



# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## SUMMARY

The Arlington County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is Arlington County's planning document that summarizes the County's solid waste management activities and options. The existing SWMP was adopted in June 2004. This new plan includes a strategy for solid waste management activities in Arlington County for the next 20 years (2024-2044).

On August 1, 2001, the Commonwealth of Virginia promulgated regulations for solid waste management planning (9 VAC 20-130-10, et seq.). Section 9 VAC 20-130-110 states the following:

*"Each solid waste planning unit in the Commonwealth shall develop and maintain a solid waste management plan or amend an existing solid waste management plan and submit it for approval in accordance with [9 VAC 20-130-10, et seq.] ..."*

Arlington County has prepared its comprehensive solid waste management plan for submission to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in accordance with the terms of the planning regulations. The plan addresses the County's solid waste management needs for the next 20 years and describes the County's plans for continuing to meet the State's 25 percent recycling mandate.

The County's SWMP builds on previous planning efforts. It prescribes methods for developing efficient, economically feasible, and technically and environmentally sound waste management programs for the County. The SWMP is intended to serve as a management tool for Arlington County. Portions of the plan discuss joint efforts among Arlington County, neighboring jurisdictions, and private industry in public/private partnerships. In particular, the disposal method presented for both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria includes the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility operated by Reworld (formerly known as Covanta Energy) and the ash monofill operated by Fairfax County. The Plan also establishes voluntary goals to obtain zero waste by 2038. The initiatives described in this Plan to achieve zero waste are considered voluntary and outside of the requirements by the State. They will be implemented based on budget and resource allocations of the Arlington County Board (Board).

## GOALS

This SWMP is intended to comply with the Code of Virginia (Section 10.1-1411) and Virginia's solid waste management planning regulations (9 VAC 20-130-10, et seq.), which gave local governments statutory authority, and regulatory responsibility and accountability, to plan for the management of all types of non-hazardous solid waste.

The County has identified a set of goals for the SWMP, based on the mandatory objectives identified in 9 VAC 20-130-120, as follows:

- Employ a comprehensive solid waste management system that considers the Commonwealth's hierarchy.
- Ensure that the County implements a strong recycling program and that the County recycle at a rate that, at a minimum, meets the Commonwealth's recycling goals.
- Carefully evaluate the waste management needs of the county for the next 20 years and identify actions to be taken to meet those needs.

In addition to the goals for meeting the SWMP requirements put forth by the Virginia DEQ, including the goal of a 25 percent recycling rate, the County has established a set of voluntary goals for the initial 14-year period in order to achieve 90 percent waste diversion by 2038. The County will strive to meet these voluntary goals and objectives as resources are available and as funding is allocated by the County Board. **Appendix A** includes a list of acronyms contained in this plan.

## PLAN ADOPTION

The Arlington County Board received the 2024 SWMP on **May 18, 2024**, for consideration and discussion. On **June 15, 2024**, the County Board of Arlington County adopted the SWMP and approved its submission to the Virginia DEQ. A copy of the resolution is provided in **Appendix B**.