

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



District Department of the Environment

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**Public Report on Recycling**  
**Fiscal Year 2009**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The District of Columbia is pleased to issue its Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Report pursuant to D.C. Law 7-226, the “D.C. Solid Waste Management and Multi-Material Recycling Act of 1988”. The report presents an overall evaluation of the recycling activities of the District of Columbia for FY 2009. The report contains information as required by D.C. Law 7-226, D.C. Official Code §8-1014 (2001). The “Act” requires the Government of the District of Columbia to develop an annual recycling report that includes:

- an analysis of the overall success of the residential, commercial and District government building recycling programs in meeting the statutory recovery targets;
- an analysis of solid waste and recycling tonnage, cost, revenue;
- an evaluation of the District Government’s mandatory recycling program;
- updates on the District Government’s public education and outreach efforts;
- a progress report on enforcement activities; and
- information on sustainable practices, including - but not limited to - Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) and new procurement policies and directives.

## **RECYCLING PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The FY 2009 Report summarizes the District's major accomplishments in residential and commercial recycling, waste prevention and recycling efforts in District Government-occupied buildings and environmentally preferable purchasing. The report also highlights the Department of Public Works' (DPW) updated collection routes, expanded residential material collection and program of interns who worked in the District public schools on recycling education. The Department of Real Estate Services (DRES) also tracked four additional facilities in FY 2009.

The primary goal of the District's recycling program is to promote environmentally sound policies and procedures that reduce waste and improve the health and quality of life for District residents, government employees and visitors. A major component of this effort includes increasing recycling rates within the District's residential and commercial sectors, as well as in the District Government's owned and leased facilities. The lead agencies responsible for implementing the District's recycling programs are the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), and the Department of Real Estate Services (DRES). Beginning January 2009, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) was given shared responsibility for recycling policy and outreach, and for reporting on the status of the District's recycling programs in an annual report.

DPW implements the District's residential collection and commercial education and enforcement programs. The residential recycling program serves approximately 103,000 single-family and buildings with three or fewer housing units. Multi-family dwellings with four or more units and larger commercial buildings are served by private disposal haulers. The District's recycling activities in the commercial sector focus primarily on compliance with District recycling laws in multi-family apartments, office buildings and businesses. DPW's Office of Recycling leads this effort.

DRES spearheads recycling activities in the District Government-owned buildings and provides technical support to tenant agencies and building managers of leased facilities in support of the city's overall waste diversion goal. DRES educates employees on the importance and ease of recycling and the District's regulatory requirements. In addition, DRES ensures that janitorial and hauling contractual language clearly defines performance expectations. DRES also conducts facility assessments to corroborate contractor performance and agency participation.

The D.C. Solid Waste Management and Multi-Material Recycling Act of 1988 requires the recycling of at least 45% of the total solid waste stream in the District. While the entire District's recycling has not reached this target, government buildings have continually grown closer to it and some have surpassed it.

The following information provides a snapshot of the District's overall recycling efforts for FY 2009:

- Waste diversion stands at 55% in the District Government's Four Core Buildings.
- The District's residential recycling program achieved a diversion rate of 24% and the estimated overall diversion rate from the citywide waste stream was 34% by the end of FY 2009.
- Commercial establishments in the District reported collection of more than 112,444 tons of recyclable materials.
- DPW conducted 3,114 commercial inspections and issued 1,409 violations to ensure compliance with recycling laws.

## **RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND CITYWIDE RECYCLING**

### **Residential Recycling Tonnages and Diversion Rates**

The District continues to provide residential recycling collection service for approximately 103,000 single-family residences (defined as having three units or less). Residential recycling collection is “single-stream” meaning that paper, plastic, glass and metal recyclable items are collected together in 32-gallon rolling bins. In addition, DPW received 173 tons of electronic waste, recovered 1,155 tons of scrap metal, and shredded 93 tons of paper during weekly drop-offs at District’s transfer stations in FY 2009. DPW composted 4,577 tons of leaves during the seasonal leaf collection program.

