



Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit – 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan Update

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The Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit



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Activities of the SWPU:

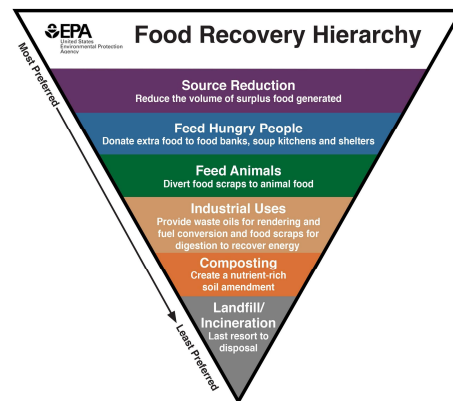
1. Conducting an annual census of solid waste and recycling activities in the Solid Waste Planning Unit (9VAC20-130-125. Recycling requirements.)
 - ☐ Report submitted by April 30th annually to DEQ
2. Maintaining the Solid Waste Management Plan (9VAC20-130-120. Planning requirements.)
 - ☐ Update the regional solid waste plan every 5 years
 - ☐ Update required by October 2026



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Waste Management Hierarchy



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Regulatory Requirements

- VA Regulatory Requirement to update SWMP
 - Adopt new 20-year plan by October 2026
- Planning Requirements - outlined in 9VAC-130-120 & 9VAC-130-125
 - Basic Planning Elements
 - Objectives for the 20-yr planning period
 - Discuss plan implementation and tracking
 - Facility names, capacity, and lifespan
 - Provision strategy for necessary funds and resources
 - Public education and information strategy
 - Consider public-private partnerships and private sector participation in execution
 - Maintain a 25% recycling rate

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Regulatory Requirements

- Data and analyses
 - Population and projections
 - Urban concentrations, geographic conditions, economic growth and development, reuse and recycling markets, transportation conditions, and related factors
 - Estimates of solid waste generation from residential, commercial, industrial, construction and other sources
 - Listing of existing and planned solid waste facilities
 - All milestones in implementation of SWMP
 - Solid waste reduction program descriptions
 - Outreach program descriptions
 - Procedures for and results of waste collection evaluation
 - Assessment of current & predicted needs over 20 years
- Board resolution adopting the plan

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Recycling Rate Estimation & Reporting

- Used to calculate the statewide recycling rate for DEQ
- Tracks progress towards waste reduction goals locally and helps to identify areas of improvement
- SWPUs that fall below their mandated recycling rate are required to submit a Recycling Action Plan (RAP)
 - [Administrative Code 9VAC20-130-125](#)
 - Our region is required to meet a 25% minimum recycling rate
- Required reporting from public facilities, recommended reporting from private haulers and facilities

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Recycling Rate Calculation

Principal Recyclable Materials include paper, metal, plastic, glass, commingled, yard waste, wood, textiles, tires, used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze, batteries, electronics, or material as may be approved by the director.

Municipal solid waste is waste that is normally composed of residential, commercial, and institutional solid waste and residues derived from combustion of these wastes

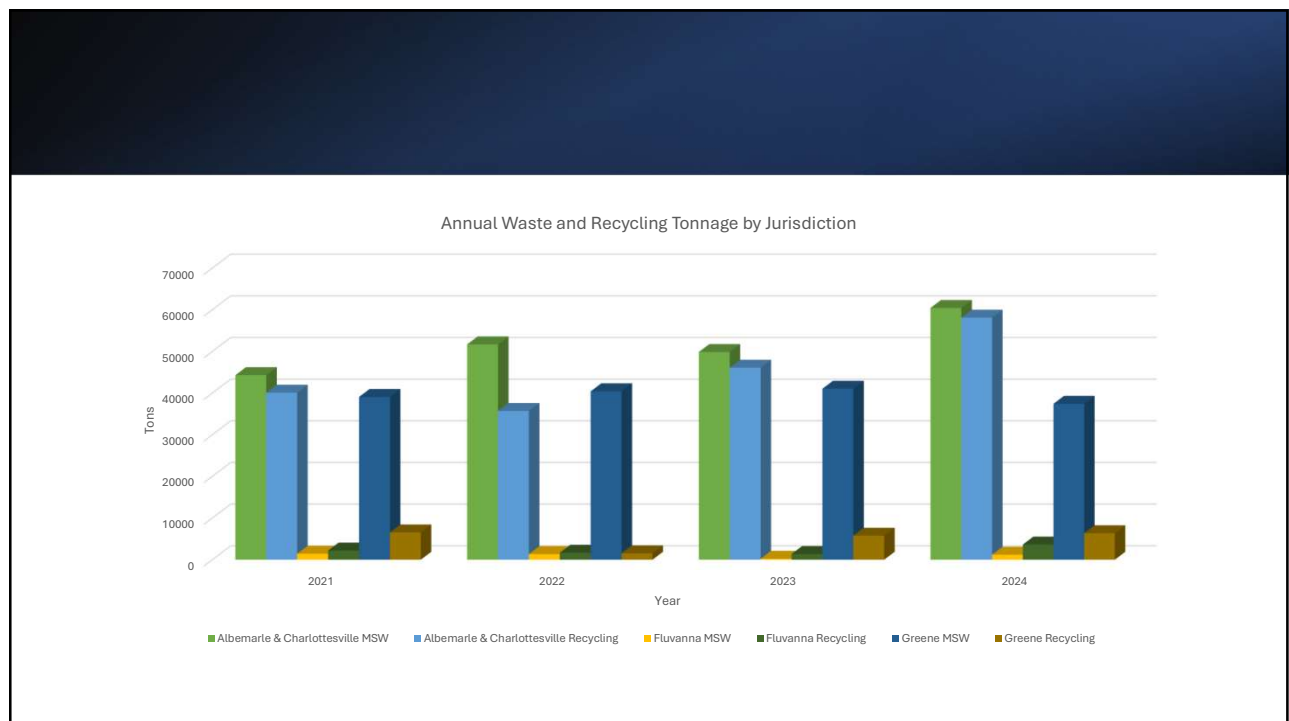
DEQ Credits (up to 5%) recycling of non-MSW materials, source reduction programs, recycling residue, solid waste reuse, pallets recycling

$$\begin{aligned} &[(PRMs) / (PRMs + MSW Disposed)] \times 100\% = \text{Base Recycling Rate} \\ &\text{Base Recycling Rate} + \text{Credits} = \text{Regional Recycling Rate} \end{aligned}$$

