

Proposed County Code Changes to Recycling Requirements for Multi-family Dwellings and Commercial Establishments

Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Bureau
September 2014

Summary:

In November 2014, the Arlington County Board will be considering amendments to Chapter 10, Article IV of the County Code related to recycling requirements for multi-family & commercial properties. The purpose of these code changes is to reduce the quantity of recyclable materials disposed by landfilling or incineration and increase the County's recycling rate.

Multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments have been required by County code to have a recycling system in place for employees and tenants since January 2011. The proposed code changes would expand these existing requirements to ensure that if a trash can is provided, then a recycling container is located nearby to provide equally convenient access for users to recycle.

The Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Bureau is requesting feedback on these proposed code amendments and is seeking Letters of Support for these changes from the business community. Contact information is provided below. In addition, County Recycling Compliance Specialists are available to provide further details and answer questions.



Proposed Code Requirement for Additional Recycling Containers:

The proposed code changes will require additional recycling containers for many multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments effective on January 1, 2016.

Multi-family Dwellings – IF there is a trash container provided for use by tenants or visitors AND it is reasonably expected that recyclable materials would be disposed at that trash container location, then a recycling container must also be provided adjacent to the trash container. This new requirement would apply to locations both on the interior and the exterior of the property such as club rooms, laundry rooms, gyms, mailrooms, lobbies, business rooms, roof decks, pools, and green spaces.

Commercial Establishments – IF there is a trash container provided for use by tenants, customers, or visitors AND it is reasonably expected that recyclable materials would be disposed at that trash container location, then a recycling container must also be provided adjacent to the trash container. This new requirement would apply to public areas both on the interior and the exterior of the property such as dining rooms, front-of-store, waiting rooms, lobbies, hallways, walkways, and entrances.

Other Proposed Code Changes:

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| <p>Recycling containers must be labeled to distinguish from trash.</p> | <p>Collected recyclable materials must not be disposed as trash.</p> | <p>Information on collected compostable materials must be included in recycling plans & reports.</p> | <p>Appeals process will consist of a review and written response instead of formal hearing.</p> | <p>Collection process for failure to pay recycling compliance inspection fee has been streamlined.</p> |

Exemptions: The owner, manager, or agent responsible for the solid waste generated at a multi-family dwelling or commercial establishment may apply for an Exemption from the recycling requirements.

Questions or Comments?

We would appreciate your feedback and your support for these proposed code changes. Please contact us at AriRecycles@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-6571 with comments, questions, or to request a visit from a County Recycling Compliance Specialist.