**Fiscal Year** 

# 2015



# Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board Annual Financial & Operational Report





489 Eskimo Hill Road • Stafford, Virginia 22554 • 540-658-5279 • FAX 540-658-4523

# **Table of Contents**

| R-Board Members   | 3  |
|---|----|
| Mission and Vision  | 4  |
| Virginia Environmental Excellence Program   | 6  |
| Operational Overview  Regional Landfill Recycling Composting Employee Achievements & Accolades Customer Survey Residential Usage Fee Construction & Demolition Debris Fee Performance | 8  |
| Financial Summary Financial Summary Weight and Material Summary Portfolio Composition   | 14 |
| Recycling/Diversion   | 17 |
| Litter Control Goals Programs Adult Probationers Program Litter Grant   | 20 |
| Outreach & Education Programs Outreach R-Board Website Activity   | 25 |
| Appendix VA DEQ 2013 Recycling Rate Letter Va DEQ Email Recertifying E3 Status  | 28 |



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# Figures & Tables

# **Figures**

| Customer Survey Results                        | 11 |
|--|----|
| 2. Resident Pass Use                           | 12 |
| 3. Deposits & Investments Percent Portfolio    | 16 |
| 4. Goodwill Donation Rates                     | 18 |
| 5. Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Rates            | 18 |
| 6. Adult Probationer Program                   | 21 |
| 7. Cleanup Hours                               | 23 |
| 8. Pounds of Litter Cleaned                    | 23 |
| 9. Cubic Yards Cleaned                         | 24 |
| 10. Cost of Litter Removal                     | 24 |
| 11. R-Board Website Activity                   | 26 |
|  |    |
| Tables   |    |
| Customer Survey Results                        | 11 |
| 2. Landfill Pass Types                         | 12 |
| 3. C&D Fee Performances                        | 13 |
| 4. Operating Expenses                          | 14 |
| 5. Revenue                                     | 14 |
| 6. Weight & Material Summary                   | 15 |
| 7. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Totals | 19 |



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# **Mission and Vision**

### **R-Board Mission**

The mission of the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board (R-Board) is to provide professional, courteous, and intelligent service and solutions to the waste disposal needs of citizens residing in Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg.

### **R-Board Vision**

The R-Board's vision is to operate the best landfill in Virginia. Being the best landfill includes environmentally sound solid waste management policies and having an active Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle program, all coupled with outstanding customer service. The R-Board intends to continually strive to be a leader in the waste management industry and to set the example for others to emulate.





# Virginia Environmental Excellence Program

The R-Board Regional Landfill remains an E3 certified facility within the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program administered by the VA Department of Environmental Quality. In order to be qualified as an exemplary environmental enterprise, a facility must have a good compliance history, a fully implemented environmental management system, and demonstrated performance. The communication from VADEQ recertifying R-Board operations for 2014 is included in the Appendix.









# **Operational Overview**



### **Regional Landfill**

As Cell F-1 nears the end of its' operational life, the R-Board, in cooperation with the Fredericksburg City Council and Stafford County Board of Supervisors, took steps to ensure completion of Cell F-2 prior to exhausting solid waste capacity. Construction of Cell F-2 began in FY15.



The R-Board is partnered with Ameresco to harness the methane gas created by decomposing solid waste at the landfill. The methane gas that forms in the landfill is delivered to Ameresco's generators to create electricity. This waste-to-energy operation generates useful electricity, capable of powering the equivalent of 1,300 homes, and avoids uselessly burning the gas through our flare.



The landfill noted an exceedance of an organic compound, several years previously. Landfill staff has been working with VADEQ and our consulting engineers to bring this exceedance back into compliance. The picture at left shows sodium permanganate added to an injection well to neutralize the compound. This operation was highly successful, bringing the constituent readings back into compliance levels.





Leachate seeps are a common occurrence at landfills and need regular attention. R-Board staff closely monitors closed landfill cells for any newly formed leachate seeps. When a seep is found staff members flag it and heavy equipment operators mobilize to quickly repair the seep.



