

## RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Virginia

Agency Name: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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**1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.**

*Local and regional solid waste planning units shall maintain a minimum twenty-five percent recycling rate, which by regulation is based upon municipal solid waste (MSW) generated within the jurisdiction/region. The state does not specify which materials are collected for recycling.*

**2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?**

*10.1-1411 of the Code of Virginia*

**3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?**

*25% recycling rate to be maintained, 10.1-1411 of the Code of Virginia*

**4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).**

*Amended Regulations for the Development of Solid Waste Management Plans (9 VAC 20-130-10 et seq.) became effective on August 1, 2001. The amended regulations require that Regions as well as each city, county, and town not part of a designated Region in the Commonwealth develop complete, revised solid waste management plans. Section 9 VAC 20-130-120 B & C of the Regulations requires that a minimum recycling rate of 25% of the total municipal solid waste generated annually in each city, county, town, or Region be maintained. It also requires that the plan describe how this rate shall be met or exceeded and requires that the calculation methodology be included in the plan. Section 9VAC 20-130-165 D establishes that every city, county, and town in the Commonwealth, or solid waste management planning region shall submit to the Department of Environmental Quality by April 30 of each year, the data and calculations required in 9 VAC 20-130-120 B&C for the preceding calendar year. These annual submittals are the basis for establishing the Recycling Rate in Virginia each year.*

*Virginia's calculated recycling rate is based upon the following formula:  $([P+S] / [P+S+M]) \times 100 = \text{Recycling Rate}$ , where P represents total Principle Recyclable Materials (see below), S represents Supplemental Recyclable Materials (see below), and M represents MSW disposed.*

*Virginia's recycling rate reporting form lists the following categories:  
Principal Recyclable Materials (PRMs): Paper, metal, plastic, glass, commingled, yard waste, waste wood, and textiles.*

*Supplemental Recyclable Materials (SRMs): waste tires, used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze, abandoned automobiles removed, batteries, sludge (composted), electronics, tree stumps, construction waste, demolition waste, debris waste, ash, and other.*

*Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposed: household, commercial, institutional and other.*

**5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?**

*As recycling is based upon the MSW generation, i.e., from household, commercial and institutional sources, recycling data from these sources are included in the recycling rate calculation. Only industrial generated waste and material is excluded from the calculation.*

**6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)**

*For calendar year 2003, the state's average recycling rate is 30.2%.*

**7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?**

*Curbside collections are prevalent in urban/suburban areas of the state, while most rural areas have drop-off convenience centers. In some areas, there is a combination of the two systems, and in all areas commercial recycling data is collected for the recycling rate reports. There is no required standard by the state based on size or similar parameters.*

**8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?**

*For the most part rural localities have problems in collections. There are a few exceptions, like the town of Floyd which has its own mini-MRF at its transfer station, and thus is able to capture and market its own recyclables while providing the convenience of one-stop handling of wastes/recyclables by the citizens and haulers.*

**9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?**

*The Code of Virginia provides for the following annual litter taxes to be collected and deposited in an interest earning account: the Litter Control and Recycling Trust Fund (Fund):*

***Litter Tax -- Section 58.1-1707:** \$10.00 per year for each location of manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors or retailers of consumer products and an additional \$15.00 per year per location where groceries, soft drinks and beer are sold.*

***Excise Tax on Soft Drinks -- Section 58.1-1702:** A gross receipts tax on wholesalers.*

***Excise Tax on Beer and Wine Coolers -- Section 4.1-236:** 2% of the taxes collected go to the Fund.*

*In Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003), the litter taxes generated approximately \$1,729,061. The FY2003 Fund included the following revenues and interest amounts:*

*Litter Tax Revenue = \$ 717,696*

*Soft Drink Tax = \$ 126,745*

*Beer Tax = \$ 835,122*

*Interest = \$ 49,498*

*Section 10.1-1422.0 of the Code of Virginia established the Litter Control and Recycling Fund and stipulated that revenues from the litter tax are distributed each year according to the following allocation formula:*

*75 % - Non-competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Grants to each Virginia locality; (to be used for litter prevention and recycling program activities)*

*20 % - Competitive Grants for statewide and regional Litter Prevention and Recycling Educational Programs, and,*

*5 % to the Department of Environmental Quality to administer the grant program and provide (administrative) support for the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board.*

**10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?**

*DEQ has a contract with a local paper vendor to collect and recycle various grades of paper from our central office. The employee association also collects aluminum cans from the vending machines for recycling.*

*Within each agency there are opportunities to use materials made with recycled content as well as to reduce waste and minimize trash disposal costs by reusing or recycling materials. Working out of the Surplus Property Management Office, the State Recycling Coordinator provides agencies of the Commonwealth with technical assistance and training for successful waste reduction programs and recycled-content materials procurement. Recycling is one component of a comprehensive waste reduction program that includes source reduction, reuse and recycling activities. Each agency was to develop a recycling program under a former Governor's Executive Order.*

*Information available includes market and recycling contact information, resource information or referrals, program development and implementation assistance, and guidance concerning related state policies and procedures. Training will also be provided on these topics.*

*For follow up reference, much of this data is on our web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle).*