

# How It All Works

*For Recycling to Work, Everyone Has to Do Their Part*



## It Starts With You

The first part of the recycling program relies on voluntary household participation and residents' basic understanding of how the system functions. *You* help make it all work!

There's a lot you can do to help ensure the success of Frederick County's recycling program—from collecting the proper materials, to gathering them in a suitable manner, to setting out your recyclables correctly for curbside pick-up—little details make a big difference.

Our program is *single stream*—this means no sorting of your recyclable materials needs to be done. As long as you leave trash out, taking care of what does go into your cart or bin is pretty easy. The list to the right provides some helpful hints.

- To know what is and is not recyclable, start by looking at the picture on your recycling cart's lid, visit our website for more information or call our office with any questions.
- If you use bags to collect recyclables inside your house, the materials must be dumped loose into the collection cart or bin.
- With any material, always remember: **When in doubt, throw it out!** Just because it's plastic or has a recycling symbol on it doesn't mean it's recyclable *here in Frederick County!* To find out more about local plastics recycling guidelines, please read our factsheet online at: [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/plastic](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/plastic)



*The curbside recycling program makes it easy to keep valuable resources from being wasted.*

## The Collection Crew

Frederick County has contracted Allied Waste Services, Inc. to provide curbside collection as well as general customer service for the residential recycling program. **The collection crews provide service to more than 76,000 households, divided into ten collection regions across the county.**

It is the goal of the Allied Waste staff to ensure that curbside recycling collection runs smoothly, safely and

Customer Service Needs? Call Allied Waste at 301-694-6498, or send email to: [FrederickRecycles@republicservices.com](mailto:FrederickRecycles@republicservices.com)



successfully. **To assist the collection crew with these goals:**

**Please have your cart curbside by 6am of the pickup day.**

**Carts should be placed within 3-6 feet of the street, facing the road, on level ground if possible, and at least 4 feet away from trash cans, mailboxes or other obstructions.**

## Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)



*Our recyclables are sent to the Recycle America MRF, located in Elkridge, MD.*

A materials recovery facility (MRF) is where your single stream recyclables get separated, sorted and sold to the markets that will ultimately reuse the materials.

The work done here combines modern technology with a dedicated staff. While machines have been designed to separate metals, paper, glass and plastics, human eyes are critical for the removal of non-recyclable items

from the sorting line. When residents place the correct materials in their bin it makes the recycling process more efficient, as well as increases the market value of the recovered materials.

A video of Frederick County's recycling program, including scenes filmed inside the MRF, may be seen on our website, and is also available on DVD by request.

