

MEETING MINUTES

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG)

April 11, 2024

ATTENDANCE

SWAG Members:

Present: Lynn Meadows, Joel Becker, Jane Wyman, Tiziana Bottino, Harry Glasgow, James Gestrich

Absent: Virginia Douglas, Mark Bonner, Keisha Strand, Sidney "ST" Billingsley

Solid Waste Division Staff: Monica Gorman, Trent Magill, Tammy Gumbita, Roscoe Coles, Renad Uri

Other County Staff: None

Guests: None

OPENING

Ms. Gorman called the meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) to order at 7:02 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

AGENDA TOPICS

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Gorman welcomed everyone to the meeting via Microsoft Teams. No guests or visitors were present. Ms. Gorman introduced two new staff members, Tammy Gumbita, Senior Environmental Program Manager, and Renad Uri, Recycling Program Manager. Ms. Gumbita will manage the division's regulatory programs and supervise the Engineering group. Ms. Gumbita shared her background working at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for 16 years and 11 years at the FBI Academy. Ms. Uri will manage the division's recycling and communication programs. Ms. Uri shared her work background in recycling education and outreach for the City of Tampa, Florida, Fairfax County, Virginia, and Georgetown University.

APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Gorman stated there is a new Neabsco District appointment, Syndey "ST" Billingsly, who was appointed on February 20, 2024. Mr. Billingsly was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The draft minutes of the January 11, 2024 SWAG meeting were approved.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Landfill Operations

Roscoe Coles, Solid Waste Superintendent, provided the update. The Phase 3B cell construction project is out for bid, and construction is expected to start in the next few months. The bid to cap a portion of Phase 2 is in process.

The County's Litter Crews are now located in the Solid Waste Division. (In the past, the crews were funded by Solid Waste revenues but managed by Neighborhood Services).

Position vacancies at the facilities due to promotions and staff turnover are not affecting operations. Mr. Coles hopes to return to full staffing by the end of the fiscal year.

Compost Facility Operations

Monica Gorman, Assistant Director of Public Works for Solid Waste, stated that Freestate Farms closed a deal with Convertus Group to operate the Compost Facility and the mulch yard at the landfill. The County owns the land, but the facility infrastructure is privately owned and under contract. Ms. Gorman shared the website Convertusgroup.com. Convertus Group is a Canadian company that operates numerous organic waste-to-energy operations in Canada and Europe. Ms. Gorman noted there is excitement about the change in ownership because of the company's extensive expertise, and this is their first foray into the U.S.

Recycling/Diversion Outreach Programs

Renad Uri, Recycling Program Manager, stated that since the last meeting, outreach efforts have focused on:

- Yard Waste Collection, which resumes March through December;
- National Battery Day on February 18 to promote awareness of property battery disposal;
- Electronics Recycling during the Super Bowl timeframe; and
- Spring Cleaning, including general information about disposal sites, program services, and reuse opportunities.

An audit of the recyclable material collection trailer locations is in progress, including a review of trailer locations, conditions, and labels.

Dumpster Days are in progress, and information about amounts collected will be provided on our website.

The Solid Waste Division recognized two middle school students for their compost-related science fair project.

The Solid Waste website, www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling, was recently reorganized and given a new look. Some changes include a new landing page, more prominent updated facility location and hours, and an events list with updated calendar.

County Communications has developed new litter control videos featuring a mascot, "Trashy," the raccoon. Messaging about illegal dumping, covering your load, and promoting the A to Z Disposal Guide are also a part of the litter outreach campaign.

The spring shred event was held on March 30 and served 508 cars. Ms. Uri also shared upcoming paper shred events that will be held in conjunction with Dumpster Days. The fall paper shred, usually hosted by Solid Waste at the County Government Center, has not yet been scheduled.

The annual Recycling Rate Report for calendar year 2023 has been submitted to DEQ for approval. The County's calculated recycling rate was 42.1%, an increase from 38.8% in 2022.

The next community event will be the Montclair Beautification Day on April 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Staff will be present to talk with guests and answer questions about recycling, littering, proper waste disposal, and other Solid Waste programs.

PROJECT UPDATES

Division Staffing

Ms. Gorman stated the Solid Waste Division has about a 10% position vacancy rate compared to over 20% in the past. There are seven to eight vacant positions, but several are in the recruitment process. Ms. Gorman discussed the positive turn recruitment has taken, including more job applicants and overall more qualified applicants. In addition, the Board approved salary increases that took effect this fiscal year, which made wages more competitive with private market positions such as heavy equipment operators and CDL drivers.

FY25 Solid Waste Budget Review and Initiatives

Ms. Gorman provided a PowerPoint presentation to review elements of the FY25 Proposed Budget for the Solid Waste Division. The Board is reviewing the overall budget, and the Budget Director presented the budget recap this past Tuesday. The Board will meet next Tuesday to review the budget, make comments, request changes, etc. The County budget is scheduled for adoption on April 23.

