

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201
March 25, 2014

The Honorable Jay Fisetto, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Support for Household Solid Waste Rate for Expanded Refuse Services

Dear Mr. Fisetto,

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) has been informed of an amendment to Chapter 10 (Garbage, Refuse, and Weeds) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia - Article I, Section 10-8.A, relating to the Household Solid Waste Rate (HSWR), which would go into effect July 1, 2014. E2C2 supports the positive environmental impacts and benefits that this potential increase would yield, particularly as the County works towards established goals of becoming a zero-landfill jurisdiction by 2020 and zero-waste by 2038.

These benefits include:

- Expanded organic collection and composting. The proposed expansion would include collection of yard waste now and add food waste collection when the infrastructure is developed in the region to process food waste.
- Fostering ecological and environmental concerns in local government. Building a new level of waste disposal into Arlington's infrastructure allows residents to foster environmental understanding, responsible development, and improve local environmental stability.
- The Household Solid Waste Rate is designed to fully re-coup the costs associated with waste collection and disposal. In addition to being an ecological improvement to services, this expansion will provide for additional infrastructure resources that are needed to create a more progressive and comprehensive refuse program.
- The advertised rate is still 4 percent less expensive than the next closest HSWR in the region. This expansion would provide valuable comprehensive, convenient, and cost effective refuse collection program to the community at a competitive rate.

It is anticipated that contract negotiations and pricing will be finalized prior to FY15 budget adoption so the County Board will be able to adopt a HSWR appropriate for the projected cost and service level

determined. E2C2 supports expansion of waste collection services and urges the County to pursue said expansion in the most cost efficient manner.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the anticipated benefits of this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dicke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a trailing flourish.

Scott Dicke
E2C2 Chair

cc: Jeff Harn
Joan Kelsch
Linda Brown
Erik Grabowsky