Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

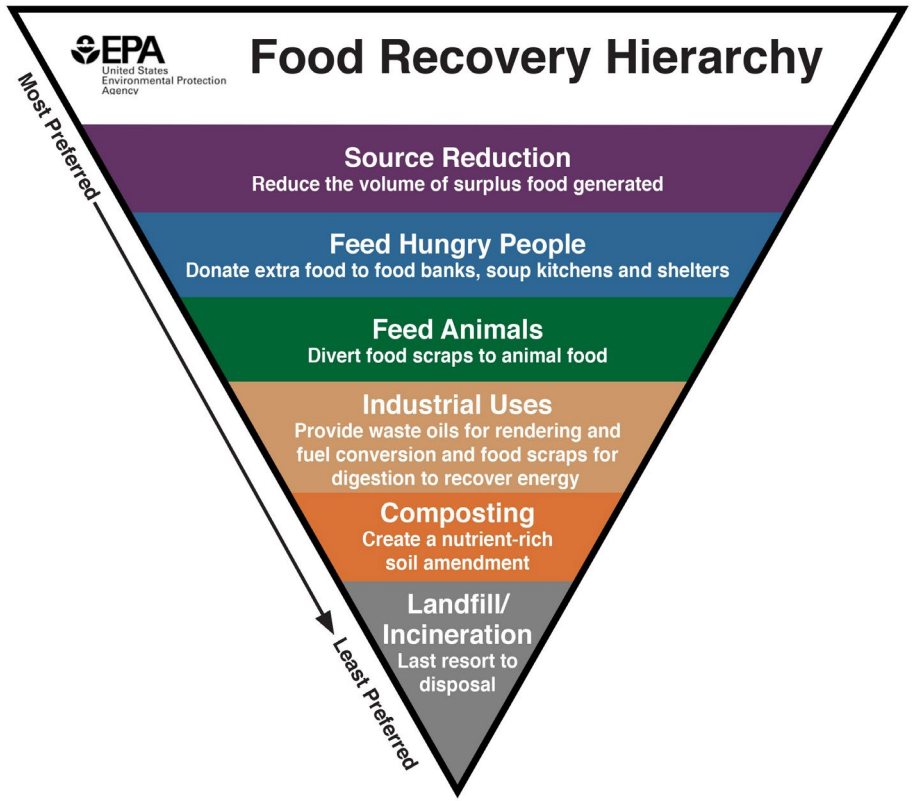
Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit – 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit

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

Waste Management Hierarchy



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

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

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

Recycling Rate Calculation

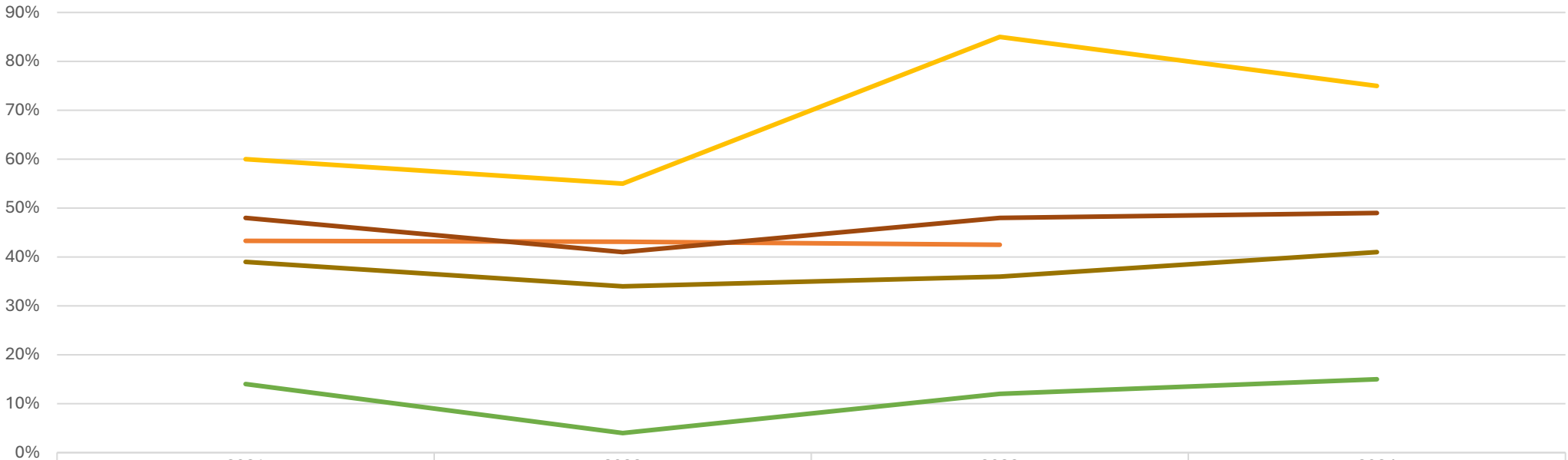
Principal Recyclable Materials include paper, metal, plastic, glass, commingled, yard waste, wood, textiles, tires, used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze, batteries, electronics, or material as may be approved by the director.

