



# The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Public Works Department  
320 East Mosby Road  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Phone: 540-434-5928 FAX: 540-434-2695

STREET MAINTENANCE  
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
REFUSE/ RECYCLING  
RESOURCE RECOVERY  
CENTRAL STORES

## Solid Waste Management Fee Summary

The City of Harrisonburg is required by the Commonwealth of Virginia to recycle at least 25% of total solid waste generated annually. Thus, the Solid Waste Management program and fee as listed below provides the process for which the City meets its state mandate. To promote recycling and diversion from landfills, the City provides a \$10.00 per month credit for those residents (in a private community) and businesses that procure a licensed recycling collection agent that manages all solid waste generated from private community or business. Recycling agents are required to submit an annual report. The report is reviewed annually and approved by the City to ensure compliance in receiving a reduction in the SWM fee. The SWM fee is applied to all residents, private communities, and businesses.

The program was started in May of 2008. City Council approved, through the budget process, a SWM fee to all City businesses and residents who receive a public water/sewer bill. For residents and businesses receiving refuse and recycling collection services from the City, the monthly collection rate was split into separate line items on the utility bill (SWM fee and Refuse collection). This measure was enacted to properly track costs related to refuse collection and solid waste management (see below). The Recycling Fee program name was changed in 2012 to Solid Waste Management Fee (SWM) to more accurately describe the many programs/services covered by the fee in addition to recycling.

Solid Waste Management fee helps subsidize the cost for:

- Management of daily operations of Recycling Convenience Center and Transfer Station
- Disposal costs of municipal solid waste to Rockingham County Landfill
- Disposal costs of co-mingled recyclables
- Disposal costs of curbside bulk and yard debris
- Administration of DEQ reports & Solid Waste Management Plan (adopted by City Council)
- Environmental monitoring, maintenance, and remediation of closed City Landfill (ongoing)
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal program
- Disaster debris removal and disposal
- Resource Recovery Facility debt service

The rise in the costs of handling, processing, and disposal for solid waste and recycling management are the primary reasons for the Solid Waste Management Fee. The program has been and will continue to be subsidized with general funds from all City residents and businesses regardless of whether they choose to recycle or not. However, we do encourage all residents and businesses to recycle.