

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the paper and co-mingled pick-up schedule?

Single stream dumpsters are picked up on a Tuesday and/or Thursday schedule - depending on the location and need. Toters are picked up Thursdays.

### 2. What shall I do if ESI doesn't pick up on schedule?

ESI, Inc. has committed to servicing our locations per the schedule. They may be running late on a given day but will be finished by 3:00 PM. If you don't receive service on your scheduled service day, please contact Plant Operations and we will contact our representative at ESI, Inc. for a resolution.

### 3. What is single stream recycling?

Single stream recycling means that all recyclable materials (glass, metal, paper, cardboard) are placed in the containers together. No need to separate!

### 4. Why aren't certain items recycled?

There are four reasons:

- Arlington County Government writes the contract, which the schools participate in rather than APS writing its own contract, which allows APS to receive better pricing for regular trash service as well as recycling services. We are also bound by the parameters of the contract.
- The recycling business is driven by the demands for recyclable products and these products have their own economic forces. For example, the beverage industry uses recycled aluminum to make cans for their products. Their demand for metal drives the willingness of the industry to sell recycled aluminum to the beverage canning companies. If there is no demand for an item, then it is difficult to locate a recycling facility willing to pick up and process the materials.
- Arlington Public Schools budgets a certain amount of money for the recycling program. Service and the containers are provided to the schools free of charge.
- Items contaminated by glue or paint may not be recycled.

### 5. What should I do if I need extra service, additional toters or recycling boxes?

The recycling coordinator should contact Plant Operations telephone at 703/228-7732 or Kerm Towler at [kerm.towler@apsva.us](mailto:kerm.towler@apsva.us) for assistance. Additional service is available.

**6. What about getting assistance for making the program a success-or more of a success- in my building?**

Publicity within your building is paramount to keeping this on everyone's radar screen. Consider your audiences. Parents, students and staff are three different audiences. Ask how you would engage all three audiences.

Each coordinator is given a list of ideas to consider. Review the list and implement the strategies that seem best for your building.

Contact your fellow coordinators for ideas and strategies that they used.

Form a committee of people from other departments to see how others can be encouraged to participate. Consider including Extended Day, Food Service, Office Staff and other subject area teachers in your building for assistance.

Consider enlisting the service clubs, student government association, curriculum-related clubs (art, music, theatre and the sciences for example) in the effort.

**7. What should we do about boxes from deliveries?**

Recycle them! School or department-generated cardboard is to be placed in the single stream dumpster. Remind staff to flatten the boxes in order to maximize space.

**8. How many and what types of containers should we have in our building**

Small containers should be placed in the following spaces: each employee work station, (clinic, main office, administrative offices, etc) and all classrooms.

Large containers should be placed in the following spaces: cafeteria, staff lounge, computer lab, work room, main office, library, copy rooms. Additional containers may be placed in specific classrooms or corridors if practical or necessary to maximize participation. Any area that generates a substantial amount of recyclable material should have a large central container installed.

In addition, containers should be set out during large school events such as PTA meetings and activities and week-end rental of facilities. Keep a few extra large central containers in inventory for such aforementioned activities.

**9. What is colocation?**

Colocation is a new county mandate stating that wherever one places a trash can and one could reasonably expect recyclable materials as well, we must place a recycling container.

**10. What if people choose not to participate?**

The recycling program is a mandate from Arlington County Government, the Arlington School Board and it is a requirement that all buildings and staff participate.

Use an educational approach to help staff and students understand that their individual participation is helpful to resolving issues such as the energy crisis, global warming, pollution control and the like. It doesn't take any additional effort to participate.

Teachers may also tie recycling concepts into the curriculum as is appropriate.