

Special Events Recycling Program Requirements

Background

In 2014 the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 781, Environmental – *Recycling Special Events*. The law requires organizers of special events meeting certain criteria to provide a recycling receptacle adjacent to each trash receptacle, ensure recycling receptacles are clearly distinguished from trash receptacles, and ensure that recyclable materials are collected for recycling. Special event organizers (SEO's) must conduct recycling in accordance with the County's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWAMP).

Special Events Subject to the Recycling Program

The Environment Article, 9-1712, of the State Code, requires SEO's to provide for recycling at events that meet the following criteria:

1. Include temporary or periodic use of a public street, publicly owned site or facility, or public park;
2. Serve food or drink; and
3. Are expected to have 200 or more persons in attendance.

Projected attendance may be estimated based on past attendance, number registered to attend, the venues seating capacity, or other similar methods.

Special Events taking place on any Municipal, State, or Federally owned property are also included in the Special Events Recycling Program (SERP).

Material and Obligations

SEO's are responsible for:

1. Providing and placing recycling receptacles adjacent to each trash receptacle at the event;
2. Ensuring that recycling receptacles are clearly distinguished from trash receptacles by color or signage;
3. Provide any other labor and equipment necessary to carry out recycling at the event;
4. Ensure that materials placed in recycling receptacles are collected and transported for recycling; and
5. Paying any cost associated with recycling at the special event.

SEO's may fulfill the requirement to ensure materials are collected and transported for recycling through one or more of the following methods;

1. Transporting collected materials to one of the County's recycling drop-off sites;
2. Contracting with a recycling hauler to collect the materials and transport them to a recycling processor; or
3. Receiving prior agreement from the site owner to use existing recycling collection system available at the site.

The SERP must include collection of at least plastic containers, metal containers, glass containers and paper. The SEO may assess the availability of food scrapes recycling services for the event though as of October 2014, there are no commercial scale food scrap composting facilities within Anne Arundel County or the Baltimore Metropolitan area. If such services become available, the SEO may provide for food scraps recycling, including provision of separate containers for organic and non-organic recyclables.

Recycling at a State-owned site must follow the State agency's recycling plan, if available. Recycling at a federally-owned site must follow any applicable federal recycling plan. If no State or federal recycling program is available for the site, the SEO may develop a recycling program in accordance with the SERP. Recycling at municipally-owned must follow any applicable regulations established by the municipality.