



Multi-Family Recycling in Montgomery County

This year, 673 multi-family properties submitted their Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction reports to the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) for calendar year 2015. After field verifying and approving all of these reports, DSWS is happy to report that these reports documented the recycling of nearly 76 thousand tons of the five categories of mandatory recyclable materials. This total consisted of:

- 81.1 million pounds of mixed paper
- 35.6 million pounds of commingled materials
- 2.7 million pounds of scrap metal
- 31.6 million pounds of yard trim
- 82 thousand pounds of Christmas trees

This represents 29.4 percent of all waste generated by multi-family properties in the County in 2015.

Entering the total reported amounts of mixed paper, commingled materials, scrap metal, and electronics recycled by multi-family properties in 2015 into DSWS' Environmental Footprint Calculator (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/footprint/), shows that multi-family properties helped save more than 215 thousand trees, 2.8 million gallons of oil, 42.5 million hours of electricity, and 65 million gallons of water (see figure 1 below).

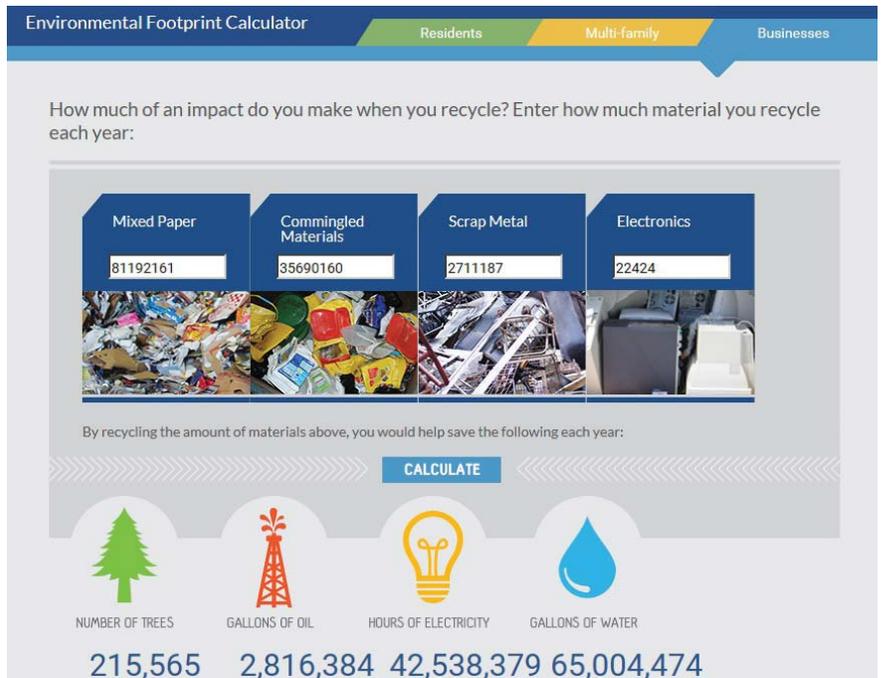


Figure 1. DSWS Environmental Footprint Calculator with data from 2015 Annual Reports

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Multi-Family Recycling in Montgomery County (cont.'d)

In 2015, nearly 74 percent of the multi-family properties recycled more than 20 percent of their waste. This is a three percentage point increase from 2014. It also is the 8th consecutive year that we have seen an increase in this category (see figure 2). The TRRAC Program is striving to get all multi-family properties in Montgomery County to increase their recycling efforts with the goal of reducing waste and recycling 70% by 2020.

