

Recycling and Landfill Diversion Update

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City Council Work Session
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Overview

Solid Waste At-A-Glance

Garbage & Bulk Waste

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Upcoming Events & How To Help



Solid Waste At-A-Glance

As of 2025, what is Fort Worth's residential solid waste universe? **374,000 tons / year**



All Garbage → Southeast Landfill
~230,000 tons/year FW **residential collections**
~710,000 tons/year **(all other 3rd party tons)**
~940,000 tons/year to Southeast Landfill overall.
Approximately 18% of this could have been recycled.



All Bulk Items → C&D Landfill
~50,000 tons/year FW **residential collections**
Green waste in bulk → Landfill
Recycling in bulk → Landfill

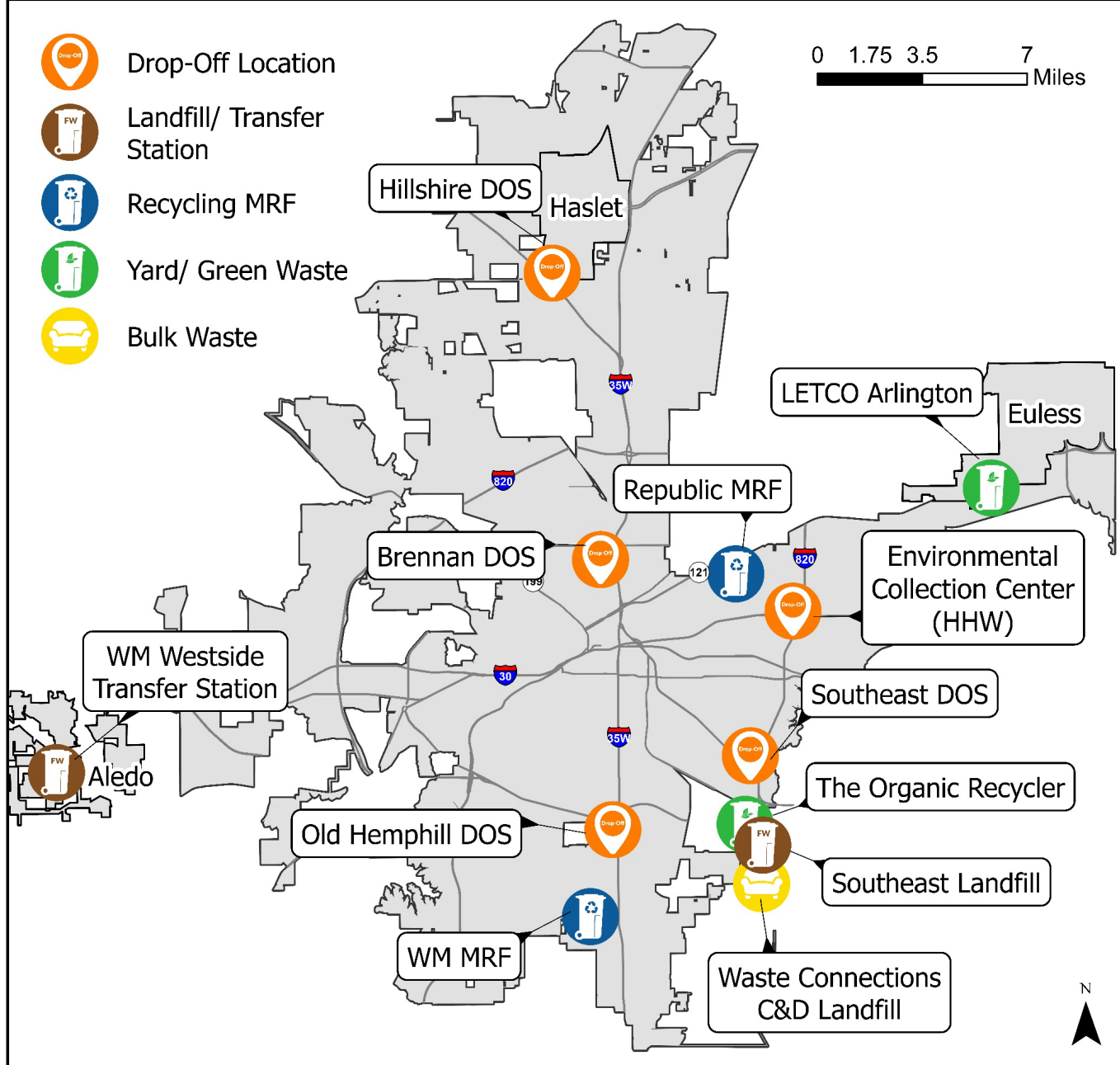


All Recycling → Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
~61,000 tons/year Fort Worth **residential collections**
Approximately 27% needed to go into the garbage.



All Yard Waste → Mulching Facilities
~33,000/year FW **residential collections**

Recycling and Green Waste = Diversion away from landfills.



Garbage & Bulk Waste

All garbage and bulk waste goes directly to landfills.
No one separates items, like tree limbs or cardboard boxes.

FY25: 41,000+ tons (~18%) were recyclable material being thrown away.

It costs about \$24.00 per ton to landfill waste and \$12.13 per ton to recycle.
Recycling the appropriate waste would save over \$450,000 in disposal.

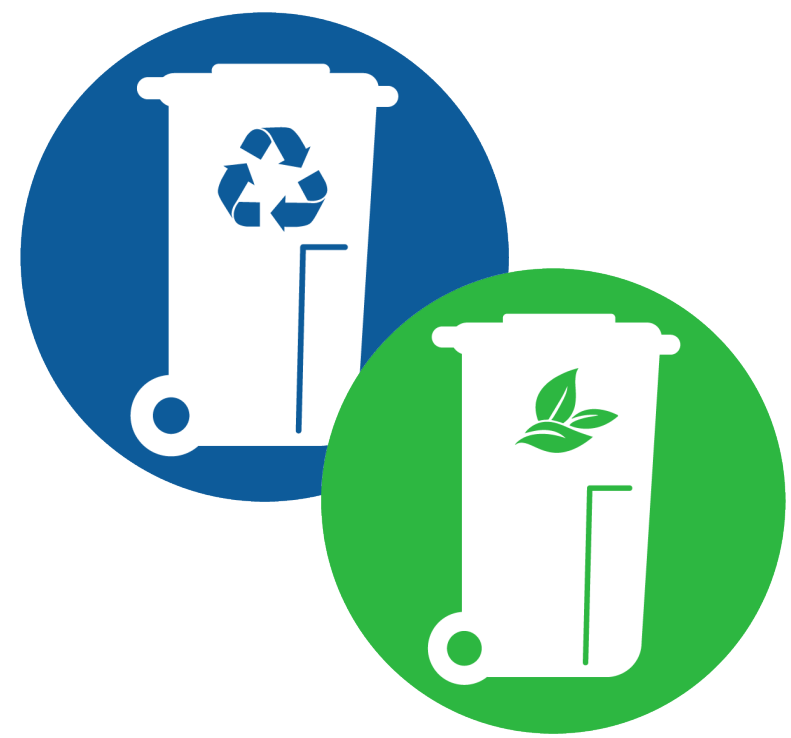
Remember: reduce, reuse, recycle – rethink your garbage and bulk waste.



Recycling & Yard Waste

Why recycle?

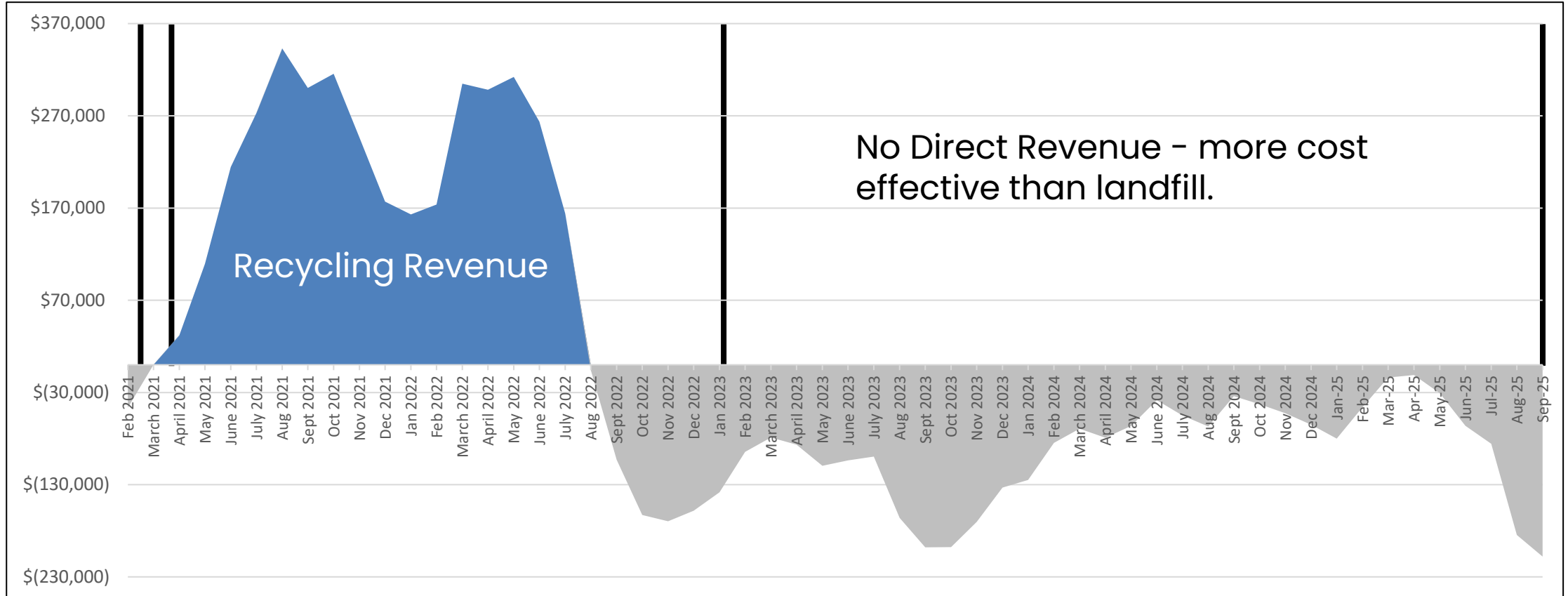
- Reduce waste in landfills and the environment.
- Create economic impact and jobs.
- Save energy and natural resources.
- Reduce pollution.
- Promote a clean community.
- Save money.
- Promote social responsibility.