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

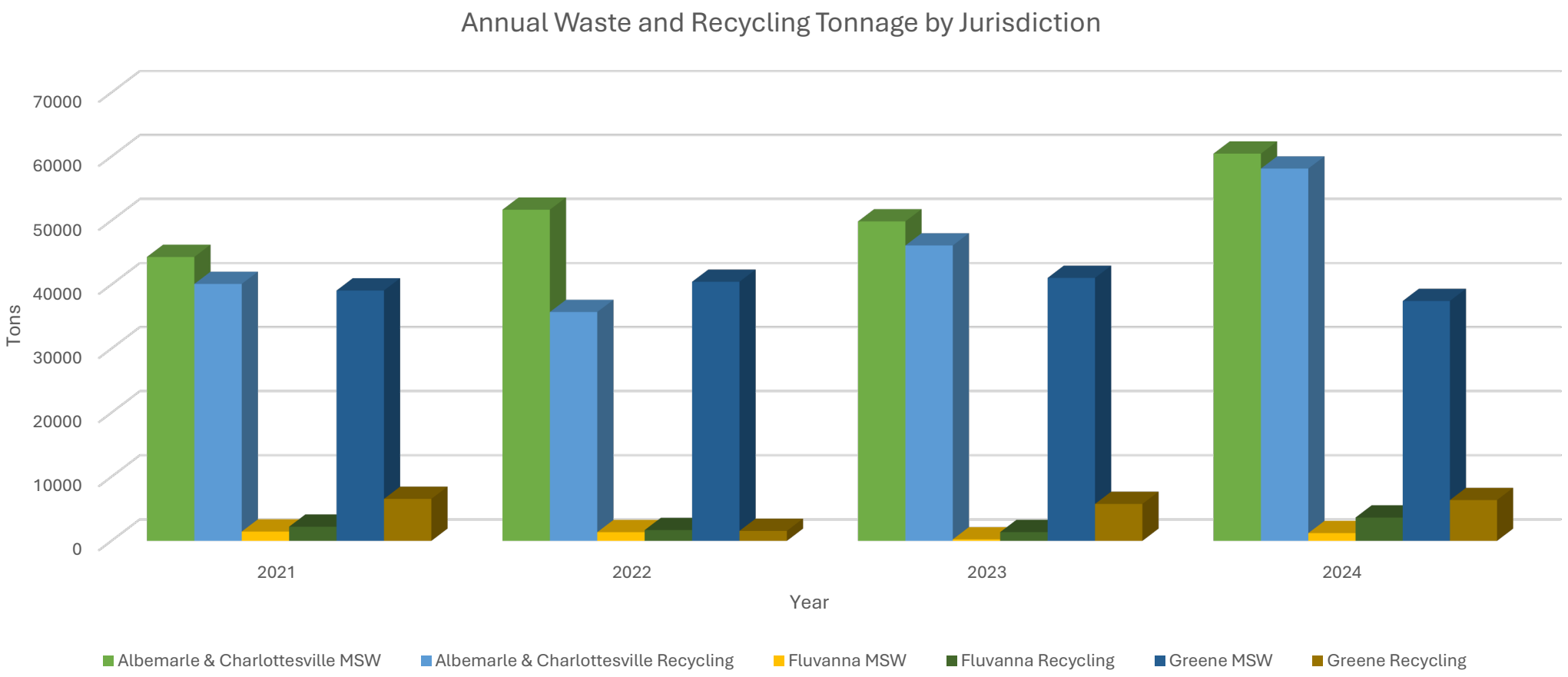
DEQ Credits (up to 5%) recycling of non-MSW materials, source reduction programs, recycling residue, solid waste reuse, pallets recycling

