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Refuse and Recycling Center Upgrades

(Washington, Virginia) – Patrons of the Flatwood and Amissville refuse and recycling centers will notice that household waste compactors are now in place and operational and all new recycling containers are in place. Conversion of the sites to use compactors is an integral component of the overall decision of the Board of Supervisors made on February 3, 2020 to enter a waste and recycling agreement with Page County.

The Flatwood center continues to provide a one-way pass-through traffic pattern; however, the compactor equipment is now located where recycling containers were previously located and recycling containers are located to the right after entering the facility. Containers at both sites are color coded with waste containers gray and recycling containers blue. New signage is affixed to recycling containers identifying the receptacle for each segregated recycling stream (see below).

The Amissville center has a completely new looped one-way traffic pattern. Patrons enter the facility in the same location as has been used in the past and proceed to the new compactor location, which compactors are mounted to the concrete pad that previously supported recycling containers. A new loop road was installed between the compactors and tree line that routes users to a pull off for recycling containers prior to exiting the site near the scales as shown on the attached site layout plan. Additional modifications may be made to further improve traffic flow after patrons and operators observe usage patterns.

The final phase of upgrades at each center will be the removal of the old trash pits. Portions of the pits will be repurposed to provide a safe load height into the bulk waste containers. Bulk waste includes items that will not fit or is not appropriate for compaction. Examples include furniture, scrap wood from household projects, and mattresses. Work to convert the pits is expected to take place during the months of August and September.

Except for the cardboard recycling containers that have a side access door and tall roof, the recycling containers purchased are all of the same design to enable efficient operation. Signage used on the containers is magnetic to allow the recyclable material of any given container to change as needed when containers are swapped when full. Each container has an internal partition to allow more than one type of material in a container, so patrons should carefully review signage near each container opening. Patrons should now be used to separating recyclables into six separate streams and adhere to the listed requirements:

- Cardboard
  - Breakdown Flat
  - Stack Neatly
  - NO Food Soiled Cardboard
  - NO Waxed Drink Containers
- Paper
  - Magazines /Newspaper
  - Printer / Copier Paper
  - NO Shredded Paper
  - NO Plastic Bags / Boxes
- Plastic
  - Clean & Empty
  - Must be Marked #1 - #7
  - NO Black Plastic
  - NO Bags / Boxes
  - NO Pesticide or Petroleum Containers

- Aluminum
  - NOT Attracted to a Magnet (magnets will be placed on containers to check)
  - Primarily drink cans
  - Clean and Empty
  - Drink Cans
  - NO Food / Soup Cans
  - NO Bags / Boxes
- Metal
  - Attracted to a Magnet (magnets will be placed on containers to check)
  - Clean and Empty
  - Food / Soup Cans
  - NO Aluminum
  - NO Bags / Boxes
- Glass
  - All Colors
  - Empty of Liquids
  - NO Bags / Boxes

Our partners in Page County have established a very effective recycling program providing assurance that the material citizens deliver to our centers makes its way into the recycling market. The photographs on the following pages show some of the process utilized in Page County as well as the end products that are marketed and sold to recycling companies in segregated batches. Rappahannock County receives the value of the recyclables provided as a credit on our monthly invoice from Page County. It is critical for patrons of the Rappahannock County centers to follow the listed requirements when recycling. Improper materials placed within the containers at our centers can lead to contamination of the recycling stream causing at worst, materials to be landfilled, and at best, extra staff time to sort materials.

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