At the beginning of FY 2009, in October 2008, Mayor Fenty announced the expansion of materials collection in residential collection across the District. In addition to metal, paper, glass and plastic, DPW began collecting:

- Aerosol cans
- Milk and juice cartons
- Plastic bags, e.g., grocery bags, newspaper bags, shopping bags
- Rigid plastics: plastic milk/soda crates, plastic buckets with metal handles, plastic laundry baskets, plastic lawn furniture, plastic totes, plastic drums, plastic coolers, plastic flower pots, plastic drinking cups/glasses, plastic 5-gallon water bottles, plastic pallets, plastic toys, and empty plastic garbage/recycling bins
- Wide-mouth containers: peanut butter, margarine/butter tubs, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, and prescription and other medicine bottles.

The DPW Reference Guide, listing accepted recyclables and instructions for disposal was mailed out to residents and distributed throughout the city. This information is also available online at <http://www.recycle.dpw.dc.gov>. In addition to increasing the types of recyclable items collected in the District, DPW updated collection routes in December 2008, making collection routes more efficient in order to save fuel and resources.

Table 1 shows the tonnage of waste and recyclables collected by DPW from the residential sector, the number of reported missing recycling collections and the number of recycling carts requested. In FY 2009, DPW collected 33,414 tons of recyclable material from the residential sector, generating a residential diversion rate of 24%. Missed collections totaled 3,592 in FY 2009, up slightly from the previous year and residents requested more recycling carts than any other year (5,921). Table 2 highlights the increase in recycling tonnage from one year to the next, with an 8% increase in residential materials collected from the previous year.

**Table 1: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Residential Recycling Collections**

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>Residential Waste Stream Tons</b>	160,116	167,344	141,776	146,217	148,403	138,416
<b>Recycling Tons*</b>	21,835	28,621	29,224	24,883	30,885	33,414
<b>Residential Recycling Missed Collections Reported</b>	6,140	7,300	3,558	4,464	3,126	3,592
<b>Residential Recycling Carts Requested</b>	4,467	3,824	4,969	4,210	5,609	5,921
<b>Diversion Rate</b>	13.6%	17.1%	20.61%	17.02%	20.81%	24.14%

\* Includes residential collections, scrap metal recycled from bulk collections, hazardous and electronic waste recycled, and yard waste composted.

**Table 2: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Percentage Change in Residential Recycling Collections**

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>Tons Collected*</b>	21,835	28,621	29,224	24,883	30,885	33,414
<b>% Change from Previous Year**</b>	1%	31%	2%	-15%	24%	8%

\* Includes residential collections, scrap metal recycled from bulk collections, hazardous and electronic waste recycled, and yard waste composted.

\*\*The Percent Change for FY 2006 and FY 2008 have been corrected in the FY 2009 Recycling Report. The value of 3% has been changed to 2% and 19% has been changed to 24% respectively. The reason for this change is due to calculation errors.

### **Total percentage of materials diverted from the waste stream**

The District estimates its total recycling rate by combining the volume of waste and recyclables that pass through District-owned transfer stations (including residential collection) with the volume that is reported by commercial haulers registered with DPW. The entire volume of waste and recycling is not captured by this method since 100% of all commercial haulers do not report back to DPW. Haulers are not prevented from collecting and tipping outside of the District's border. Without a closed system and direct accountability of collection vehicles, it is only possible for the District to provide estimated recycling rates. Data collected from District-owned transfer stations and registered haulers are listed in Table 3 below, resulting in a recycling rate of 33.51% for the District.

**Table 3: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Percentage of material diverted and recycled**

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>Residential Recycle Tons Collected*</b>	21,835	28,621	29,224	24,883	30,885	33,414
<b>Commercial Recycle Tons Collected**</b>	47,000	79,588	83,260	68,235	127,783	112,444
<b>Transfer Station Tons Processed</b>		445,000	497,736	443,493	501,702	435,252
<b>Estimated</b>	New in FY05	16.8%	19.36%	18.20%	25.2%	33.51%

<b>Diversion Rate</b>						
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\* Includes residential collections, scrap metal recycled from bulk collections, hazardous and electronic waste recycled, and yard waste composted.

\*\* All commercial companies do not report.

## FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES FOR RECYCLING

Tables 4 and 5 display the expenditures and revenue for recycling activities reported by DPW. Table 4 reports a 3.7% increase in expenditures for FY 2009 with a total cost of \$7,061,234. Although spending increased during the fiscal year, the District did not see a return from revenue generated. While revenue continued to increase until FY 2008 as a result of improved conditions in the recycling market, the downturn in the economy caused a significant decrease in demand for recycled materials, with only \$1,433,920 reported in revenue for materials in FY 2009, down 43% from FY 2008. The District's processing contract is structured in such a manner that the city benefits from strong markets, but when market conditions decline, the District bears some of this risk as well.

**Table 4: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Expenditures for Recycling Activities**

	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
<b>Enforcement and Technical Assistance</b>	\$440,248	\$591,051	\$486,719	\$504,371	\$597,141	\$613,739
<b>Residential Recycling Collection/Processing*</b>	\$3,759,242	\$3,935,430	\$5,955,596	\$5,863,027	\$6,112,269	\$6,347,495
<b>Other Expenditures (Public Education)</b>	\$136,780	\$195,454	\$55,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$4,336,270	\$4,721,935	\$6,497,315	\$6,467,398	\$6,809,410	\$7,061,234
<b>% Change from Prior Year</b>		<b>9%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>-.05%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

\* Total includes the net processing costs after the District's share of market revenues is factored out.

**Table 5: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Revenue from Recycling Activities**

	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>
<b>Rebate from Residential Recycling Contract</b>	\$7,826	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Offset Costs from Recycling Contractor</b>	\$95,100	\$54,465	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Rebate from Materials Recovery Facility Recycling Contract</b>	\$721,117	\$880,065	\$1,286,188	\$1,500,708	\$2,525,903	\$1,433,920
<b>Recycling Haulers Registration Fee*</b>	\$5,304	\$3,480	\$6,921	\$8,184	\$7,632	\$6,472
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$829,347</b>	<b>\$938,010</b>	<b>\$1,293,109</b>	<b>\$1,508,892</b>	<b>\$2,533,535</b>	<b>\$1,440,391</b>
<b>% Change from Prior Year</b>		<b>13%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>-43%</b>

\*Some hauler registration fees are for two years.

**DISTRICT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

The Department of Real Estate Services (DRES) has primary responsibility for facility management services within the District Government. DRES performs space acquisition, construction, leasing, facility management, repair and alteration, facility modernization, and security services for 64 agencies and independent operating units, which occupy approximately 33 million square feet in 334 facilities under DRES’s control. In recent years, DRES has introduced 310 multi-ports or multi-sorting centers program to 12 facilities or approximately 2.5 million square feet (13%).

DRES tracks performance of specific initiatives on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis and focuses on improving the organization’s overall processes and fulfilling citywide objectives. Among the organization’s main objectives are to provide a clean and secure work environment for District agencies through effective and efficient facility management and maintenance services. To accomplish this, DRES has committed to expanding waste prevention and recycling programs to increase diversion rates, increase types of commodities collected and reduce associated hauling costs.

The D.C. Law 7-226, the District of Columbia’s Solid Waste Management and Multi-Materials Recycling Act of 1988, requires owners and occupants of commercial properties (including government buildings) to abide by the 45% diversion (by weight) for the separation and collection of recyclables from the total solid waste stream.

Continued improvement in the performance of District facilities can be attributed to various factors, including the use of multi-ports or materials sorting centers, mini-bin trash cans, employee outreach efforts, and increased container-use checks. In addition, DRES monitors agency move-ins/move-outs of office space, annual purge events and cleanups.

**Total Tonnage of Recycling Collected from District Government Buildings**

According to data provided by recycling haulers and local shredders (Table 6), the District Government has recycled an average of 1,338 tons annually for the past six years from District Government facilities. The tonnage of recycled material has continued to increase and reached an all-time high in FY 2009 with 1,792 tons. The estimated tonnage reported reflects data from all government buildings under the city-wide trash and recyclables contract and data provided by contractors that provide shredding services to various agencies on an as-needed basis.