### Recycling

The VADEQ approved a 49.1% recycling rate for Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg in 2014. The R-Board receives recyclables from curbside recycling service providers. The R-Board also manages several mobile drop-off sites and two manned sites at Eskimo Hill Road and Belman Road. Our recycling rate also includes the efforts of commercial businesses operating in the two localities.



### Composting

The R-Board creates its own compost blend, Rappa-Grow, on site. Rappa-Grow is made by using organic materials dropped off at the landfill and is available for purchase. In FY15 the R-Board sold 69 total cubic yards of Rappa-Grow

Tomatoes planted in a 50-50 mix of Rappa-Grow and garden soil.



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# **Employee Achievements and Accolades**

Stafford County and the R-Board encourage their employees to seek out training and education to improve their skills and knowledge. Reece Banks earned a VA license to operate waste management facilities and was promoted to operations manager at the landfill. Floyd Bloxton recertified his Automobile Technician, Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician, and Advanced Level Specialist licenses.

Julie Williams-Daves received a letter from a citizen thanking her for the landfill tour that she gave. The citizen praised Julie for her knowledge and interactions with the kids stating that she made it feel more like and adventure than a tour. She went on to say that her young son who went on the tour had become infatuated with recycling and the recycling process.

Lisa Butler, a longtime member of the litter crew, assumed the additional duties of managing the litter crew and supporting volunteer cleanup. She was promoted to Landfill Maintenance Supervisor and manages supply inventory, cleanup contracts and now reporting responsibilities as well.

The rest of our staff regularly interacts with the general public and often receive accolades. Our team members exhibit a "can do", service-oriented attitude as they go about their daily work.

The following employees celebrated a significant milestone in FY15 for their years of service:

Robert Walker: 30 yearsRoy Whaling: 20 years

★ Julie Williams-Daves: 10 years

Thad Beach: 10 yearsAndrea Albin: 3 years

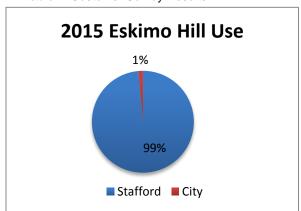


# **Customer Survey**

In May, staff performed the second annual comprehensive survey to capture site usage at the Eskimo Hill and Belman Road drop-off sites. This one-week user survey polled every visitor to our two convenience centers and includes customers dropping off trash and various recyclables. This year we observed a large decline in the number of visitors at our convenience centers, which we attribute to the implementation of resident user fees two months earlier.

| 2015 CUSTOMER SURVEY |             |         |           |          |        |          |        |        |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
|                      | Monday      | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | TOTALS |
| BELMAN ROAD          | BELMAN ROAD |         |           |          |        |          |        |        |
| Fredericksburg       | 50          | 43      | 55        | 49       | 67     | 72       | 97     | 433    |
| Stafford             | 99          | 82      | 83        | 101      | 86     | 102      | 139    | 692    |
|                      |             |         |           |          |        |          |        |        |
| ESKIMO HILL R        | OAD         |         |           |          |        |          |        |        |
| Fredericksburg       | 4           | 5       | 3         | 5        | 2      | 7        | 25     | 51     |
| Stafford             | 469         | 381     | 320       | 374      | 497    | 696      | 938    | 3675   |
|                      |             |         |           |          |        |          |        |        |
| TOTALS               | 622         | 511     | 461       | 529      | 652    | 877      | 1199   | 4851   |

Table 1. Customer Survey Results



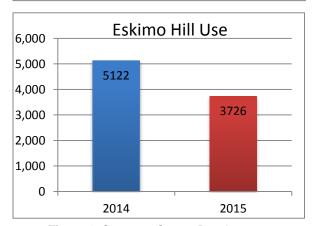
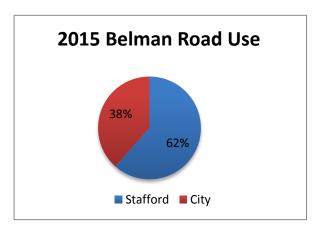
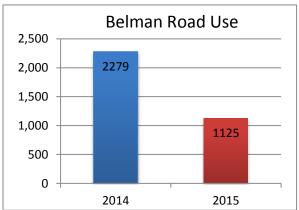


Figure 1. Customer Survey Results





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# Residential Usage Fee

In January, the R-Board voted to implement a resident use fee, requiring Stafford and Fredericksburg residents delivering household waste to our convenience centers to pay a fee for trash disposal. The fee would generate revenue from customers delivering approximately one quarter of the solid waste brought to the landfill, and allow better monitoring of unauthorized use of landfill services. The fee took effect March 2, and resulted in an additional \$275,000 in FY2015 revenue. While there was some negative reaction to the program when first implemented, this has declined dramatically as landfill operations have become smoother and the public more accustomed to the program.

