

## September 05, 2008 -- Prince George's County Announces Enhancements to Recycling Program

LARGO, MD - The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) announced today that the County will now accept additional materials as a part of its single-stream collection. This expanded list of acceptable materials will provide citizens and residents a greater opportunity to recycle more household items utilizing the same convenient and efficient method of co-mingling.

The list of new recyclable items include: Aerosol cans, frozen food packaging, plastic and metal coat hangers, aseptic/gable- top milk and juice cartons (commonly known as the "drink box"), peanut butter and mayonnaise jars, margarine/butter tubs, yogurt/cottage cheese/sour cream/whipped topping containers, prescription bottles, plastic flower pots and plastic drinking cups/glasses. Bags-in-a-bag will also be accepted (plastic film and bags stuffed into a plastic bag). For example; multiple grocery bags contained within 1-bag or stretch-film and/or shrink wrap contained within 1-bag. While Prince George's County is not the first jurisdiction to add additional plastics to their curbside recycling program, the County took the time to ensure that all of its materials could be marketed. The County worked in collaboration with Waste Management-RecycleAmerica to find reliable end users for the recyclables.

"The addition of these materials will make it easier for citizens and residents to take an active role in the preservation of our environment by recycling even more," stated DER Director Charles W. Wilson. "We are excited about the enhancements to the program and are confident that now is a good time to expand. These changes will have a positive impact on the community."

Currently over 162,000 households participate in the County's curbside recycling program and preliminary figures indicate that since migrating to single-stream in September 2007, there has been a twenty five percent increase in the amount of recyclables delivered to our Materials Recycling Facility in Capitol Heights.

Residents may begin placing these new items in their recycling container immediately. They may also place their materials in any other container clearly marked with an "X" or the word RECYCLING for collection. Corrugated boxes will be collected along with their contents.

The list of new recyclable items include:

- Aerosol cans
- frozen food packaging
- plastic and metal coat hangers
- aseptic/gable- top milk and juice cartons (commonly known as the "drink box")
- peanut butter and mayonnaise jars
- margarine/butter tubs
- yogurt/cottage cheese/sour cream/whipped topping containers
- prescription bottles
- plastic flower pots and plastic drinking cups/glasses
- Bags-in-a-bag will also be accepted (plastic film and bags stuffed into a plastic bag)

For more information on the changes to the County recycling program, please call DER's Recycling Team at (301) 883-5045. Anne Stavely (301) 883-3222