Ms. Gorman shared high-level highlights of the Solid Waste budget. The Solid Waste Management Fee increase went into effect on July 1, 2023, and the new refuse tipping fee went into effect on January 1, 2024. The new tipping fee has generated approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 in additional monthly revenue.

The Board requested additional services via the County Executive's Office, including:

- Addition of another Litter Crew to clean County roadways paid for from the General Fund, totaling about \$411,000;
- Special household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events on the western side of the County with funding from Solid Waste revenues at a cost of about \$380,000;

Ms. Gorman presented an overview of the budgeted Revenue and Expenditures for FY 2025, including \$35.2 million in revenues, \$23.3 million in operational expenditures, \$21.7 million in other transfers to the General Fund, and \$45 million in total expenditures and transfers out, resulting in a negative \$9.8 million.

Ms. Gorman noted that expenditures exceeding revenues is a trend that has occurred over the last many years, which is why we had a fee increase in FY 2024 for the first time since 1999. Staff should have a better idea in FY 25 if the current fee structure is sufficient to support operations and capital projects.

RNG Facility

Trent Magill provided the update. The County's partner and vendor, Opal Fuels, is funding and constructing the renewable natural gas (RNG) plant at the landfill to collect landfill gas and clean it up to consumer-grade for market by the local utility. Mr. Magill provided slides and photos of the new modular renewable natural gas plant. Grading began in March 2022, and the plant received a certificate to occupy yesterday. When the RNG plant is completed, the electrical plant will be decommissioned.

Natural gas from the RNG plant will be sent to Washington Gas line via an underground utility line. Until the utility line is completed, Opal Fuels will use a temporary fuel transfer station to truck natural gas from the landfill to a Washington Gas injection point. This transfer is temporary until the utility line is completed.

Mr. Gestrich asked how much more money we are making or saving than when we were generating electricity with landfill gas. Ms. Gorman replied that royalties from the electrical generation plant were about \$160,000 annually. Royalties from the RNG plant will be a minimum of \$400,000 annually and eventually may be up to \$1 million or more based on the vendor's sales. This additional revenue has been targeted as a funding source for the special HHW collection events on the western end of the County.

Ms. Bottino asked why gas is being flared and when will we stop. She expressed concern about leaks, flaring, environmental impacts, and greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Gorman responded that most landfills flare all landfill gas, but our public/private partnership with Opal Fuels has made our landfill gas-to-electricity program possible. Mr. Magill explained that the electrical engines could not utilize all the gas produced by the landfill, so flaring some of the gas was necessary. Maintenance of the electrical engines and adding new engines was not a feasible business model for Opal Fuels, so they are constructing the RNG facility. The RNG facility will utilize most of the landfill's gas, with only about 5% of the gas flared once the plant is online.

Ms. Bottino asked about monitoring leaks and methane escaping. Mr. Magill explained that monitoring systems have been installed at the RNG plant.

SWAG MEMBER GENERAL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gestrich mentioned EV Battery disposal concerns and the lack of concrete decisions and direction by the task force he served on to study the subject. He asked if we have any plans to be proactive to keep these batteries out of the landfill. Mr. Coles discussed his conversation with Securis, our electronics recycling vendor. Securis is researching offering EV battery recycling service if there is enough need/interest from other jurisdictions. Although we do not accept EV batteries, a few have been left at our facilities. Currently, the EV batteries are shipped to Arizona for recycling.

Mr. Becker noted that on a weekend in January or February, a large amount of trash was dumped at the Nokesville school when the Saturday collection had been canceled. Mr. Becker requested ideas to deter people from leaving trash there when no truck is available. He offered signage as a

possibility. Ms. Gorman proposed that the litter crew could check on the site if collection was canceled.

Mr. Coles shared that he and Ms. Uri are investigating alternatives to add food waste collection at the landfill and requested the group provide suggestions. Mr. Gestrich asked about food waste collection at the schools. Ms. Uri shared that the County School system will be adding food waste collection to six more schools for a total of 12 schools.

Ms. Buttino asked about the status of the landfill solar project. Ms. Gorman noted that at least two vendors have expressed interest. Some issues identified include sufficient available acreage to make a solar array financially viable, adequate revenue sharing with the County, and the visual impact on neighboring residents. The plan is to issue a competitive procurement in the future to obtain offers from several companies.

Ms. Buttino inquired about any anticipated impact of data centers on waste. Staff does not anticipate a noticeable increase at the landfill from data centers.