As of September 2025:
\$24.00/ton to landfill
\$12.13/ton to recycle
+\$11.87/ton (net benefit)

It makes financial sense to recycle as a community.

Recycling Costs in Fort Worth



Recycling commodity prices (and profits) fluctuate – even when recycling markets are not generating revenue; recycling remains more cost-effective than landfilling.

Residential Recycling Contamination

Goal: **10%** or less contamination

FY24: **~27% contamination**

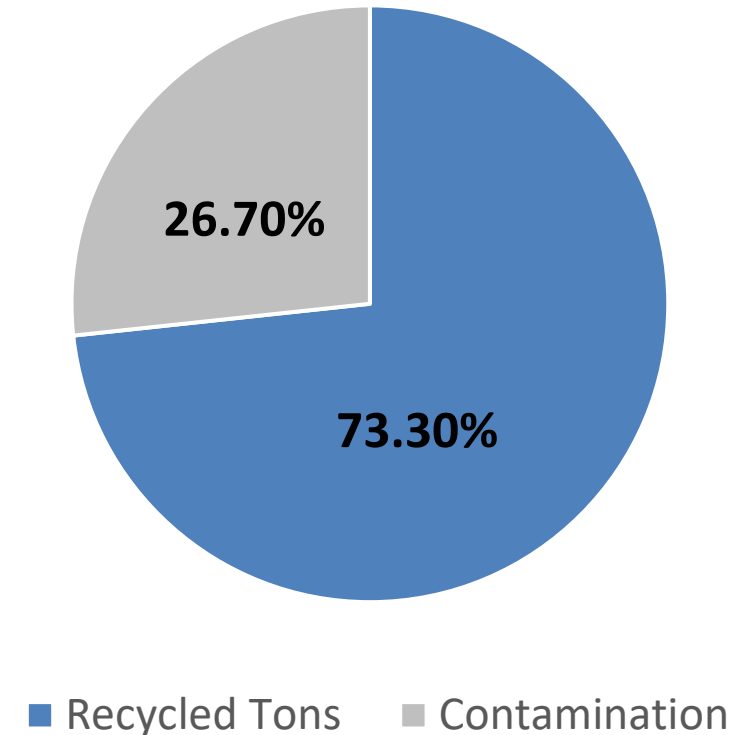
Total: 61,800 tons

Contamination: 16,500 tons

FY25: **also ~27% contamination**

Average monthly: 5,100 tons

Average contamination: 1,360 tons



Help by putting garbage or recycling into correct carts.

Need help? Check online resources or reach out. When in doubt – leave it out.



Garbage



Recycling



Yard



Bulk



DOS/ECC

Download the Fort Worth Garbage & Recycling App for schedule and notifications.



Download the MyFW App for missed collections or other issues.



[fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste)



Recycle these items in the blue cart!
¡Recicla estos artículos en el bote azul!



Paper/Cardboard
Papel/Cartón



Plastic
Plástico



Metal
Metal



Glass
Vidrio

Before recycling, remember: Antes de reciclar, recuerda:



Empty
Vacía

Remove any food or liquid. Remove any residue.
Make sure items are dry.

Retira cualquier resto de comida o líquido. Retira cualquier residuo. Verifica que los artículos estén secos.



Clean
Limpia



Dry
Seca



No Plastic Bags
No bolsas de plástico

Keep items loose — never bag recyclables.
Mantén los artículos sueltos — nunca pongas los reciclables en bolsas.



Bulk Waste = Landfill
Basura voluminosa = Relleno sanitario

Any items in bulk piles, even cardboard, is not recycled.
Cualquier artículo en la basura voluminosa, incluso el cartón, no se recicla.



Learn more at: Aprende mas en: [fortworthtexas.gov/recycles](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/recycles)

Upcoming Events

October 28, 2025: Grand Opening of WM Recycling Facility

November 10-14, 2025: Recycling Week + Fort Worth Library

November 15, 2025: America Recycles Day



How to Help

Recycling is for everyone: residential, commercial, industrial, City facilities, churches, schools...

- ✓ **Increase** amount of clean, usable recycling.
- ✓ **Lower** recycling contamination rate.
- ✓ **Support good recycling behaviors** for residents, apartments, visitors, business, industries, City facilities, City vendors and partners.
- ✓ **Share a unified recycling message** through all media channels and community outreach.