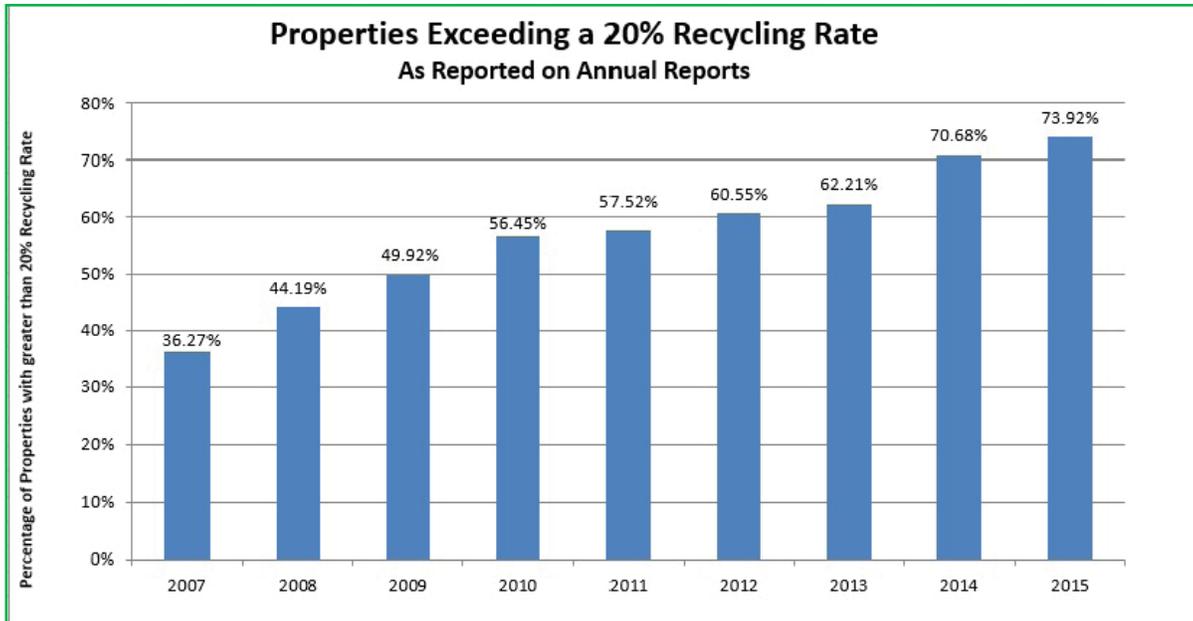


Figure 2. Percentage of properties exceeding a 20 percent recycling rate per their annual recycling report

The average reported recycling rate for multi-family properties in the County was 31.8 percent, with individual properties recycling rates ranging from 5 percent to 91 percent. Nearly half of all multi-family properties fall within the 25 to 49 percent range (323 out of 673 properties) and sixteen properties reported recycling rates greater than 70 percent. The breakdown of recycling rates for multi-family properties is shown in figure 3.