[(PRMs) / (PRMs + MSW Disposed)] x 100% = Base Recycling Rate
Base Recycling Rate + Credits = Regional Recycling Rate

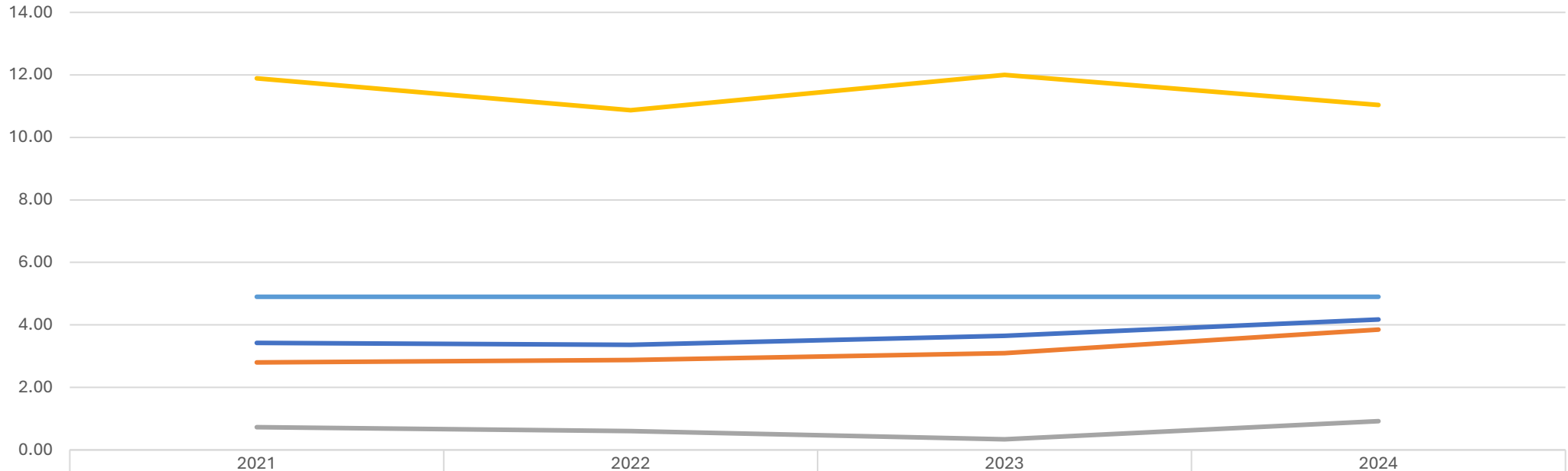
Annual Recycling Rate by Jurisdiction



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Virginia	43%	43%	43%	
Fluvanna	60%	55%	85%	75%
Greene	14%	4%	12%	15%
RSWA	48%	41%	48%	49%
Region	39%	34%	36%	41%

