paper Bags or Containers
Prince George's County	2014	Paper Bags or Carts



Ordinance Update

Original:

Yard waste may only be set out in bags, reusable containers, or in piles as instructed by the company which will be collecting them.

Recommended:

Yard waste shall be set out in paper yard waste bags, reusable containers, other storage devices as approved by the Director, or bundled with string as instructed by the collection provider and shall not weigh more than fifty pounds. Yard waste shall not be placed in plastic bags.



Next Steps

- Continue Transition
- Ordinance Change
- Timeline



Timeline



Future

- Recycles Day Webinar-
November 16, 2020
- Recycles Day Touch a Truck-
November 17, 2020
- Ribbon Cutting for Food Scraps
Drop off- TBD

recycling@fairfaxcounty.gov



For additional information please contact:

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

