



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

February 26, 2021

Contact: Charlie Forbes, Chief  
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Solid Waste Management Program  
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### SWA 21-001 –Eliminating Plastic Bags from Yard Waste Collection

The purpose of this Solid Waste Advisory (SWA) is to provide guidance to licensed solid waste collectors concerning the impending ban on the use of plastic bags by their customers for setting out yard waste. **The new rule becomes effective on March 1, 2021**, but to allow for a smooth transition, the Solid Waste Management Program will be exercising enforcement discretion for a six-week period to allow time for customer notification and education on the new rule.

Collectors must now change their practice regarding yard waste that has been set out for collection in plastic bags. It is necessary for collectors to provide advance notice to customers before the new yard waste set-out requirements are put into effect. **As a practical matter, this means notice to customers should go now that the new rule is in effect.** SWMP is granting a “grace period” to allow for this notification to take place. **Effective April 19, 2021, the new rule will be enforced** and collectors who continue to collect yard waste set out in plastic bags may be subject to enforcement action, similar to any other violation of Chapter 109.1. Once customers have received proper notice, collectors may leave yard waste that is placed curbside in plastic bags uncollected. The SWMP suggests that collectors leave a tag or a sticker placed on the bag(s) to explain what the homeowner can do to remedy the situation.

Concurrent with the new requirement being placed on collectors, SWMP facilities will also begin enforcing the new rule. **Specifically, effective April 19, 2021, yard waste in plastic bags delivered to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill will be subject to the current penalty rate of \$ \$100/ton.**

Questions or concerns regarding this Advisory should be directed to the contact shown above. SWMP’s public education and outreach group is also standing by to help collectors with suggested wording for customer notices and design ideas for the recommended tags or stickers.

Collectors are advised to closely review this Advisory upon receipt, and to share this information with their customers as necessary.

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