Ms. Gorman followed up on an inquiry about the glass recycling program during the last meeting. Glass recycling collection in calendar year 2023 was 594 tons.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING

The next SWAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Gorman adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Attachments:

- Presentation – Recycling Program Update
- Presentation – Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Recycling Program Update

Solid Waste Advisory Group

April 11, 2024

Since we last met

- **Outreach Focus**

- Yard waste collection March - December (Social media, media releases, PWC alerts)
- National Battery Day on February 18 (media release and WF about proper battery care and recycling in PWC)
- Proper disposal of electronics campaign during Super Bowl season to educate residents on electronics recycling
- Spring cleaning: information about PWC disposal sites, Convenience center offerings, and reuse opportunities

- **Recycling trailer locations audit** (condition of trailers, label updates)

- **Dumpster Days** (finalize and promote)

- **Science awards** (Composting acceleration project)

- A new Landfill: An Investigation on Light's Effects on Decomposition
- Corinna Balios and Sienna Motley- Bull Run Middle

Prince William County Government, Virginia
December 30, 2023 · 🌐

Were you gifted new electronics over the holidays? Or are you considering buying a new phone or laptop? Don't throw away your old electronics, recycle them at the Prince William County Landfill. The county's E-cycling Program is free of charge for county residents. Learn more: pwcva.gov/electronics-recycling

Don't throw old electronics in the trash.

PRINCE WILLIAM
Public Works

pwcva.gov/electronics-recycling

16 2 comments 12 shares

www.pwcva.gov/trashandrecycling

- New landing page
- Updated facility homepage, observed holidays list, and hours of operations made obvious.
- Updated events list/calendar view
- SWAG page is easily accessible through drop down
- Plans to separate residential from commercial FAQs

Litter Outreach Plan

- Raccoon mascot PSA (featuring Trashy Raccoon)
- Social media outreach
- Website update (litter button)
- Illegal dumping (highlighting convenience center offerings)
- Cover your load campaign
- Promoting the A-Z list on pwcva.gov



One of the most appreciated services we offer

- 508 cars
- 21,000 tons

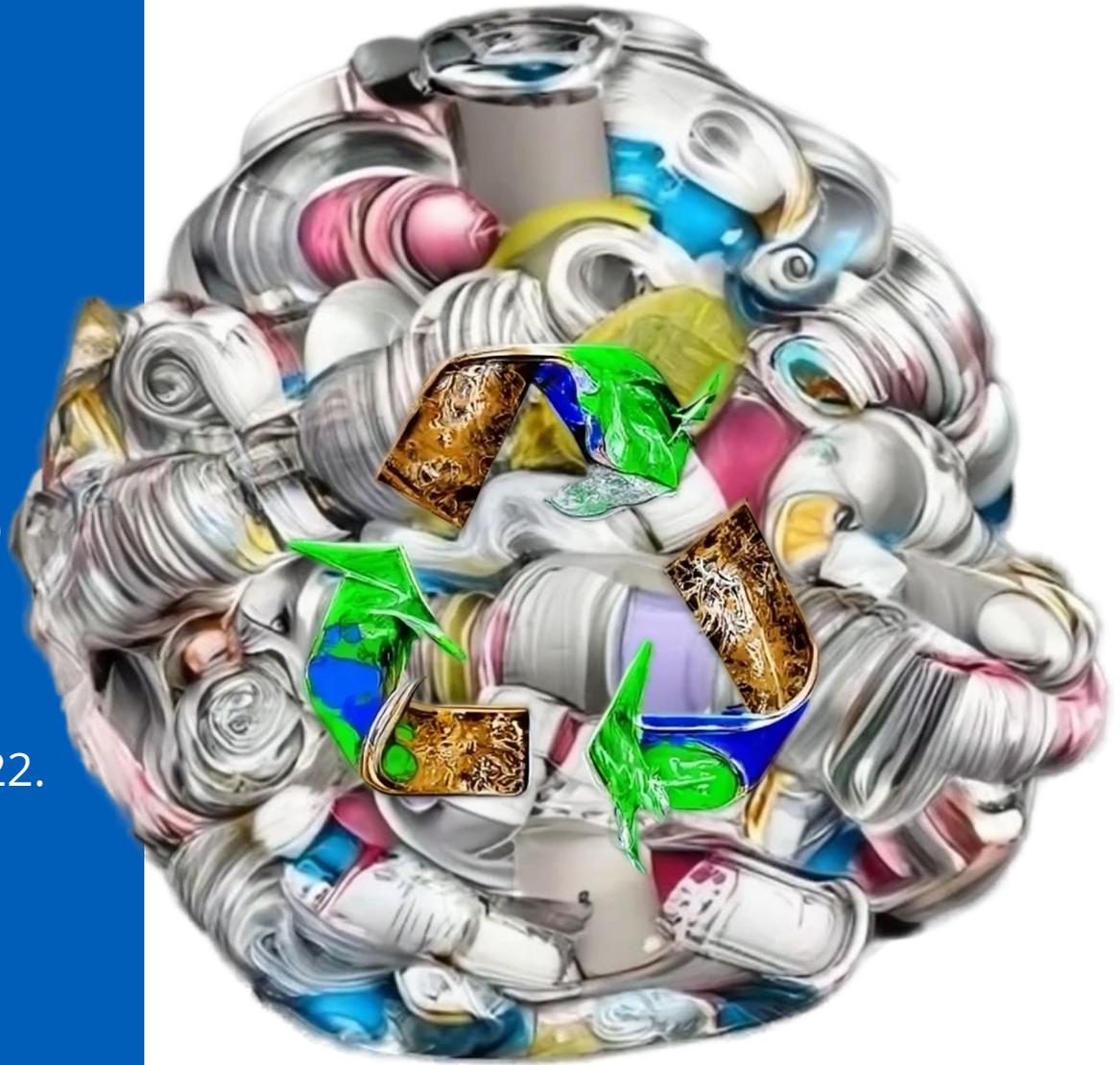
Upcoming shred opportunities at Dumpster Days