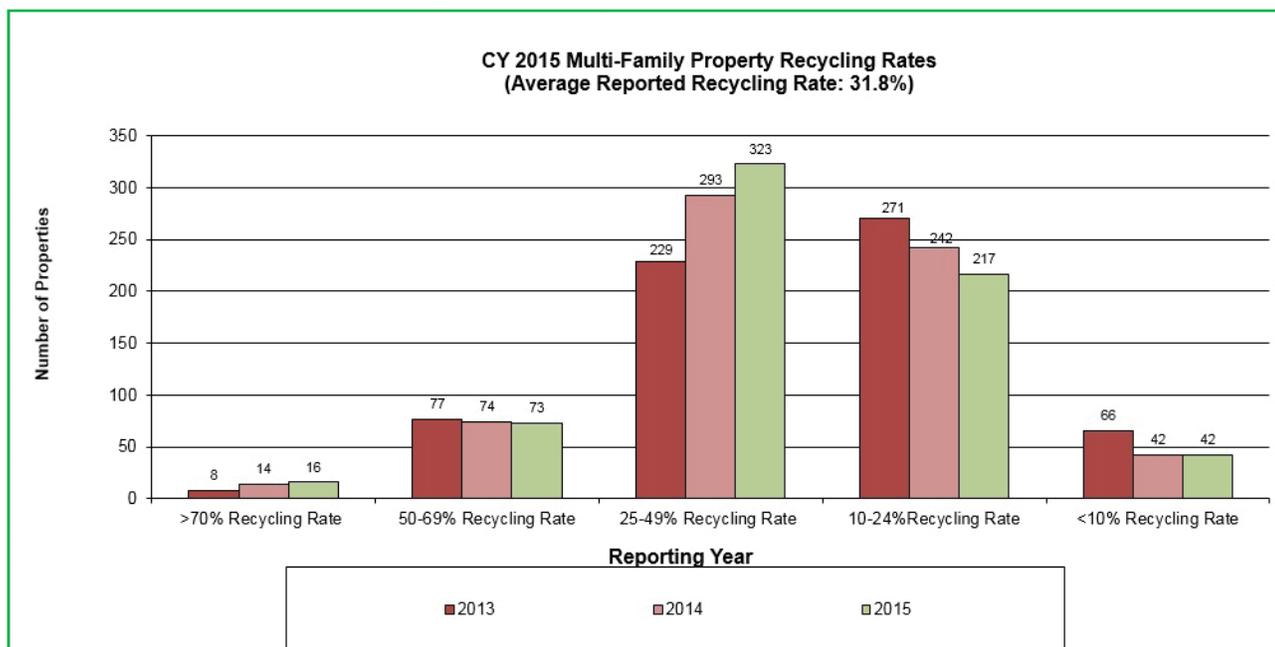


Figure 3. Multi-family property recycling rates, 2007-2015, as reported on annual recycling reports

Friends House Making Strides in Recycling Food Scraps and Backyard Composting

Friends House Retirement Community located in Sandy Spring, Maryland has been at the forefront of Montgomery County's next recycling frontier: food waste recycling. This environmentally conscious community has been performing food scrap recycling for years as well as maintaining their own yard waste composting on site.



Friends House Retirement Community

Robert Hill, Maintenance Director at Friends House, oversees the recycling and waste reduction efforts for the community. Every day, food scraps from the community kitchen are collected in buckets under the food preparation counters for food compost recycling. All yard waste and garden trimmings from the community garden also are placed in special compost piles behind the property which are properly maintained until ready to be reused in the community garden and other green areas on their property.

In addition to the extensive food and yard waste composting program, Friends House residents also have the ability to recycle old batteries, light bulbs, and have plenty of recycling capacity in each of their recycling and trash collection rooms to maximize the amount of recyclables collected. These simple actions reduce the amount of waste that the community produces on a daily basis and boosts Friends House's recycling rate.

According to Mr. Hill, the recycling efforts and excellent recycling program at Friends House are made all the greater because of their environmentally conscious residents who truly care about the earth. "Everyone does their part," he says, and it truly shows from resident participation in the food and yard waste composting program and other recycling initiatives.

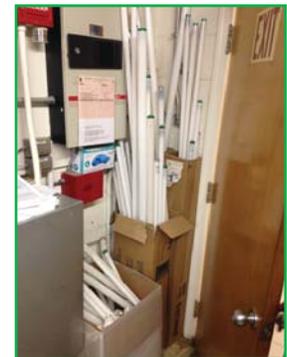
It will take efforts such as the Friends House Retirement Community's to help Montgomery County reach its goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent of all waste generated by 2020. We encourage all multi-family properties in Montgomery County to follow Friends House's example and look for new and creative ways to increase your recycling efforts.



Kitchen food scraps recycling collection containers



Friends House community garden where compost from food scraps and yard trim is used



Fluorescent light collection area for recycling



Grasscycling on one acre of lawn recycles 15,200 pounds of grass clippings a year!

Grasscycling:

- Returns valuable nutrients to the soil
- Reduces watering needs
- Reduces commercial fertilizer needs
- Reduces costs and saves time

Make sure your landscaper is grasscycling!

Just Mow and Go!





October 2016

RECYCLE MORE NOW! Reduce Waste and Recycle 70% by 2020! MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING SECTION

Multi-Family Recycling Program
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To receive this newsletter electronically, simply subscribe at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

This information is available in an alternative format by calling David Frank at 240-777-6446.

 Please print on recycled and recyclable paper



Calendar of Events



Saturday, October 22, 2016

Potomac Day
9812 Falls Road
Potomac, MD 20832
10:00am – 3:00pm

Saturday, November 5, 2016
Recycling Volunteer Orientation
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
9:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
America Recycles Day

Saturday, November 19, 2016,
Montgomery County Thanksgiving Day Parade
Ellsworth Drive and Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
10:00am – 12:00pm

Saturday, December 10, 2016
Recycling Volunteer Orientation
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
9:00am – 11:00am



Baby Blue Recycling Bins and Educational Materials Available!

To order these items and more visit:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
Or call 240-777-6446.



For information about these events, call 240-777-6446 or visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.