There are three types of Residential Passes available for purchase; the One-Time Pass, Coupon Book, and Annual Pass. The One-Time Pass is good for one trip to the landfill and can be purchased only at the landfill. Coupon Books and Annual Passes can be purchased at the R-Board Office, Stafford County Treasurer's Office, and the City of Fredericksburg Treasurer's Office. Coupon Books are good for ten trips while Annual Passes have unlimited trips until the end of the calendar year.

Resident Pass Use

Dropping off recyclables and collecting mulch both remain free services that do not require a pass of any kind.

| Type of Pass  | Number of Trips | Price |
|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| One-Time Pass | 1               | \$4   |
| Coupon Book   | 10              | \$30  |
| Annual Pass   | unlimited       | \$75* |

**Table 2.** Landfill Pass Categories \*Annual Pass charge increases to \$100 for 2016



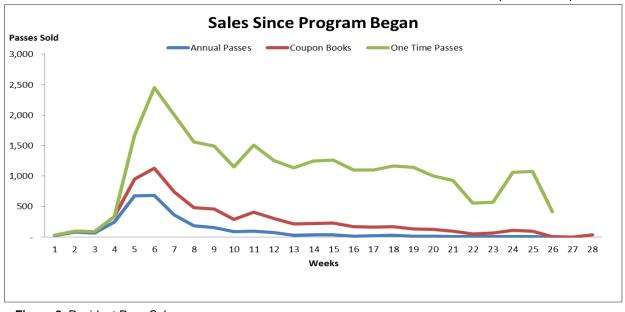


Figure 2. Resident Pass Sales

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# **Construction & Demolition Fee Performance**

Effective July 1, 2014, the R-Board eliminated the cap on C&D tons per load that assessed tipping fees. Staff had provided the R-Board with data that suggested nearly 50% of potentially billable weight was being landfilled as a result of the cap. Below is annual data from FY2013 to FY2015 showing a significant increase in revenue from C&D materials.

| Fiscal Year | Tons   | Revenue     |
|-------------|--------|-------------|
| FY2013      | 19,923 | \$804,971   |
| FY2014      | 23,487 | \$946,665   |
| FY2015      | 26,325 | \$1,088,077 |

Table 3. C&D Fee Performance

The removal of the cap has not deterred customers from delivering C&D materials to the landfill, while we have seen an increase in revenue of approximately 35% from this source over the past three years.



# **Financial Summary (Unaudited)**

# **Operating Expenses – FY2015**

|              | Original<br>Budget | Adjusted<br>Budget* | Actuals     | Over/Under |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| Compensation | \$2,022,019        | \$2,022,019         | \$1,850,718 | -8.5%      |
| Operations   | \$1,968,662        | \$1,968,662         | \$1,525,127 | -22.5%     |
| Capital      | \$348,000          | \$510,050           | \$495,694   | -2.8%      |
| Total        | \$4,298,681        | \$4,460731          | \$3,871,539 | -13.2%     |

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes adjustment for Cell F-2 Construction

Table 4. Operating Expenses

### Revenue - FY2015

|                      | Adopted FY15 | Actuals     | Under/Over |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Commercial           | \$3,375,000  | \$2,882,593 | -14.6%     |
| Recycling            | \$ 280,740   | \$405,538   | 44.5%      |
| Sludge/Utilities     | \$ 145,000   | \$161,659   | 11.5%      |
| Resident User Fees   | \$0          | \$274,502   |            |
| Municipal            | \$324,000    | \$218,910   | -32.4%     |
| Sale of Landfill Gas | \$68,000     | \$54,064    | -20.5%     |
| Grants               | \$20,000     | \$26,944    | 35.7%      |
| Interest             | \$35,000     | \$24,126    | -31%       |
| TOTAL                | \$4,298,681  | \$4,050,680 | -5.8%      |

