

DURHAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE **Waste & Recycling News**

Summer 2020

A New Fiscal Year Begins July 1, 2020

The Solid Waste Fee has remained at \$158.81 for the last four years while the cost of doing business has steadily increased. During this time, Durham County staff have worked creatively to offset the rising costs in a way that did not impact services and did not increase the fee. Unfortunately, we were unable to do that for a 5th year in a row. In order to maintain services exactly as they have been, the Solid Waste Fee would need to increase by \$20. Rather than make such a large increase, we have made a few modifications to our services. This has brought the increase down to just \$12.97, for a total 2020-21 fee of \$171.78. Please read on to learn more about these changes.

Please Recycle Glass Bottles and Jars Separately

You can help Durham County keep our fee low by participating in our new glass recycling program. Glass is the heaviest item in your commingled recycling mix. When we take your recyclables to the processor, we are charged by weight. This "tipping fee" has risen from \$20 per ton in 2018/19 to \$76 in 2019/20, and may rise as high as \$136 per ton in 2020/21. By recycling your glass bottles and jars separately, we reduce the weight of our recyclables, which lowers the cost. The glass will be recycled through a partnership with Orange County and with the support of a grant from the Glass Recycling Coalition.

To participate in this cost saving program, please collect your glass bottles and jars separately from your other recyclables. Then, bring them to our Redwood, Parkwood, or Bahama Convenience Sites and place them in the designated "Glass Recycling" container. As of this writing, Parkwood has their glass recycling container in place. Bahama and Redwood will come online later this summer. (Note: Glass from dishware, windows, or mirrors is not recyclable through any of our programs and should be disposed of with the regular trash).

No Construction & Demolition Waste At Sites

Over the years, our Convenience Sites have accepted Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste from residents as a courtesy, **IF** they performed the work themselves. However, in accordance with Durham County Solid Waste Ordinance 20-11.c., C & D waste cannot be disposed of at Durham County Convenience Sites. There is a cost to dispose of this material, and as we looked for ways to reduce the Solid Waste Fee increase, we found we could not longer allow this courtesy to continue.

C & D waste includes **any waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of a building, room, or structure**, regardless of whether it was conducted by a contractor or property owner. Examples of material that will NOT be accepted for disposal at any of our Durham County Convenience Sites include: wood waste, lumber, dry wall, shingles, carpet, and bricks. This material can be disposed of for a fee at the City of Durham's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center at 2115 E. Club Blvd.

Update on Upgrades to Our Convenience Sites



We continue to move forward with our Capital Improvement Project to upgrade our Convenience Sites, starting with the sites in the Northern part of the County. We have purchased land between the Bahama and Rougemont Sites to build one larger, consolidated Site to serve this area. We are scheduled to begin construction in the Fall of 2020, with a potential opening of Summer 2021.



WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT!

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP

DURHAM COUNTY RECYCLES

There's a new way to get your curbside recycling schedule! Available from the App Store and Google Play, the **Durham County Recycles App** provides a personalized calendar, pick up day reminders, notifications of service changes, and a Waste Wizard search tool!

No Smart Phone? No problem! You can use the same tools at our website, **www.dconc.gov/recycling**. After typing in your address, you can select "Get a Reminder" to receive collection reminders via email, text, or phone call. We encourage all residents to sign up because you will also receive service alerts in the event of service disruptions or schedule changes.

New Hours for Convenience Sites

As a further effort to reduce costs and in response to COVID-19 staffing issues, we will maintain the amended hours at our Convenience Sites that began in March. For reference, the new hours are:

Bahama, Redwood, Rougemont: Monday-Friday 7am-6pm, Saturday 7am-12pm noon

Parkwood: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 7am-2:30pm; Tuesday, Thursday: 10:30am-6:00pm

Be on the Lookout: 2020-21 Solid Waste Decals will arrive in a letter from the Tax Office later this summer.

Durham County Solid Waste Division

www.dconc.gov/recycling

919-560-0433