

# Solid Waste Management

## Goals

### *The City will:*

- Provide adequate public facilities and services for all services which the City provides.
- Coordinate the location and design of all City public facilities with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.



## Overview

Solid waste is the unfortunate byproduct of civilization. The issue is how we manage that waste. The Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department provides refuse collection once every week for over 60,000 residences in Chesapeake. Over 100,000 tons of refuse is collected annually. The City's Solid Waste is transported to the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) transfer facility located on Greenbrier Parkway, or the regional Refuse Derived Fuel Facility located in Portsmouth (SPSA facility locations). The City currently has a long term contract with SPSA for solid waste disposal.

Waste management strategies are more far reaching than merely depositing refuse in a landfill and include many different approaches to the control of waste. A comprehensive waste management strategy will include provisions for pollution prevention, waste reduction and minimization, reuse, recycling, waste to energy initiatives, and, as a last resort, landfills.

Solid waste management facilities are a conditional use in all Chesapeake Zoning classifications. The location of waste management facilities should be part of a comprehensive planning process that includes the opportunity for meaningful public participation and public consensus. Site selection for waste sites should be considered in a full public hearing process.

## Recycling and Education Programs

SPSA offers recycling programs to help preserve natural resources, reduce the need for raw materials, and minimize dependence on landfills. Chesapeake has curbside recycling and drop off services which are provided by SPSA.

The City of Chesapeake is a participating sponsor of the HR CLEAN, the recycling and litter prevention education program of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). HRCLEAN is a regional coalition of local and regional clean community, recycling, and environmental education coordinators who promote litter prevention, recycling, community beautification, and general environmental awareness through educational projects designed to reach all sectors of our communities.

### Issue One: Provision for Long Term Waste Management Needs

**The City of Chesapeake shall ensure an environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management system that utilizes recycling and source reduction.**

- The City of Chesapeake should continue to cooperate with the Southeastern Public Service Authority on regional solid waste disposal facilities outside the City, and shall continue to provide a collection system and a transfer point within the City.
- The City should continue to study and implement long-term solutions to solid waste disposal in order to avoid future problems of service, capacity, environmental impact or cost.
- The City will maintain or improve the existing efficiency of the solid waste management system.
- The City shall encourage activities which educate the citizenry in the values, methods and techniques of recycling, resource recovery, and waste reduction. The City shall continue its efforts to educate and encourage citizens to recycle and to avoid products that do not lend themselves to recycling through City sponsored programs or other initiatives such as HRCLEAN.
- Solid waste facilities that are to be operated in the City of Chesapeake shall be designed and operated in conformance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- Public participation in the decision making process shall be encouraged through ample notice of meetings where major solid waste management and planning issues are being considered.
- The City of Chesapeake should continue to work within the regional framework for solutions for solid waste management problems.