**Table 6: D.C. Government Facilities Recyclables Tonnage FY 2004-2009**

DC Government Facilities Recyclables Tonnage (all government buildings under the city-wide hauling contract)	Estimated Tons					
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>Hauling Contractors (City-wide Contract)</b>						
Urban Services	677	836	846	140		
Waste Management	77	152	114	117		
TAC Transport, LLC (all properties except Ward 2)				560	624	681
Bates (Ward 2 properties)				46	492	504

Kmg Hauling (Wilson Building)				84	73*	87
<b>Shredding Contractors (No City-wide Contract)</b>						
Shred-it DC Services	289	285	228	260	254	488
RECALL <sup>1</sup>			9			
MidAtlantic Shredding				57	0	0
<b>Other</b>						
Unified Communications						12
CSOSA (Federal burn bags)					15	20
<b>Total Tonnage</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,458*</b>	<b>1,792</b>

\*The tonnage recorded for Kmg Hauling in FY 2008 (180) was not correct and the total tonnage for FY 2008 has been adjusted accordingly.

#### Four Core Buildings: Total Tonnage of Recyclables Collected as a Percentage of the Total Waste Stream

DRES gathers weight information of trash and recyclables collected and removed from properties under the city-wide trash and recyclables contract to calculate monthly and annual diversion rates for each of the four core buildings as part of the Department's external performance measures. The four core buildings are the John A. Wilson Building, Frank D. Reeves Center, One Judiciary Square and Henry Daly Buildings. In addition to the four core buildings, DRES has tracked and reported recycling data for four other government managed properties: DC Armory (2001 E Capitol Street, SE), the old DC General Hospital Campus (1900 Massachusetts Avenue, SE), Unified Communications Center (2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE), and 95 M Street, SW.

The collective recycling rates have steadily increased in the four core facilities since DRES began measuring diversion performance in FY 2004. Table 7 displays the increase in recycling tonnage and decrease in trash tonnage for all of the four core buildings. As of FY 2009, the four core buildings have surpassed the 45% recycling requirement set in the Solid Waste Management and Multi-Materials Recycling Act.

Table 8 summarizes the recycling and trash tonnage and diversion rates for the four additional facilities managed and tracked by DRES. While DC Armory and DC General have room for improvement, the Unified Communications Center and 95 M Street boast recycling rates that exceed the city's target of 45%.

**Table 7: Tonnage of Recycling and Waste and Diversion Rates for Four Core Buildings**

	FY 2008			FY 2009		
	Recycling (tons)	Trash (tons)	Diversion Rate	Recycling (tons)	Trash (tons)	Diversion Rate
<b>John A. Wilson Building</b>	73	67	52%	87	69	56%



<b>Frank D. Reeves Center</b>	70	124	36%	76	93	45%
<b>One Judiciary Square Building</b>	182	297	38%	291	233	55%
<b>Henry Daly Building</b>	71	93	43%	98	61	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>55%</b>

**Table 8: Additional DRES-Managed Facilities Reporting in FY 2009**

<b>Building</b>	<b>Recycling (tons)</b>	<b>Trash (tons)</b>	<b>Diversion Rate</b>
<b>DC Armory</b>	16	92.60	15%
<b>DC General</b>	7.04	86.32	8%
<b>UCC</b>	11.44	11.61	50%
<b>95 M Street</b>	65.20	26.96	71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.68</b>	<b>217.49</b>	<b>31%</b>

### **Training of Recycling Coordinators and Other Activities**

DRES manages the recycling program, collects data, files reports, conducts training and provides customer assistance for all DRES-managed properties. DRES plans to continue and expand employee training and support resources as funding is available to allow all government agencies to increase diversion rates.

In FY 2009, DRES conducted a special training program for its building managers and building specialists, as well as to tenant agencies. A more comprehensive inspection schedule was established for waste and recycling programs in DRES-managed facilities and bilingual staff took steps to educate janitorial workers on acceptable recyclable materials and waste separation practices. Additional technical assistance and training was also provided to the DC Courts and the DC Housing Authority in an effort to reestablish or expand recycling efforts and formally track recycling in these facilities.

