

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

September 8, 2026

Composting in Vienna

- 24-hour drop-off: 431 Mill St., NE
- 65,701 lbs. (32 tons) of composting collected since Nov 2025.

(How much is that? Equivalent to the weight of 5 adult male elephants.)



History of Efforts

- Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) initiated Farmers Market composting booth in 2024 and 2025.
- Farmers Market booth showed demand for permanent drop-off location on Mill Street, NE.



Where Does Your Compost Go?

- Compost Crew collects and resells compost.
- Most goes to two facilities in Manassas and Prince George's County.
- Compost Crew also sends compost to 5,000 small sites at various farms.



What CAN Be Composted?





What CANNOT Be Composted?





- When in doubt, leave it out!
- Produce stickers, rubber bands, and plastic bags all belong in the trash.

Recycling in Vienna

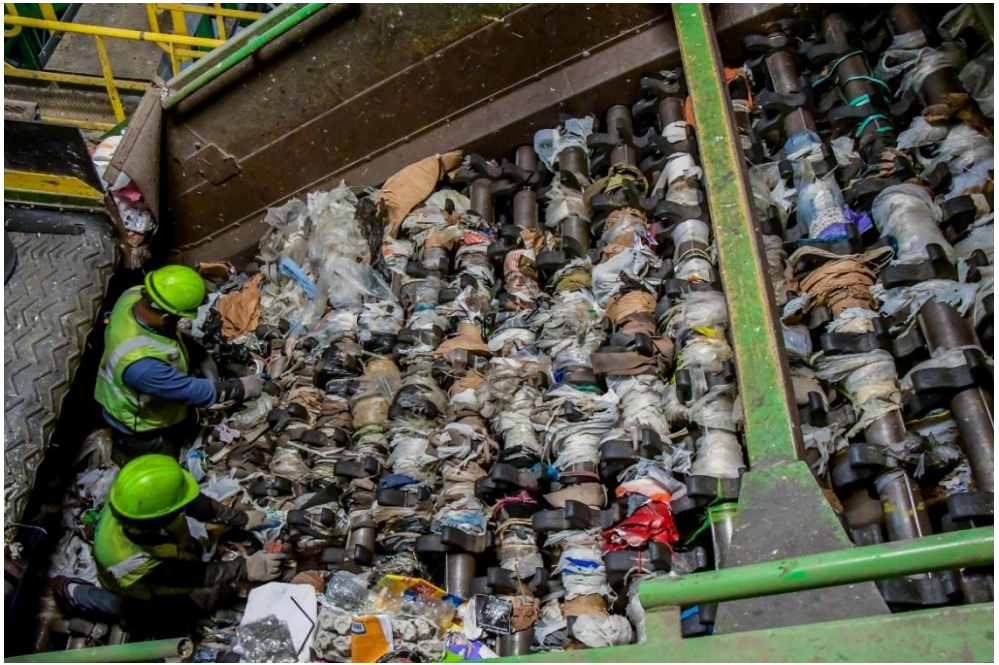
- Single-stream recycling curbside collection
- DPW@viennava.gov or call 703-255-6380
- Republic Services Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Manassas, VA at $125/ton



Where Does Your Recycling Go?

- At the MRF, recyclables are separated by plastic, metal, paper, and cardboard and consolidated into large bales.
- Bales are loaded onto a truck and shipped to manufacturing plants to turn into new products.

  Each bale weighs 1,000 to 2,000 lbs., depending on the material.



What Happens To Your Recycling?

- Aluminum cans are 100% recyclable and are back on the shelves in 60 days.
- Cardboard and paper can be recycled up to 7 times.
- Glass is collected separately and can be recycled into new bottles or crushed and used in public works projects.
- Plastic can be broken down into pellets, washed, and repurposed as fresh bottles or polyester clothing.



What Can Be Recycled?

Acceptable Items



Plastics
Recycle plastics #1, #2 and #5. Look on the bottom of containers for the number inside the recycling arrows.



Metal Cans
Recycle all food and beverage metal cans—steel, tin, bi-metal and aluminum.



Cardboard, Newspaper & Magazines
Recycle newspaper inserts, catalogs, paperback books, phone books and brochures.



Paper Food Containers & Cartons
Recycle juice boxes, egg, ice cream and milk cartons, and cereal and pasta boxes.



Paper
Recycle envelopes, office paper, junk mail, greeting cards and file folders. Shredded paper should be put in a paper bag.



Unacceptable Items

- Batteries
- Bio-hazardous waste
- Cables
- Ceramics
- Clothes
- Construction debris
- Diapers
- Dishes or mirrors
- Egg cartons
- Electronics
- Food or liquid waste
- Glass
- Greasy food containers
- Hardback books
- Hazardous waste
- Holiday decorations
- Hoses
- Ice cream cartons (wax-coated)
- Light bulbs
- Plastic bags
- Plastic food wrappers
- Plastic straws
- Plastic without numbers
- Polystyrene foam
- Scrap metal
- Shoes
- Tissue
- To-go lids
- Tools
- Toys
- Yard waste

Recycling Plastics

Types of Plastics

In most communities, hard plastic labeled with #1, #2 or #5 can be recycled and are in demand to be turned into new products.

#1 plastic: polyethylene terephthalate
#2 plastic: high-density polyethylene
#3 plastic: polyvinyl chloride
#4 plastic: low-density polyethylene
#5 plastic: polypropylene
#6 plastic: polystyrene
#7 plastic: other





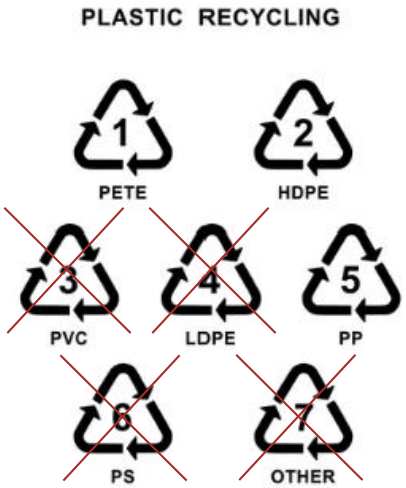
Guidelines for Recycling Plastics

Do:

- Keep lids on bottles or toss them in the trash; they're too small to recycle on their own.
- Rinse and dry all food and drink containers.
- Make sure detergent containers are free of soapy residue.

Don't:

- No plastic bags.
- No plastic wrappers from food or packaging.
- No bubble wrap, packing peanuts or foam packaging.



Quarterly Recycling Day

- Saturdays –
  - March, June, September, December
  - 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.
  - 600 Mill St NE.
- Accepted –
  - Electronics
  - Waste Oil
  - Antifreeze
  - Vehicle Batteries
  - Scrap Metal



Battery Recycling Program

- Used batteries accepted
  - Vienna Town Hall
  - Community Center
  - Quarterly Recycling Day



Glass Recycling

- Purple Bin
  431 Mill St., NE
  (Operated by Fairfax County)
- Consolidated at I-66 Transfer Station
- Transported to a glass recycling facility in PA for color sorting and processing.



More info: https://bit.ly/FFXglass

Coming Soon

- Energy-Efficient Homes Certification
  - Silver
  - Gold
  - Platinum
- Value of Certification
  - Save Money
  - Reduce Carbon Emissions
  - Increase in resale value of your home



Questions?

Public Works Contact Info

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