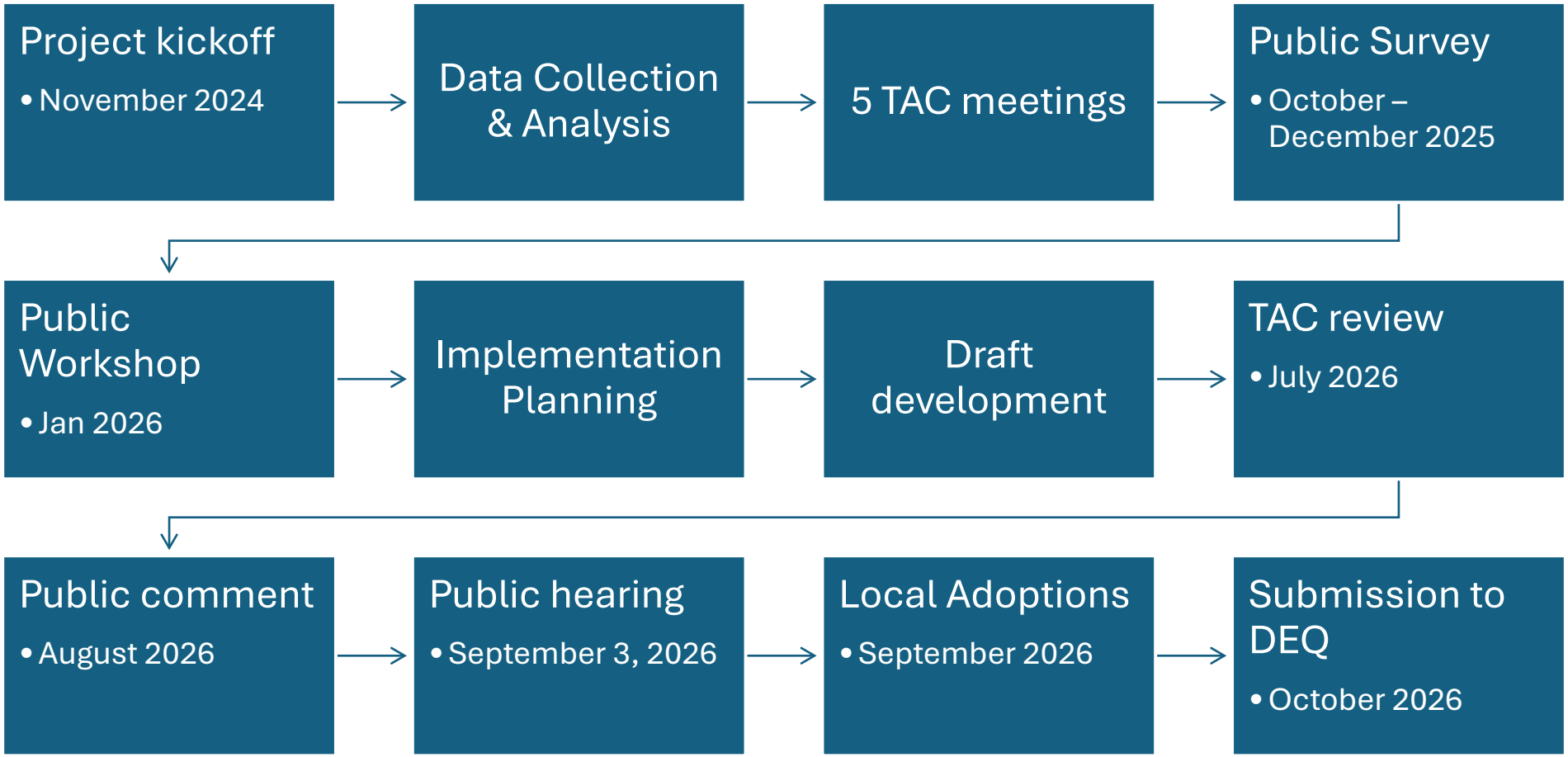

Annual Waste and Recycling Tonnage by Jurisdiction
70000
60000
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
0
Tons
2021
2022
2023
2024
Year
Albemarle & Charlottesville MSW
Albemarle & Charlottesville Recycling
Fluvanna MSW
Fluvanna Recycling
Greene MSW
Greene Recycling

Per Capita Waste Generation (lbs/person/day)



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Region	3.42	3.36	3.65	4.17
RSWA	2.8	2.88	3.1	3.85
Fluvanna	0.73	0.6	0.34	0.92
Greene	11.89	10.87	12	11.04
US (2018)	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9

Plan Development Process



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

Public Survey

Category	Mentions	Key Sentiments
Composting Access	81	High demand for curbside composting or more frequent drop-off points for food scraps.
Curbside Expansion	53	Strong desire for curbside recycling to be a standard service rather than a private/extra-fee option.
Education & Clarity	133	Residents are confused by conflicting labels; they want clearer instructions and simpler accepted items lists.
Convenience Centers	71	Requests for more localized convenience centers to reduce long drive times (especially in rural areas).
Trust & Transparency	93	A significant number of residents hesitate to recycle because they don't believe it actually gets recycled.