### **Improving Recycling Practices in Leased Facilities**

DRES conducted monthly building reviews to monitor program participation in leased facilities that house District government agencies. Department staff participated in tenant representative meetings and conducted added training for tenant agencies. New printed and electronic program materials were also made available to tenant agencies (including shelters and police stations) through building management companies, haulers, or DRES.

Not all leased facilities receive the same collection services or sort recyclable collections in the same way. Several buildings incorporate single stream practices to support hauling operations and others work with service providers to off-set some of their trash/recycling hauling cost when they secure a set tonnage for the facility and recycle more. Additional centralized recycling containers or multi-sorting centers were

added in common areas throughout a number of facilities to support and/or expand container recycling collection. DRES continues to support tenant agencies by providing desk top or desk side recycling containers.

### **Other Green Efforts in District Government Facilities**

In the summer of 2009, Mayor Fenty unveiled the Green DC Agenda, a plan outlining his commitment to making District one of the world's most sustainable cities. Mayor Fenty's "go-green" efforts encompass seven distinctive themes (homes, schools, neighborhoods and community, parks and natural areas, transit and mobility, business, jobs and economic development, and city government operations). Goals of his agenda include cleaner, swimmable rivers; healthier air indoors and out; more beautiful streets, parks, and school grounds; and a vibrant, competitive economy.

DRES ran an outreach campaign throughout a number of District Government owned and leased facilities to promote the Mayor's Green DC Agenda. As result of the Mayor's initiative, DRES saw an increased interest by District employees and management companies of leased buildings in saving energy and water, reducing waste, and improving their recycling programs.

Compliance with the Green Building Act is also having an impact on recycling building practices and how the waste stream is perceived and managed. The Act that phases-in green building in the District requires the use of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design™ (LEED) Green Building Rating System, a nationally-acclaimed benchmark tool for green building design, construction, and operation. The Act, as well as LEED, promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality, of which recycling is an important part. Newly designed District Government buildings are being designed to achieve LEED compliance, including space for recycling containers and commitments for maintaining recycling programs.

### **Future Plans**

A new janitorial contract is planned for April 2011 that will provide added support to our buildings recycling program. Universal Waste (UW) stream, which finds alternative ways to dispose of potentially hazardous waste, is also part of a new consolidated maintenance contract to be awarded in 2010. Materials like batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing and mercury-containing devises, electric components and others similar products, are diverted to the appropriate treatment or recycling facilities in accordance to hazardous waste regulatory requirements. UW activities are currently under reported because they are commonly managed by third parties or tenant agencies. The consolidated maintenance contract will provide all management, supervision, labor, materials, supplies, and equipment for the Operations, Maintenance and Repair (OM&R) of One Judiciary Square, Reeves and 95 M St SW (John A. Wilson Building and Unified Communications Center already have consolidated maintenance contracts). The start date is to be determined pending contract award.

While 12 facilities currently house 310 multi-ports, DRES plans to further expand the multi-port program to other facilities in the District Government. Complementary to the multi-port program DRES has purchased and installed close to 15,000 mini-bin recycling containers for government employees. An additional 10,000 mini-bins could potentially be placed in service at other facilities that the District operates. DRES also provides mini-bin units when the landlord at a leased facility is unable to provide them.

DRES also plans to work with the Office of Contracting and Procurement's (OCP) staff to account for electronics reuse/recycling tonnage handled by the District's Adams Place Warehouse. The recycling has been operational for a number of years, but data on weight has not been collected. Currently, the Office of Contracting and Procurement's Personal Property Disposal Division (PPD) moves thousands of pieces of electronic property through liquidation.com annually. This disposal, which is a form of reuse, is not currently counted for in the recycling stream and will be addressed in FY 2010.

## **TRAINING AND OUTREACH/EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

### **Staffing to Support Recycling Efforts**

Six employees work in DPW's Office of Recycling. The staff consists of a Recycling Program Officer, three Commercial Investigators, a Recycling Educator and one Administrative Program Assistant (same as FY 2008). Office of Recycling staff participates in numerous trainings and outreach events throughout the year in schools, in businesses and at community events to educate the public on recycling services and complying with the District's recycling requirements.

