



Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit – 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit



Activities of the SWPU:

1. Conducting an annual census of solid waste and recycling activities in the Solid Waste Planning Unit (9VAC20-130-125. Recycling requirements.)

☐ Report submitted by April 30th annually to DEQ

2. Maintaining the Solid Waste Management Plan (9VAC20-130-120. Planning requirements.)

☐ Update the regional solid waste plan every 5 years

☐ Update required by October 2026



Buying Green

A Guide for Procurement Professionals

The public sector, from the federal level down to local jurisdictions, has and services that minimize adverse effects to the environment. In doing impact, but they use their purchasing power to help generate a local "cheat sheet" is intended to assist localities, school boards, and other in Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) principles into their procurement process.

Third Party Certifiers

When so many advertisements make unfounded "green" claims, it's hard for even the most well-informed consumer to sort through it all. Fortunately, there are third party certifiers to help. The following two labels are recommended for a few reasons. They use objective criteria in a transparent process to judge the "greenness" of all attributes of a product over its entire lifecycle, from extraction of raw materials to its fate at the end of its usable life. Compliance with these standards is typically enforced by audits and ongoing monitoring, rather than being self-reported. Finally, they are well established, comprehensive sources with numerous product endorsements to offer.

Green Seal is a non-profit certification organization in operation since 1990. They are used widely by government agencies and other major institutions. Their standards for different product classes, as well as a searchable database of qualified providers, is available on their website: www.greenseal.org

EcoLogo is another certifier that originated in a 1988 program of the Government of Canada. It is currently North America's largest certifier and shares a good reputation with Green Seal. Their process is equally transparent and easy to use. www.ecologo.com

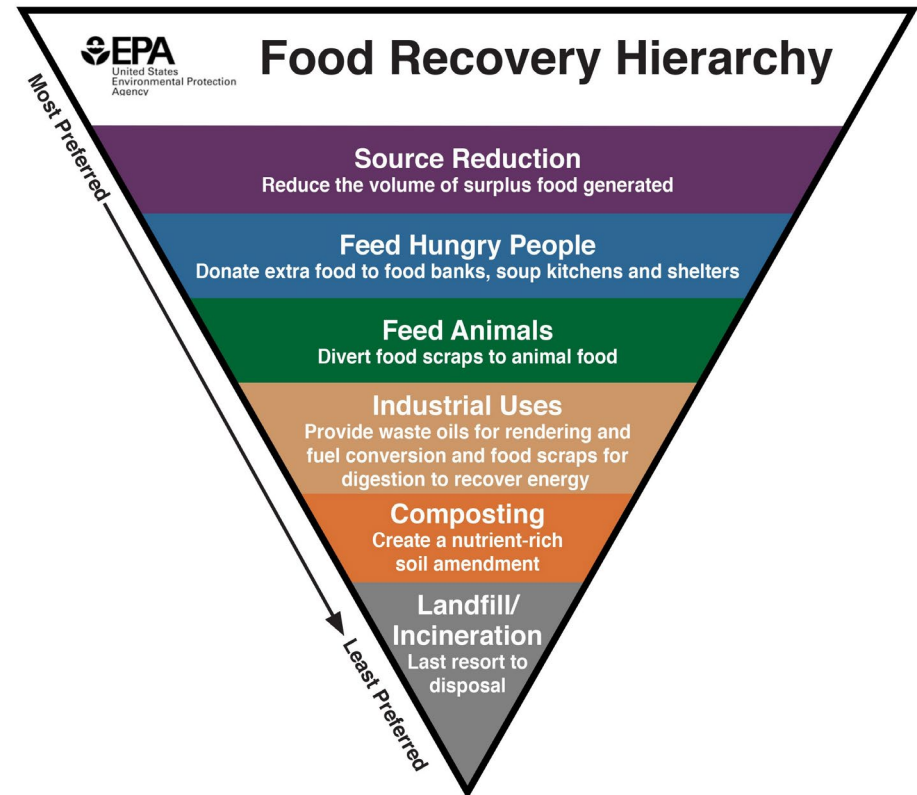
Other labels exist to certify specific product types or a single attribute of a product:

