

Virginia Litter Control & Recycling Fund

A critical funding source for Virginia's local waste management

The Issue

Virginia imports 6 to 7 million tons of waste from outside the state each year. To retain disposal capacity for its waste, Virginia should consider enhancing the Litter Control and Recycling Fund to support recycling and litter prevention by:

- Demonstrating that the required fees are collected each year from the regulated community – consider an increased annual fee for companies that do not pay on time.
- Raising the fee paid by the regulated community to support litter prevention and recycling, as it has not increased in decades.
- Require businesses and organizations that are required to provide litter containers for use by the public (9VAC20-190) also place recycling containers immediately adjacent to litter containers.
- Consider a bottle bill to fund waste management in Virginia.

Virginia jurisdictions have responsibility for providing environmentally-sound waste management services to businesses and residents throughout the state.

Virginia jurisdictions manage millions of tons of waste generated within their individual jurisdictions annually while complying with a number of complex and detailed environmental regulations. Operation of solid waste management facilities in Virginia has been left to communities, with local residents and businesses in the communities bearing most of the cost.

Recycling ensures disposal capacity for wastes that cannot be recycled and costs less than disposal.

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund partially funds local recycling, which Virginia jurisdictions rely on as a critical funding source for litter prevention and recycling.

The Litter Control and Recycling Fund provides about \$1.85 million/year to 72 Virginia jurisdictions, from a fee that has not increased since 1981. Many localities receive only about \$1,000 each year, which provides very limited financial support for jurisdictional solid waste programs. The litter fund is the only financial support from the state for local waste management.

Information Sources:

2011 VA Legislative Summary, Virginia Department of Taxation
VA Department of Environmental Quality – 2017 Litter Fund and solid waste reports
www.Bottlebill.org

Northern Virginia Waste Management Board
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Phone: 703/642-0700 Fax: 703/642-5077
Website: www.novaregion.org