- May 11th Gainesville District
- May 18th Woodbridge District
- June 1st Potomac District
- September 28th Woodbridge District
- October 12th Neabsco District
- October 26th Gainesville District
- Solid Waste Division Fall shred event TBD

Recycling Rate Report

2023 recycling rate of **42.1%** submitted and awaiting approval by DEQ.

Compares favorably to the 38.8% rate approved for 2022.



Where you can
catch us next

SAVE THE
Date
FOR

Montclair Beautification Day

APRIL 20TH

8AM-12PM

Located at Dolphin Beach





PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

Solid Waste Advisory Group

Solid Waste Division
FY25 Proposed Budget

April 11, 2024

FY25 Fee Schedule

	FY2024 Adopted	FY2025 Proposed	Change
Single Family	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Townhouse	\$67.50	\$67.50	\$0.00
Mobile home	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Multi Family (Apartment or Condo)	\$50.19	\$50.19	\$0.00
Business/Non-Residential (per SFE where SFE – 1.3tons)	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Landfill Tipping Fee (commercial refuse per ton)	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$0.00

- The FY25 Proposed Budget includes no changes to the FY24 fee schedule.

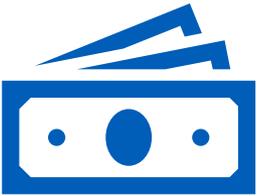
Service Level Increases

- Additional Litter Crew to support the FY24 Adopted initiative.
 - Recurring costs include salary and compensation of 4.0 new full-time employees. \$344k
 - One-time costs to purchase a vehicle. \$73k
 - **Total FY25 impact (may be support by General Fund) \$417k**
- Increase service levels of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program.
 - Provide HHW Special Collection events once a month to service the residents on the County's western end.
 - **Recurring costs estimated – 12 events/\$38k each \$460k**

Revenue & Expenditure Overview

	FY2025	
	Proposed	
Revenue		
Solid Waste User Fee	\$18.5	
Commercial Refuse Disposal Fee	\$13.5	
Composting Tipping Fees	\$1.5	
Miscellaneous	\$1.7	
Total Revenue	\$35.2	
Expenditure		
Salaries & Benefits	\$7.6	
Contractual Services	\$7.5	
Internal Services	\$2.1	
Purchase Goods & Services	\$2.6	
Capital Outlay	\$1.3	Replacing heavy equipment & vehicle
Leases & Rentals	\$0.1	
Depreciation Expense	\$2.1	
Expenditure Total	\$23.3	
Transfers Out		
Transfer to General Fund	\$1.6	Indirect Costs
Transfer to SW Capital Projects	\$13.7	Phase 3/4 Infrastructure (\$12.4M), Landfill Liner (\$1.3M)
Transfer to Closure	\$5.3	\$2.0M increase over FY24 adopted
Transfer to Post Closure	\$1.1	
Transfers Out Total	\$21.7	
Total Expenditure & Transfers Out	\$45.0	
Contribution To /(Use of) Fund Balance	(\$9.8)	

Debt Finance Phase 3/4 Infrastructure



\$12.5M debt issuance in fall 2025

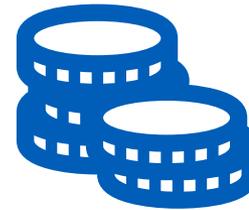
FY2025 \$0.00M

FY2026 \$0.26M

FY2027 \$1.13M

FY2028 \$1.10M

FY2029 \$1.07M



**Debt funding budgeted
directly in capital fund.**

Looking Forward - LF Capital Projects



Landfill Cell Construction
& Liner Systems

FY2026 \$9.7M



Landfill Caps

FY2027 \$5.3M



Solid Waste Facility
Infrastructure

FY2028 \$2.0M