- FSC** is a lifecycle certification for electronics. Supported by the EPA, FSC's criteria includes toxin reduction, recycled content and recyclability, product longevity, end-of-life management, energy efficiency, packaging and corporate responsibility.
- Energy Star** is a self-reporting certification for energy efficiency of products. Standards are set by the EPA and the DOE, but there is no third party certifier for increased transparency.
- Forest Stewardship Council** certifies forest management practices for wood products.
- USDA Organic** certifies food production and processing.
- USGBC LEED** certifies environmental performance in buildings and neighborhoods.
- EPA Water Sense** certifies water efficiency and usage.
- GreenGuard** certifies indoor air quality.

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Waste Management Hierarchy



Regulatory Requirements

- VA Regulatory Requirement to update SWMP
 - Adopt new 20-year plan by October 2026
- Planning Requirements - outlined in 9VAC-130-120 & 9VAC-130-125
 - Basic Planning Elements
 - Objectives for the 20-yr planning period
 - Discuss plan implementation and tracking
 - Facility names, capacity, and lifespan
 - Provision strategy for necessary funds and resources
 - Public education and information strategy
 - Consider public-private partnerships and private sector participation in execution
 - Maintain a 25% recycling rate

Regulatory Requirements

- Data and analyses
 - Population and projections
 - Urban concentrations, geographic conditions, economic growth and development, reuse and recycling markets, transportation conditions, and related factors
 - Estimates of solid waste generation from residential, commercial, industrial, construction and other sources
 - Listing of existing and planned solid waste facilities
 - All milestones in implementation of SWMP
 - Solid waste reduction program descriptions
 - Outreach program descriptions
 - Procedures for and results of waste collection evaluation
 - Assessment of current & predicted needs over 20 years
- Board resolution adopting the plan

Recycling Rate Estimation & Reporting

- Used to calculate the statewide recycling rate for DEQ
- Tracks progress towards waste reduction goals locally and helps to identify areas of improvement
- SWPUs that fall below their mandated recycling rate are required to submit a Recycling Action Plan (RAP)
 - [Administrative Code 9VAC20-130-125](#)
 - Our region is required to meet a 25% minimum recycling rate
- Required reporting from public facilities, recommended reporting from private haulers and facilities

Recycling Rate Calculation

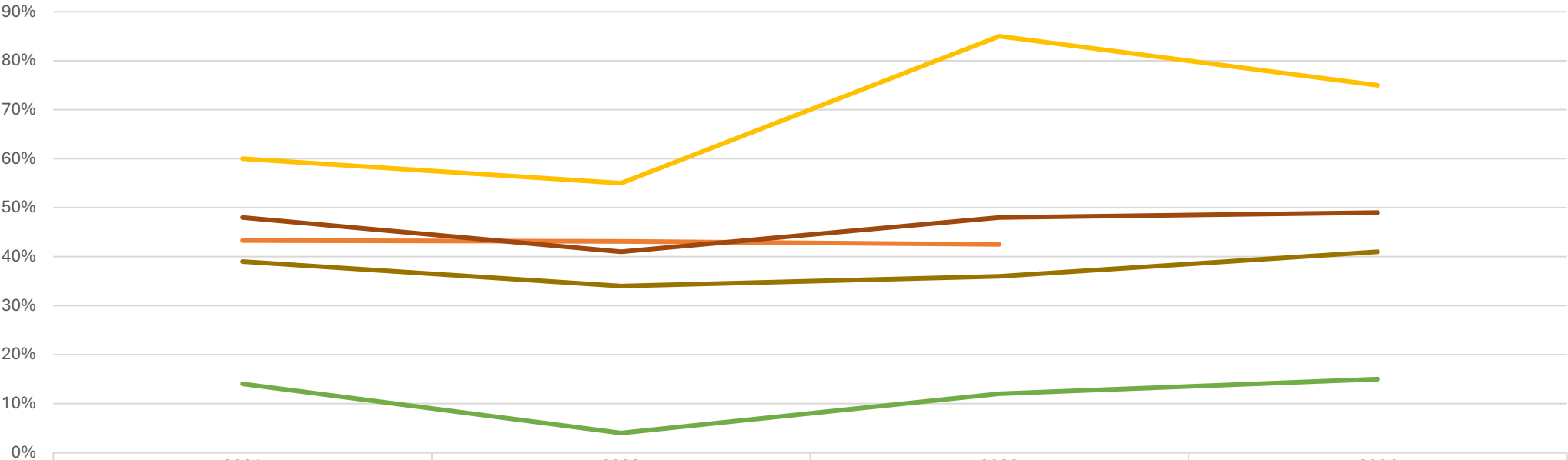
Principal Recyclable Materials include paper, metal, plastic, glass, commingled, yard waste, wood, textiles, tires, used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze, batteries, electronics, or material as may be approved by the director.

Municipal solid waste is waste that is normally composed of residential, commercial, and institutional solid waste and residues derived from combustion of these wastes

DEQ Credits (up to 5%) recycling of non-MSW materials, source reduction programs, recycling residue, solid waste reuse, pallets recycling

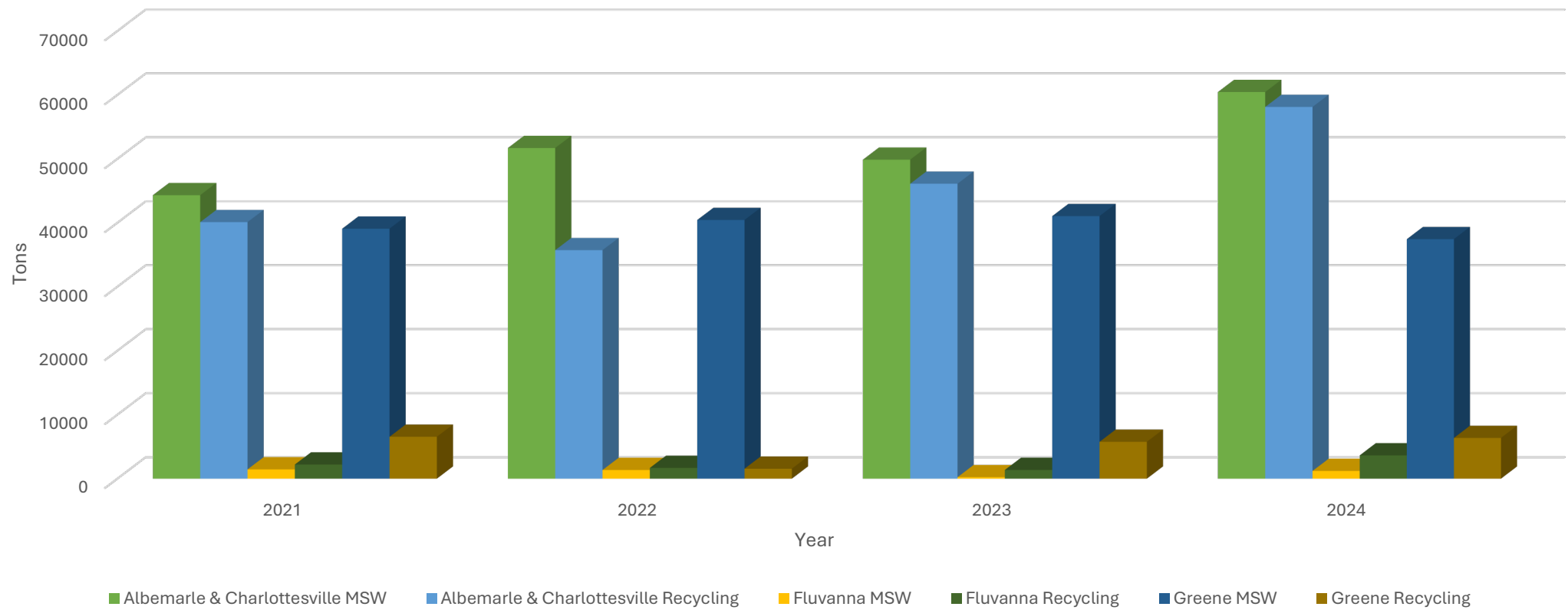
$$\begin{aligned} &[(\text{PRMs}) / (\text{PRMs} + \text{MSW Disposed})] \times 100\% = \text{Base Recycling Rate} \\ &\text{Base Recycling Rate} + \text{Credits} = \text{Regional Recycling Rate} \end{aligned}$$

Annual Recycling Rate by Jurisdiction

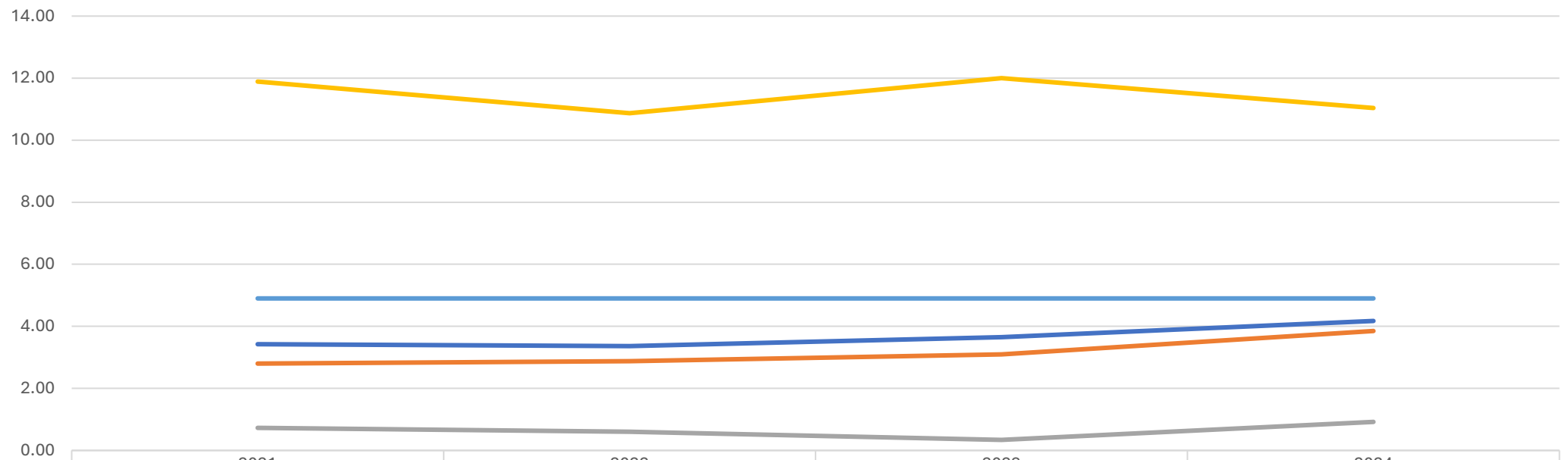


	2021	2022	2023	2024
Virginia	43%	43%	43%	
Fluvanna	60%	55%	85%	75%
Greene	14%	4%	12%	15%
RSWA	48%	41%	48%	49%
Region	39%	34%	36%	41%

Annual Waste and Recycling Tonnage by Jurisdiction

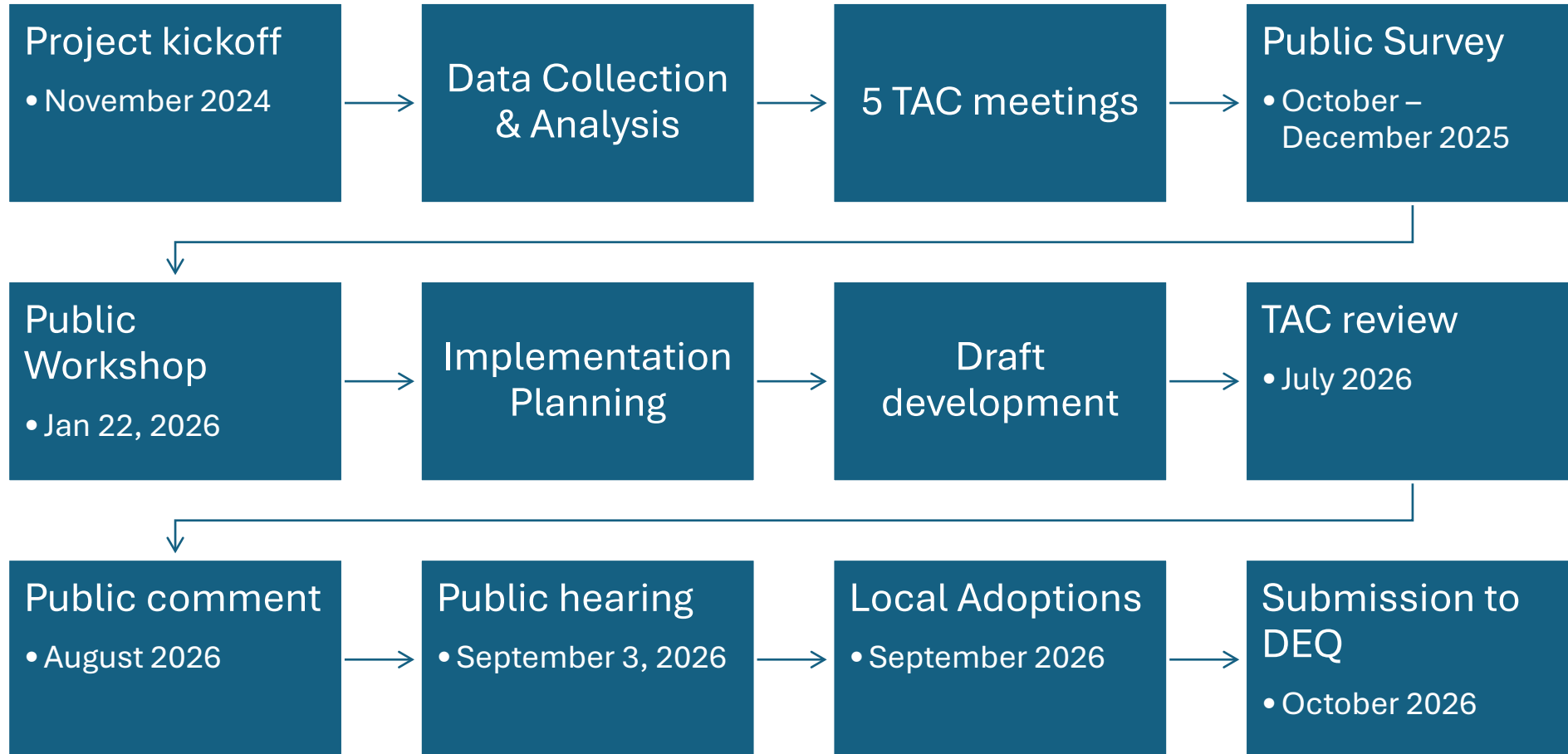


Per Capita Waste Generation (lbs/person/day)



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Region	3.42	3.36	3.65	4.17
RSWA	2.8	2.88	3.1	3.85
Fluvanna	0.73	0.6	0.34	0.92
Greene	11.89	10.87	12	11.04
US (2018)	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9

Plan Development Process



Public Survey

- **Waste Collection Satisfaction:** 58% of residents agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with current collection and drop-off services.
- **Recycling Satisfaction:** 44% express satisfaction. Satisfaction drops significantly due to lack of trust in whether materials are actually recycled and uncertainty about what is accepted.
- **Composting Satisfaction:** Only 17% are satisfied. This is identified as the largest gap in service, with many residents expressing a high motivation to compost but a lack of convenient options.

View survey results: <https://arcg.is/0y8mvK>

Public Survey – Albemarle Feedback

Category	Mentions	Key Sentiments
Convenience Centers & Local Access	28	Residents repeatedly requested more recycling and compost drop-off locations, particularly in Crozet, northern Albemarle, and along Route 29. Many cited the distance to Ivy or McIntire as a barrier.
Composting Access & Expansion	24	Strong support for curbside composting, additional drop-off options, community composting, and county-supported compost programs. Many residents already compost and want more accessible participation opportunities.
Education & Clearer Instructions	23	Requests for simple, detailed guidance on what can and cannot be recycled or composted. Residents specifically mentioned plastics, compostable materials, batteries, and "wish-cycling" concerns.
Trust & Transparency	21	Many respondents questioned whether recyclables are actually recycled. They requested reporting, destination information, audits, and clearer communication from haulers about what happens after collection.
Expanded Recycling Materials	18	Frequent requests for acceptance of #5 plastics, plastic film, electronics, batteries, glass, appliances, and other hard-to-recycle materials.
Curbside Recycling & Compost Service	16	Residents want more consistent countywide curbside recycling and compost collection, especially within development areas and neighborhoods that currently rely on private haulers.
Special Collection Programs	11	Calls for more e-waste events, hazardous waste collection days, battery recycling, appliance recycling, and other specialty waste programs.
Multifamily & Rental Access	9	Renters and apartment residents reported inadequate recycling and composting infrastructure and asked for requirements or incentives for property managers to provide services.
Waste Reduction & Reuse	8	Support for refill stores, Buy Nothing groups, reuse centers, reduced packaging, and efforts to reduce waste generation before recycling.
Cost & Equity Concerns	7	Some residents expressed concerns about disposal costs, recycling fees, and the affordability of private services. Several advocated for taxpayer-supported solutions or pay-as-you-throw approaches.

Regional Goals

Regional Plan (2026–2031) Goals

Data and Information Sharing

Goal 1: Provide residents and businesses with clear, accessible information to support waste reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts.

Goal 2: Develop best practices to enhance the collection, verification, and sharing of local waste and recycling data.

Planning

Goal 1: Maintain an accessible, efficient, and effective solid waste management system.

Goal 2: Reduce the quantity of waste generated through source reduction, reuse, and other techniques.

Waste Diversion

Goal 1: Utilize improved data systems to establish a measurable baseline and continually increase local waste diversion.

Goal 2: Stimulate demand for a circular economy, collaborate to expand markets for recovered materials, and expand sustainable business practices.

Goal 3: Provide environmentally sound solid waste collection facilities that are equitably distributed for residents.

Key Changes from the 2021 Plan

- Updated and expanded recycling analysis
- Discussion of recycling rate reporting limitations
- New implementation framework and locality specific objectives
- Included plan maintenance and amendment procedures
- Expanded public engagement

Steps to Plan Submission

- August: Public Comment Period
- August 11: Greene County Presentation
- August 17: Charlottesville Presentation
- August 19: Fluvanna Presentation
- September 2: Albemarle Presentation
- **September 3: TJPDC Public Hearing**
- September 8: Charlottesville Adoption
- September 16: Albemarle & Fluvanna Adoption
- September 22: Greene Adoption
- **October 1: TJPDC Adoption**
- Before October 24: Final Submission to DEQ

Draft Plan

- Share comments prior to or during the public hearing on September 3rd.
- Visit <https://tjpd.org/our-work/solid-waste/> for details.

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