Table 5. Revenue



# **Weight & Material Summary**

| CATEGORY          | FY2014<br>Weight | FY2015<br>Weight | %<br>Difference |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Billable          |                  |                  |                 |
| Commercial Waste  | 28,772           | 23,254           | -19%            |
| Residential Waste | 35,568           | 20,242           | -43%            |
| Eskimo Hill       | 16,220           | 20,427           | 26%             |
| Fredericksburg    | 9,077            | 9,030            | -1%             |
| Belman Road       | 3,036            | 2,567            | -15%            |
| Mixed Load-\$71/T | 17               | 24               | 43%             |
| Debris Waste      | 23,487           | 26,325           | 12%             |
| **Dirt            | 3,094            | 17,586           | 468%            |
| Tires Commercial  | 131              | 164              | 25%             |
| Sludge            | 8,759            | 9,503            | 8%              |
| BILLABLE TONNAGE  | 128,161          | 129,121          | 1%              |
| Non-Billable      |                  |                  |                 |
| Litter/Cleanups   | 294              | 209              | -29%            |
|                   |                  |                  |                 |
| Recycling         | 7,795            | 6,865            | -12%            |
|                   |                  |                  |                 |
| TOTAL TONNAGE     | 135,788          | 136,195          | 0%              |

<sup>\*\*</sup>Estimated Weights

Table 6. Weight & Material Summary



# **Portfolio Composition**

# Total Deposits and Investments As of June 30, 2015

| Security Type           | Amount         | % of Portfolio |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                         |                |                |
| U.S. Treasuries         | \$1,646,416.99 | 27.4%          |
| Federal Agencies        | \$917,060.07   | 15.3%          |
| Commercial Paper        | \$349,970.43   | 5.8%           |
| Corporate Notes / Bonds | \$1,205,052.96 | 20.1%          |
| Certificates of Deposit | \$426,936.36   | 7.1%           |
| Money Market Fund       | \$1,453,298.76 | 24.2%          |
| Total                   | \$5,998,735.57 | 100.0%         |

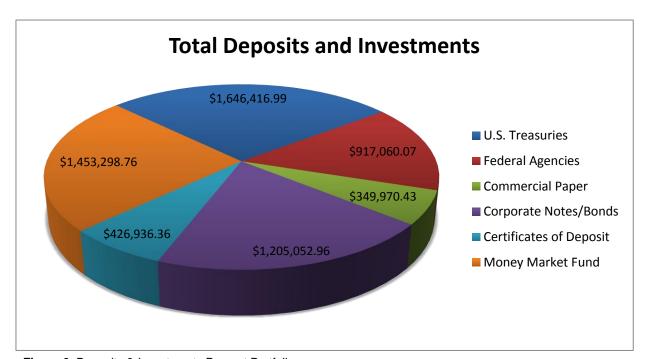


Figure 3. Deposits & Investments Percent Portfolio





# **Recycling & Diversion**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality approved a 49.1% recycling rate for the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County. For several years, the R-Board has consistently held one of the highest recycling rates in the state.

Recycling remains voluntary and the R-Board provides residents with several locations for their various recyclables. The following locations accept single-stream recyclables from residents:

Fredericksburg
Belman Road
Hugh Mercer Elementary
Walker-Grant Middle
Kaz's Auto
Rowser Building

All of these sites are available seven days per week. The Belman Road and Eskimo Hill Road locations are manned.

### Goodwill

The R-Board is partnered with Goodwill Industries to accept donations at the Residential drop-off area. In FY15 the R-Board provided Goodwill with a more prominent drop-off location and Goodwill provided a manned donation trailer. There has been a 333% increase since the implementation of the new drop-off location in February. Donations made to Goodwill keep quality goods out of the waste-stream and help to save space in the landfill.