In Summer/Fall of 2009, DPW's Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program's (SWEEP) Office of Recycling launched a Recycling and Solid Waste Coaches internship program. Four interns were selected to take part in a five week program were trained on proper solid waste disposal, recycling, and various aspects of resource conservation in both classroom and in the field.

Upon completion of the program, interns were challenged to demonstrate their new skills by serving as recycling coaches in 16 DC Public Schools. Beginning in October, targeted schools were given an orientation by the Office of the Chancellor, whose staff partnered with the Office of Recycling to help the schools launch recycling programs and get them on track for sustained recycling programs.

Following the program's completion, two interns became part-time, solid waste consultants to a major property management firm. One of the two continued on to join the staff of the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the other, interned at the Institute of World Politics before continuing an education in Public Policy. The other two interns have returned to their previous occupations, as an engineer and an undergraduate student.

### **Outreach and Education**

DPW strives to educate and inform the public on the proper methods and benefits of recycling through various media, including newspaper and radio advertisements, inserts in utility bills, community listservs, and participation at public forums and events. The agency distributes recycling brochures and reminders through the mail and on the DPW website. All publications are available in both English and Spanish. In FY 2009 DPW produced the following publications: "2009-2010 Leaf Collection Program" brochure, "Spring Cleaning: Indoors and Out," "Trash? Litter? Not in OUR DC!" and "Holiday Recycling Guide 2009."

The District coordinates and participates in numerous community events to increase awareness of recycling efforts in the community as well as provide residents with opportunities to recycle nontraditional waste products. In FY 2009 DPW took part in:

- 41 presentations to businesses
- 11 consulting or technical assistance meetings
- 7 "At the Workplace" information community fairs

- 24 school events
- 21 events for families and neighborhoods
- 27 educational talks with government employees, interns, and summer youth employment program (SYEP) members

FY 2009 events included:

- National Green Festival
- Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Collection
- Columbia Heights Neighborhood Party
- GWU FRIENDS Block Party Street Fair
- Rock Creek Park Day
- DCRA Community Day
- Adams Morgan's DC Nite Out
- US Dept. of the Interior - Rawlins Park Community Fair
- Georgetown BID Community Fair
- Public Safety Forum

## ENFORCEMENT

Site inspections are performed by DPW to ensure that all commercial establishments operate within compliance with DC Law 7-226. Some of the enforcement measures inspectors investigate include:

- An approved recycling plan
- A business occupancy license
- A licensed solid waste hauler and a registered recycling hauler
- Proof that recycling is kept separate from solid waste
- Trash contamination in recycling containers
- Clean recyclable containers without overflowing materials
- Properly labeled containers
- Closed lid containers
- Evidence that all recyclable materials are being recycled as required by District law
- Educated and informed employees

In FY 2009, DPW's three inspectors performed 3,114 recycling site inspections in which direct contacts were made with commercial establishments. These inspections represent the primary education and outreach tool used to enroll commercial establishments in the District's mandatory recycling program. Those who fail to recycle are fined. Proposed regulatory changes, including a revised fine schedule, are currently under review.

**Table 9: FY 2004 - FY 2009 Recycling Inspection Activity**

Activity	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>Commercial Sites Inspected</b>	2,972	1,423	3017	3,209	5,171	3,114
<b>Commercial Plans Received</b>	923	1,245	896	969	2,694	767
<b>Commercial Plans Approved*</b>	940	427	947	924	1,598	1,374
<b>Commercial Plans Disapproved</b>	498	431	627	438	1,754	1,230
<b>Commercial</b>	46	2	2	13	15	44

<b>Contacts/Presentations</b>						
<b>Official Warnings Issued</b>	508	695	883	692	1,204	928
<b>Notices of Violation Issued</b>	369	696	983	2,343	1,410	1,409
<b>Haulers Registered</b>	31	42	61	67	60	49
<b>Vehicles Registered</b>	128	145	227	242	291	239

\* Some plans were received in previous years; haulers and vehicles information includes self-implementers.