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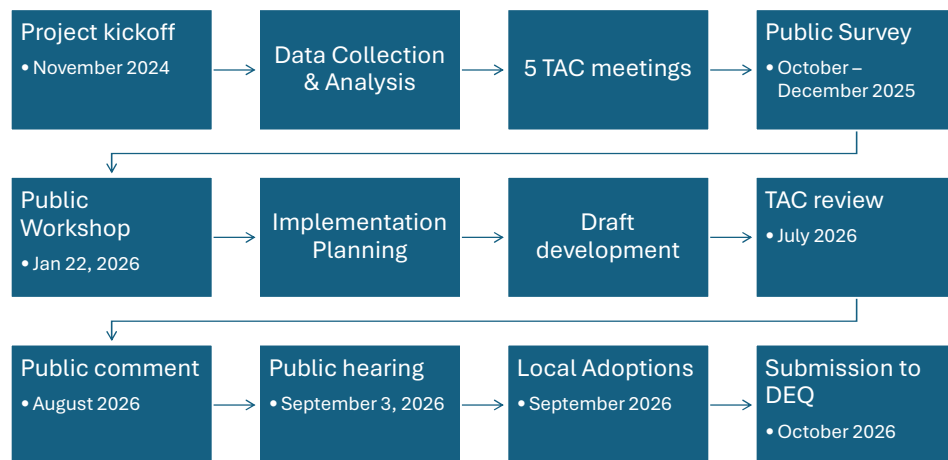


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Plan Development Process



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Public Survey

- **Waste Collection Satisfaction:** 58% of residents agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with current collection and drop-off services.
- **Recycling Satisfaction:** 44% express satisfaction. Satisfaction drops significantly due to lack of trust in whether materials are actually recycled and uncertainty about what is accepted.
- **Composting Satisfaction:** Only 17% are satisfied. This is identified as the largest gap in service, with many residents expressing a high motivation to compost but a lack of convenient options.

View survey results: <https://arcg.is/1THn5z1>

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Public Survey – Charlottesville Feedback

Category	Mentions	Key Sentiments
Composting Access	24	Strong interest in citywide curbside composting, neighborhood drop-off sites, and subsidized or municipal compost services. Many residents already compost and want easier participation for others.
Education & Clarity	22	Residents frequently requested clearer guidance on what can and cannot be recycled or composted, especially plastics, batteries, and specialty materials. Bin stickers, annual mailers, and simple lists were common suggestions.
Trust & Transparency	20	Many respondents questioned whether collected recyclables are actually recycled. They requested reporting, audits, destination information, and proof that materials are not ending up in landfills.
Expanded Recycling Options	17	Requests for acceptance of more materials, especially #5 plastics, plastic film, electronics, appliances, batteries, hazardous waste, and hard-to-recycle products.
Curbside Service Expansion	15	Residents want recycling and composting to be easier and more universal, including multifamily properties, apartments, businesses, and citywide curbside collection programs.
Multifamily & Rental Property Access	10	Renters frequently reported inadequate recycling or composting infrastructure at apartment complexes and requested requirements for property managers to provide these services.
Special Collection & Hard-to-Recycle Programs	9	Calls for more e-waste collection, appliance recycling, hazardous waste events, construction-material recycling, and recycling for specialty items.
Waste Reduction & Reuse	8	Residents expressed support for refill stores, Buy Nothing groups, reusable packaging, reduced plastic use, and stronger emphasis on reuse before recycling.

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Regional Goals

Regional Plan (2026–2031) Goals
Data and Information Sharing
Goal 1: Provide residents and businesses with clear, accessible information to support waste reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts.
Goal 2: Develop best practices to enhance the collection, verification, and sharing of local waste and recycling data.
Planning
Goal 1: Maintain an accessible, efficient, and effective solid waste management system.
Goal 2: Reduce the quantity of waste generated through source reduction, reuse, and other techniques.
Waste Diversion
Goal 1: Utilize improved data systems to establish a measurable baseline and continually increase local waste diversion.
Goal 2: Stimulate demand for a circular economy, collaborate to expand markets for recovered materials, and expand sustainable business practices.
Goal 3: Provide environmentally sound solid waste collection facilities that are equitably distributed for residents.

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Key Changes from the 2021 Plan

- Updated and expanded recycling analysis
- Discussion of recycling rate reporting limitations
- New implementation framework and locality specific objectives
- Included plan maintenance and amendment procedures
- Expanded public engagement

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Steps to Plan Submission

- August: Public Comment Period
- August 11: Greene County Presentation
- August 17: Charlottesville Presentation
- August 19: Fluvanna Presentation
- September 2: Albemarle Presentation
- **September 3: TJPDC Public Hearing**
- September 8: Charlottesville
- September 16: Albemarle & Fluvanna Adoption
- September 22: Greene Adoption
- **October 1: TJPDC Adoption**
- Before October 24: Final Submission to DEQ

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Draft Plan - Public Comment Period

- Open through August 31
- Visit <https://tjpd.org/our-work/solid-waste/> for details.

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