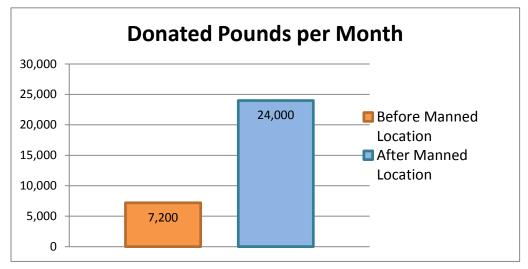


Figure 4. Goodwill Donation Rates

### **Fluorescent Bulbs**

The collection of fluorescent bulbs for recycling was reinforced in an effort to encourage increased participation and prevent breakage of these mercury containing bulbs. In FY15, the program recycled 44,487 linear feet of bulbs. The R-Board pays for the bulbs to be recycled at a licensed facility.

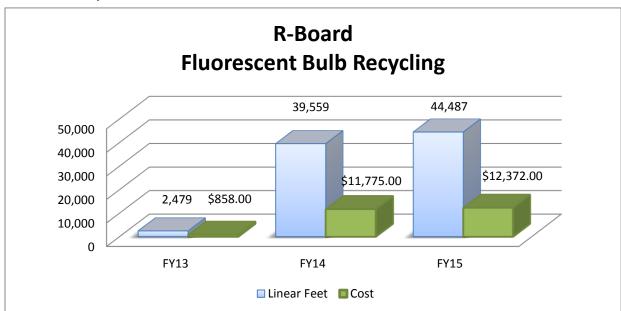


Figure 5. Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Rates



## **Household Hazardous Waste Collections**

The R-Board is not required by regulation to collect residential household hazardous waste materials (paint, antifreeze, strong cleaning products, etc.) for recycling or diversion from the landfill. These materials are collected on a voluntary basis because the R-Board desires to handle the potentially hazardous items as responsibly as possible. Even though the R-Board accepts a number of items (batteries, used motor oil) for recycling and diversion daily, some special items are limited to collection events held twice each year. These free household hazardous waste collection days are for residents living in Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg. R-Board staff has observed a dramatic rise in the popularity of this program and the volumes of materials collected during these events.





Staff and volunteers direct traffic to our contractor for the proper disposal of household chemicals, including paints and old gasoline.

### R-Board Household Hazardous Waste Collection Totals FY2001 to FY2015

| Part | ticipants | Gallons of Oil/Antifreeze Other Liquids |         |         |        | Total Cost<br>(14 years) |
|------|-----------|---|---------|---------|--------|--------------------------|
| 7    | 7,981     | 407,833                                 | 162,094 | 114,169 | 24,330 | \$624,274                |

Table 7. Household Hazard Waste Collection Results



# **Litter Control**

### Goals

- Offer service to the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County
- Maintain appearance of high traffic areas
- Provide timely response to citizen's requests
- Maximize resources available
- Coordinate cleanup efforts from a variety of organizations

### **Programs**

- 3 Full time employees
- · Rappahannock Regional Jail
- · Rappahannock Area Office on Youth
- Rappahannock Regional Jail Adult Probationer Program
- One-time Special Cleanups
- Volunteer Cleanups





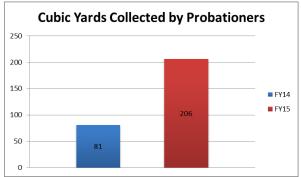
Thurman "Buck" Payne, a member of the Litter Crew, standing next to a recently cleaned county road.

Staff monitors over 1,400 miles of roadways for the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County, using both paid and non-paid labor to clean up litter. In FY15, the R-Board and local communities combined for a total of 1,044 total cleanups collecting 734,794 pounds (367 tons) of litter.



# **Adult Probationers Program**

In FY13 the R-Board began partnering with the Rappahannock Regional Jail in an effort to utilize adult probationers for roadside litter cleanup. These probationers have court assigned hours of service specifying that their time is spent cleaning up roadside litter. Since FY13 the program has increased from 4 probationers to 31 in FY15. In FY15, the Adult Probationers collected 41,120 pounds of litter from our roadsides.



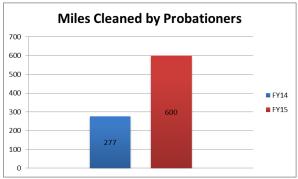


Figure 6. Adult Probationer Program



Officer Rickins from the Regional Jail oversees roadside cleaning performed by inmates.

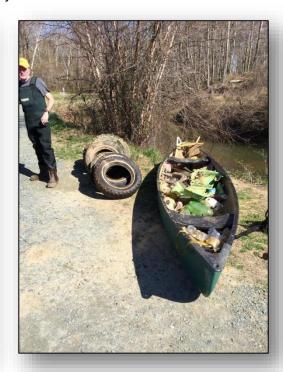
The R-Board manages data collection and provides all operational supplies for this program. The supplies include trash bags, pickers, gloves, safety vests, signage, and bag retrieval and weighing of the collected litter.



# **Community Pride Program**

In April, Aquia Harbour residents teamed up with the R-Board and removed over 1,200 lbs. of litter from their community. The total haul included thirteen tires and a fire extinguisher. The R-Board provided blue bags for the collection of recyclables.





# Miscellaneous Cleanups

The Litter Crew also assisted in cleaning up a large homeless camp this April in the City of Fredericksburg. City staff placed a 20-yd dumpster, cleared a path to the site, and operated 2 small front end bucket loaders. The Regional Jail supplied six inmates and an Officer to bag the debris. The R-Board supplied two employees, trash bags, hand sanitizer, and safety equipment.



Rappahannock Regional Jail inmates cleaning a homeless camp located at Old Mill Park in Fredericksburg.



# **Litter Grant**

Annually, the R-Board prepares the Department of Environmental Quality Non-Competitive Litter Grant report. It also manages the grant funds received. Grant funds are used primarily to cover the cost of operational supplies and also for environmental education and outreach programs. Because the R-Board represents the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford County, some of the grant funds are designated for projects undertaken by the Fredericksburg City Clean and Green Commission. The most recent significant support has been supplying the new doggie bag stations and bag refills around the City's growing walking trail systems and parks.

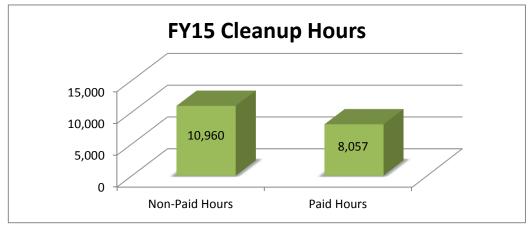


Figure 7. Cleanup Hours

Non-paid hours are valued at \$241,440 and 99% of non-paid hours were used for road cleaning.

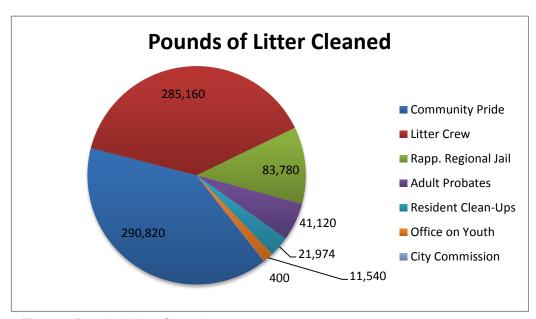


Figure 8. Pounds of Litter Cleaned



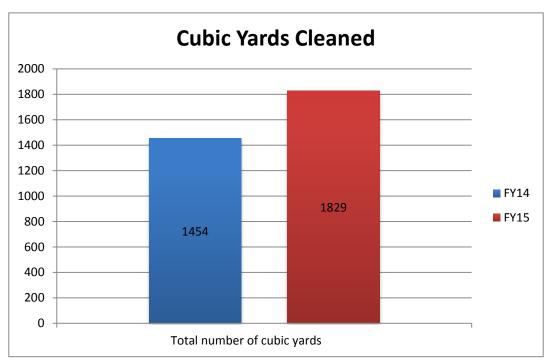


Figure 9. Cubic Yards Cleaned



Figure 10. Cost of Litter Removal



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# **Outreach & Education**

### **Programs**

Backyard Composting 101 remains the R-Board's primary adult outreach program. In FY15, 39 individuals attended four composting classes and purchased 23 composting bins. In eight years of Backyard Composting 101, 768 participants have recycled an estimated 135 tons of organic material in their backyards. In addition to engaging our citizens, Backyard Composting 101 is a waste minimization effort that results in two percentage points added to the R-Board's annual recycling rate.

Michael Recycle and Worms Eat My Waste are the R-Board's ever-popular preschool and elementary school outreach programs. Through this audience, the R-Board reaches families with young children and supports standards of learning in schools. The education trailer and landfill tours provide recycling, litter prevention, waste reduction, and conservation education to folks of all ages.

The R-Board sponsored the Wildlife Center of Virginia "Critters Don't Need Litter" presentations at Stafford County Head Start and at Earth Day on the Rappahannock this year. Combined, the R-Board conducted 29 environmental education programs that reached 2,400 people in our community. R-Board staff has also become active on a regional committee of community leaders working to improve recycling opportunities in the George Washington Planning District.



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Julie Williams-Daves explains the landfilling process to a group of young children on a landfill tour. Tours are one of the best ways to learn more about recycling, conservation, and proper solid waste management.

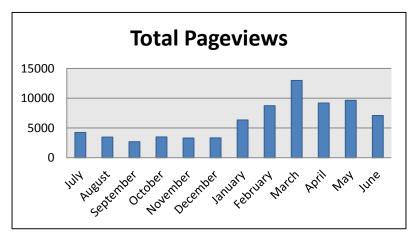


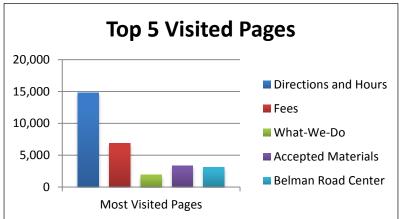
Raina Krasner from the "Wildlife Center of Virginia" shows off an opossum to local school kids while explaining the negative impact that litter can have on certain animals as a part of the "Critters Don't Need Litter" presentation.



### **R-Board Website Activity**

Traffic to the R-Board's website, r-board.org, increased in FY15 with much of the increase coming since the implementation of residential user fees at the beginning of March. The following charts illustrate the popularity of the site and the information most people want to see.





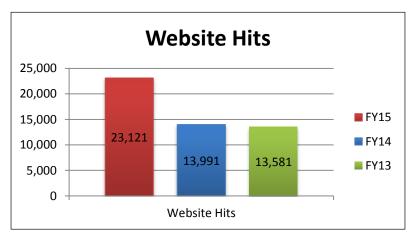


Figure 11. R-Board Website Activity



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# **Appendices**

- 1. VaDEQ Letter Certifying 2014 Recycling Rate
- 2. VaDEQ Email Recertifying E3 Status



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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David K. Paylor Director

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April 29, 2015

Ms. Diane Jones Rappahannock Regional SWMB 489 Eskimo Hill Stafford, Virginia 22554

Dear Ms. Jones:

We have completed our review of the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board's 2014 Recycling Rate Report submitted pursuant to <a href="The Virginia Regulations for Solid Waste">The Virginia Regulations for Solid Waste</a> <a href="Management Planning">Management Planning (9VAC-20-130-165)</a>. State law (10.1-1411) and section 120.B. of the regulations require each city, county, town or region to maintain a minimum recycling rate and to report the data for the previous calendar year to DEQ by April 30 of each year. The members of the Solid Waste Planning Unit were to meet or exceed a 25% mandated recycling rate based upon the criteria established in 2006.

We accept your data as submitted with two data edits, and your calculated recycling rate for CY 2014 will be reported as 49.1 %. This information has been forwarded to DEQ's Office of Waste Permitting and Compliance for consideration during their reviews of the Solid Waste Management Plans.

Attached for your review and filing is our worksheet that shows the DEQ review of your report. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

G. Stephen "Steve" Coe

G. Stephen Coe
Environmental Specialist - Recycling
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Enclosure

Cc: RRR file

From: Boisvert, Keith (DEQ) [mailto:Keith.Boisvert@deq.virginia.gov]

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 2:41 PM

To: Julie Daves

Subject: Rappahannock SWM Landfill VEEP Report Approved

Julie,

I wanted to let you know that the Rappahannock Regional SWM Landfill's annual report to the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) looked great this year. It has been reviewed and approved. We appreciate your continued participation in the program. Thanks.

# Keith Boisvert

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