## PROCUREMENT

There are currently more than 60 agencies using the Procurement Automated Support System (PASS). This has resulted in automated purchasing by all of the Office of Contracting and Procurement's (OCP) customer agencies. OCP has instituted several initiatives to ensure that Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) increases across the District Government through improved legislation, purchasing system upgrades and staff commitment to greening purchasing efforts. While the percentage of Environmental Preferable Purchasing cannot be determined for FY 2009 (due to an ineffective "EPP Indicator" tool in PASS), OCP is implementing a new system that will allow green spending to be tracked on a product level for relevant contracts (see #3 below).

During FY 2009, OCP advanced its environmental procurement program through:

- (1) Continued development of an EPP policy and program, which will be implemented in FY 2010. The policy, in part, adopts recycled content standards endorsed through the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG). The EPA CPG standards can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/cpg/products/index.htm>.
- (2) Development of multiple solicitations for paper and paper related products including a copy paper contract that requires paper at varying levels of Post-Consumer Recycled Content including 30%, 40%, 50%, and 100%; as well as business card, envelope and letter head, and an Office Supply solicitations, all of which mandate recycled content standards of at least 30% Post-Consumer Recycled content. It is worth noting that OCP has included language in all solicitations requiring vendors to provide monthly "Green Spend Reports." The Green Spend Reports will request total spending against a contract, the percentage of spending that is "green," and an accompanying description of the product that justifies its designation as green. This addition is one strategy OCP is pursuing to improve its paper reporting capabilities.
- (3) An awarded contract will supplement the District's electronic purchasing software, Ariba with sourcing and contract administration user modules. The new Ariba tools should provide OCP with new internal green reporting capabilities in FY 2011.
- (4) Strengthened leadership role in the green community through membership in Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) and National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) Green Purchasing Task Force. Director Gragan continues to be represented on the newly formed Keystone Green Products Roundtable (GPR), which aims to identify and remove barriers to environmentally preferable purchasing.
- (5) Providing green purchasing training to all District Purchase Card holders. At each training facilitators explain minimum post-consumer recycled content standards that all paper products must meet, and are encouraged to purchase products that are processed chlorine free, Forest Stewardship Council certified, and/or are certified by reputable environmental standards such as Green Seal and Ecologo.

#### Ongoing EPP programs:

- (1) Continuing development of green city-wide contracts, including the development of a janitorial cleaning supplies solicitation that will cover toilet paper and facial tissue, among other products.
- (2) Increasing EPP education and outreach in the District Government through: a Green Procurement “wikisite,” green procurement buyer training (with a focus on paper and paper related products), and enhanced P-Card green procurement trainings.
- (3) Reviewing boiler plate contract language to promote the District Government’s EPP goals.
- (4) Identifying and pursuing regional purchasing partners and cooperative purchasing agreements that promote green purchasing.
- (5) Streamlining Purchasing Codes and end-user PASS interface; all paper purchasing codes will be reviewed and most of the purchasing codes not related to the purchase of recycled paper will be eliminated. Similarly, products available through forthcoming paper contracts will not include the option to purchase virgin paper in most circumstances.
- (6) Improving the District Government’s capability to accurately monitor green spending.

#### **CONCLUSION**

While the District of Columbia continues to make progress in improving its recycling programs in District Government-operated facilities, and in residential and commercial sectors, additional improvement is required. In FY 2010 and beyond, the District Government will continue to work to achieve and surpass the statutorily required recycling and diversion rates. Efforts continue at DPW to provide technical assistance to businesses and other establishments to develop and implement recycling programs and to increase compliance with the District Government’s recycling laws. DRES continues its efforts to train staff and to ensure that viable and sustained recycling programs exist in each District Government-owned and leased facility. DRES will continue to work with OCP and other entities as well to ensure contracts for services, such as solid waste hauling and janitorial services in District Government buildings, contain clauses that support the District Government’s recycling and broader environmental agenda. In procurement, OCP has continued to pursue an environmental agenda through which it will further improve upon its Environmentally Preferred Purchasing program by creating, identifying and including more environmentally friendly commodities in the PASS system and developing a tracking system to improve identification and monitoring of the District agencies’ Environmentally Preferred Purchases. The District Government plans to build upon successes to date, develop new initiatives and increase targets related to recycling and sustainability in FY 2010 and beyond.