Charlottesville

- Apartment Challenges: Residents in multi-family housing reported that property managers often do not provide recycling, leading to high cardboard waste in trash dumpsters and general inaccessibility
- Composting: Many asked for more accessible composting opportunities, such as curbside composting in urban areas. Several requests for "mandatory" curbside composting to divert food waste from landfills entirely.
- Additional disposal opportunities for electronics, hazardous waste, and bulky items
- Engagement: Better information about what can be recycled and education in schools

Albemarle

- Location Gaps: Significant feedback regarding the distance to the Ivy and McIntire centers. Residents in Crozet, Whitehall, and Barracks Road specifically requested localized drop-off points.
- Apartment Challenges: Residents in multi-family housing reported that property managers often do not provide recycling, leading to high cardboard waste in trash dumpsters and inaccessibility
- Opportunities for Composting: One respondent mentioned, “I would love better opportunities for composting. I know we have black bear and panorama, but I don't use them because it's an extra cost on top of what I already pay for trash and recycle. It would be nice to have something where the bill is combined and cheaper.”
- Additional disposal opportunities for electronics, hazardous waste, and bulky items

Fluvanna

- Better Data and Information: Residents are looking for reassurance materials are actually recycled, and for clearer communication on accepted materials
- Increased Collection Sites: High demand for collection areas near Routes 616 and 600, near Food Lion, and at pleasant grove, and overall better access to trash and recycling facilities in the county. Many residents noted the distance to travel to manage waste was prohibitive.
- Composting Service: Requests for a composting service to manage yard waste and/or provide composting to HOAs and the Lake community
- Additional opportunities for hazardous waste disposal

Greene

- Strong desire to expand the Greene County facility to accept glass and plastics, noting that they currently drive to Albemarle to drop these off. Requests for “clear labeling of the kind of material that will be received and more possibilities to receive materials to recycle.”
- Residents expressed frustration that they must pay for dumping while perceiving neighboring counties as free or lower-cost. Another mentioned that more consistent hours at the facility would be helpful.

Feedback from the Community Workshop

- Virtual on Zoom
- January 22nd at 6:30
- Key Feedback
  - Accountability and Better Data
  - Consider Waste to Energy Options
  - Strategic Goals and Objectives
  - Extended Producer Responsibility
  - Local Infrastructure Gaps

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.

Plan Organization

Contents

Acknowledgements 2
Contents 3
Executive Summary 5
History of Solid Waste Planning in the TJSWPU 6
Waste Management Hierarchy and Plan Requirements 7
- Plan Maintenance 7
- Plan Amendments 8
  - Major Amendments 8
  - Minor Amendments 9
- Recycling Rate Requirements 9

The Planning Area 11
- Population, Urban Concentrations, and Economic Development 11
- Housing 13
- Climate, Geography and Transportation 16

Current System of Solid Waste Management Programs 19
- Regional Roles and Service Delivery 19
- Source Reduction and Reuse 19
- Recycling and Materials Recovery 20
- Organics, Yard Waste, and Composting 21
- Collection, Transfer, and Disposal 22
- Solid Waste Management Disposal Sites 25
- Special Waste and Household Hazardous Materials 27
- Construction, Demolition, and Debris 27
- Public Education, Outreach, and Participation 28
- Funding Arrangements 29

Recycling Rates 31
- State and National Landscape of Waste Management 31
- Virginia Reporting Framework 31
- Calculating Recycling Rates and Monitoring Solid Waste Generation 32
- Historic Recycling Rates 32
  - Data Considerations and Limitations 32
- Analysis 38
- Planning Implications of the Data 41
- Future Needs and Projected Waste Generation 42
  - System Capacity for the 20 Year Planning Period 43
  - Future Facility Development 44

Public Involvement in the Planning Process 45
- Regional Public Survey 46
- Survey Findings 46

Implementation Plan 48
- Implementation Framework 48

Glossary 50
Appendix A: Local Resolutions of Plan Adoption 53
Appendix B: Public Engagement Opportunities and Results 54
Appendix C: Applied Policy Project 55
Appendix D: Regional Implementation Plan Actions 56

Key Changes from the 2021 Plan

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

Steps to Plan Submission

- August: Public Comment Period
- August 11: Greene County Presentation (5:30)
- August 17: Charlottesville Presentation (4:00)
- August 19: Fluvanna Presentation (6:00)
- September 2: Albemarle Presentation (1:00)
- **September 3: TJPDC Public Hearing (7:00)**
- September 8: Charlottesville (Consent Agenda 4:00) & Greene Adoption (5:30)
- September 16: Albemarle (Consent Agenda 1:00) & Fluvanna Adoption (6:00)
- **October 1: TJPDC Adoption (Consent Agenda 7:00)**
- Before October 24: Final Submission to DEQ

Questions?

Contact Information

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Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission