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## Recycling in the DC Metro Region in 2018

**District of Columbia:** The DC region has really been upping its game recently. Last October, the city of DC expanded the list of acceptable items to include clean pizza boxes, lids, food containers, and paper and plastic plates.

<https://zerowaste.dc.gov/node/1269551>.

Ceramics and plastic bags/wrap are among the few things DC doesn't accept. DC now even accepts food waste at drop off locations (for free):

<https://dpw.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff>, and is planning curbside compost pickup in the future: [www.waste360.com/public-agencies/look-dc-s-plan-build-its-composting-infrastructure](http://www.waste360.com/public-agencies/look-dc-s-plan-build-its-composting-infrastructure). Local companies can be googled as well that pick up food waste.

Most DC residents know that yard clippings and dry leaves are collected by the city for mulching (<https://dpw.dc.gov/service/yard-waste-collection>). However, the Department of Public Works (DPW) also accepts electronics for recycling, as well as household hazardous waste, every Saturday (except holidays), from 8 am to 3 pm at the Ft. Totten Transfer Station, 4900 John F. McCormack Drive, NE

<https://dpw.dc.gov/node/414922>.

On an added note, the DPW also accepts documents for shredding the first Saturday only (except holidays) of the month.

To recycle other small, household items, also visit: <https://zerowaste.dc.gov>. This brand-new website tells where to recycle many items (or

not), whether through DC or private companies. For instance, typing "plastic bags" in the search gives you a list of addresses where you can take grocery bags, plastic wrap, and even bags that held soil.

Scrap metal, construction debris, paint, and other large materials, on the other hand, must be dropped off at select sites, but the following website provides quite a list of places in **greater Washington** that accept these materials:

[www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/recycling-and-solid-waste/builders-recycling-guide/builders-recycling/](http://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/recycling-and-solid-waste/builders-recycling-guide/builders-recycling/).

**Maryland.** In Maryland's counties that immediately adjoin DC, Montgomery County (MC) and Prince George's County (PGC), the type of recycling one can do is very similar to DC: paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, milk cartons, along with clean pizza boxes, lids, etc.

There is no government-run food waste drop off place for composting in MC yet. On the other hand, some local communities within MC (e.g., Takoma Park) and PGC are actually already piloting curbside pickup of food waste.

[www.princegeorgescounty.md.gov/2856/Food-Scrap-Composting-Pilot](http://www.princegeorgescounty.md.gov/2856/Food-Scrap-Composting-Pilot).

Maryland does make compost bins available [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/composting/bins.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/composting/bins.html) for free and has a

[strategic plan for reducing food waste](#). In the meantime, a web search yields a number of commercial companies that pick up food waste.

Another cool thing that MC does that DC or PGC doesn't is have curbside scrap metal pickup.

[www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/SolutionView.aspx?SolutionId=1-17LFVN](http://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/SolutionView.aspx?SolutionId=1-17LFVN).

To figure out what items you can recycle in Maryland, here are some links:

- Search tools (MC only):  
<https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/dephowdoi/search.aspx>.
- A basic list of acceptable items for curbside recycling can be found here:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/recycling/blue-bin-items.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/recycling/blue-bin-items.html); and  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/571/Acceptable-Items](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/571/Acceptable-Items).
- Yard waste:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/yardtrim/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/yardtrim/), and  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/599/Yard-Waste-Collection](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/599/Yard-Waste-Collection).
- E-waste recycling, solid waste, construction debris, and other information can be found at:  
[www.mdrecycles.org/](http://www.mdrecycles.org/); [www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/recycling-and-solid-waste/builders-recycling-guide/builders-recycling/](http://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/recycling-and-solid-waste/builders-recycling-guide/builders-recycling/);  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/615/Brown-Station-Road-Sanitary-Landfill](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/615/Brown-Station-Road-Sanitary-Landfill); and  
[www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDoI](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDoI)



**Virginia.** Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia also have similar recycling capabilities, including pizza boxes. (This region rocks.)

For Arlington: search tools for what goes where can be found here:

<https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/where-does-it-go/>. Arlington County also accepts metal as part of its recycling in the blue bins (with appliances costing a \$10 fee). And food scraps can be dropped off at the Earth Products Recycling Yard: <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/composting/>. Compost bins do cost \$20.

More info on yard waste is at:

<https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/yard-waste/>.

Fairfax County doesn't have a search tool, but does have a great item index:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials).

Metal is not accepted curbside, and although yard waste is collected curbside year-round, it is recycled only from March 1<sup>st</sup>

through Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, with the exception of Xmas trees.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste). And yes! Fairfax also has a pilot program for registering compost pick-up companies.