

Charleston County Environmental Management

Summer/Fall 2011



Environmental Management
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Single-Stream Residential Recycling Pilot Program A Success

by Bronwyn Santos, Community Representative,
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Single-stream recycling has made its mark in Charleston County. In January 2011, Charleston County's Environmental Management Department began a pilot program that introduced 4,600 homes to a collection process that is not new to the recycling industry, but new to Charleston County. Single-stream recycling is the terminology used in the recycling industry to designate a single container for collecting all recyclable materials.

Environmental Management saw a considerable increase in recycling participation in the pilot program area, with participation rates as high as 70% among the 4,600 homes involved, while rates in the rest of the County have been averaging 35%-40%. Homes in the pilot area also increased the weight of materials recycled, with over 20 pounds per home per pickup, compared with just over 10 pounds per home with the regular the dual stream.

Single-stream recycling continues to expand in the U.S., replacing many dual-stream recycling programs. In this process, separating paper from plastic, glass and aluminum products is no longer required. All recyclable materials are put into one single container. The County's pilot program uses a 95-gallon cart on wheels with a lid. Feedback from pilot participants so far shows they are pleased with the advancement toward single-stream recycling.

"I am writing to voice my praise on the pilot recycling program," said resident Karen Kuhn in an email to County staff. "I was thrilled that my neighborhood was one chosen to be in the program. My large recycling container is full to capacity every other week. My green City trash container is not even half full each week. I put it out today so proud of the half-empty container next to the beautiful blue County recycling container that is full to capacity...If input from the participants in the pilot program is needed for it to continue, I wanted to make sure you know that I LOVE it and so do my neighbors."



The single-stream method of collecting recyclables benefits the community in a number of ways, especially its ease for residents, as no sorting is required and everything stays together in a single roll-cart. The rolling carts make maneuvering to and from the curb for collection easier than the regular blue bins.

For the pilot program, County recycling collections personnel use trucks equipped with mechanical arms that lift and empty the roll-carts at the curb. Because the driver does not have to exit the vehicle to service and repeatedly lift heavy bins, the biweekly collection process is faster, more cost-effective and much safer for the driver.

Environmental Management staff plans to expand the single-stream recycling program to an additional 5,000 residences by the end of 2011. In order to make sure County residents are fully informed, extensive planning, analysis, and outreach are involved in this type of change. The County is pleased that the pilot program is helping divert more material from the Bees Ferry Landfill and that the program allows staff to evaluate its success based on the increase in participation by residents. All of these facts help the County inch closer to meeting Council's 40% recycling participation goal.

Visit us online for all the latest and greatest on recycling!
recycle.charlestoncounty.org



What is Recyclable in Charleston County?

Place flattened cardboard (up to three feet by three feet) between or under recycling bins or place cardboard in your mixed paper recycling bin.

Plastics #1 - #7
(see bottom of container for number)

Glass Bottles or Jars

Aluminum Cans & Baking Pans

Steel, Tin & Empty Aerosol Cans
(Labels are ok)

PAPER IS SEPARATE:

Please separate all paper items, remove plastic bags or liners, flatten and place in a paper bag or separate bin.



Materials are hand-sorted at the recycling center. Please rinse out all containers and food pans.

Lids can stay on.



Office & Other Papers



Junk Mail



Magazines & Books



Paperboard
(Packaging Containers)



Newspapers & Inserts

Place your bins at the curb before 7:00 a.m. See the calendar on the next page for your biweekly pick-up day.

Charleston County also accepts motor oil, cooking oil, electronics, household hazardous materials (such as paint, toxic cleaners, insecticides, etc.), compact fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, and batteries for recycling at drop-off sites located throughout the County.

Visit recycle.charlestoncounty.org and click on 'Recycling Convenience Centers and Dropsite Locations' for a list of drop-off locations.



Check the Web site as well for a complete list of household hazardous materials and electronics. Just click on 'What Can be Recycled.'



If you need another recycling bin, please call (843) 720-7111.

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle!

2011 CURBSIDE RECYCLING CALENDAR & INSTRUCTIONS

- Pick up a free blue recycling bin** at the Bees Ferry Convenience Center, Charleston County Recycling Center, James Island Public Service District, Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building, Mount Pleasant Public Services Department, or North Charleston Public Works. For locations, visit recycle.charlestoncounty.org.
- Determine your pick-up day.** Your bi-weekly pick-up day is based on geographical location, and colors indicate the pick-up day for your area (see the legend). You can call the Recycling Center at **(843) 720-7111**, or visit our website, click on the 'Bi-weekly Curbside Pick-up Schedule' link, and type in your address to show your day.
- Place your bin(s) by the curb before 7:00 a.m.** Separate paper from other materials and make sure your bins are not inside fences or behind parked cars. Paper may be placed in a paper bag (wet paper is acceptable). Place flattened cardboard (up to 3 ft. by 3 ft.) with paper or next to bins.
- Holidays** - There WILL be make-up days on select holidays. See the calendar below and use it as a reference. Holiday make-up days are the day following your regularly scheduled pick-up day. Regular schedules resume after the holidays.



July 2011	August 2011	September 2011
S M T W Th F S 1 2	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3
3 Holiday With MakeUp 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 Holiday With MakeUp 6 7 8 9 10
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
24/31 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
October 2011	November 2011	December 2011
S M T W Th F S 1	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 Holiday With MakeUp 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
23/30 24/31 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 Holiday With MakeUp 27 28 29 30 31
January 2012		
S M T W Th F S 1 Holiday With MakeUp 3 4 5 6 7		
8 9 10 11 12 13 14		
15 Holiday With MakeUp 17 18 19 20 21		
22 23 24 25 26 27 28		
29 30 31		

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Charleston County Environmental Management
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Charleston County's Award Winning Composting Program

by Christina Moskos,
Community Representative,
Environmental Management



Charleston County began composting yard waste in 1993 at the Bees Ferry

Landfill, averaging about 20,000 tons per year. Today the County's Compost Facility covers 36 acres and processes 100% of the yard waste accepted at the landfill, nearly 59,000 tons per year.

Before yard waste was banned from the landfill two years ago and redirected to the Bees Ferry Composting Facility, only 40% of the nutrient-rich, organic material was being fully captured. Thanks to an operational analysis, recommendations from the County's Environmental Management Department staff, and the direction of Charleston County Council, *all* yard waste now serves a better purpose by being turned into compost. Yard waste is transformed into compost that is available to Charleston County residents for \$10/ton and for \$2/bag (1.5 cubic feet) at the Bees Ferry Compost Facility.

The increase in composted yard waste has allowed Charleston County's recycling rate, or the amount of material that is being diverted and recovered from the landfill, to double from 10% to 20%.

As a result of the composting efforts, Charleston County was awarded the *2011 Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program Award* at the 2011 Carolina Recycling Association's 21st Annual Trade Show and Conference. Charleston County met the award's criteria for demonstrating measurable waste reduction, containing an educational component, being in full

compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, and documenting the end-use of the compost created.

"We are very proud to have been named the 2011 Outstanding Composting Program in the Carolinas. This is just the beginning of a fantastic program," said Harvey Gibson, the County's Composting Superintendent.

Charleston County continues its efforts to increase the quality of the compost with the recent decision, which will go into effect on October 1, 2011, to no longer accept plastic bags containing yard waste at the Bees Ferry Landfill or Convenience Centers. The decision will allow the compost to be a more valuable and marketable product for consumers. Through recycling and composting efforts, Charleston County continues to advance its overall solid waste management program to reach County Council's 40% recycling goal.