



SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY RECYCLE



Back to School Lesson 1: Recycling Never Takes a Break!

As summer winds down and the back-to-school season kicks off, August is the perfect time to refresh your recycling habits. And with football season just around the corner, it's game on for sustainability too! Whether you're tailgating, hosting watch parties, or heading back to school, we've got tips to help you reduce waste and recycle right.

As we head into the final stretch of summer, the MRF continues to make progress in processing and selling materials to recycling end markets. Look for a full update later in the newsletter.

With the Fairhope CHaRM now complete, the next CHaRM is slated to open adjacent to the Baldwin County MRF, next to the Magnolia Landfill. Stay tuned for updates on this new location.

A new school year is the perfect time to build fresh habits—and that includes going green! Whether you're a student, parent, or educator, small choices each day can lead to a big impact over time. No matter which municipality you live in recycling is available. Check out our tips for a Sustainable School Year.

Football season is here—and while the excitement builds on the field, there's plenty we can do off the field to keep things sustainable. Check out our tips for a sustainable football season later in the newsletter.

Since we began operations in January, we've had the privilege of processing materials from all over Baldwin County. We've also had the exciting opportunity to begin accepting materials from companies outside the county.

In July, Osprey Initiative held a community cleanup in Fairhope with the support of local partners.

On August 7th, the SWDA had the pleasure of opening Alabama's first CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) in Fairhope. We're excited to provide residents with a convenient place to responsibly dispose of recyclables and other hard-to-manage materials

In This Newsletter Issue:

MRF Update

CHaRM Update

**Tips for a Sustainable
School Year**

**Tips for a Sustainable
Football Season**

**New Recycling
Opportunities**

**Sustainability Shout-Out
Osprey Initiative**

**Fairhope CHaRM Grand
Opening!**



MRF Update



The MRF has celebrated being operational for over 6 months, and with that we would like to share with you the amazing milestones we have achieved. We have exported 83 loads of materials totaling 1,855.06 tons.

♻️ The 83 loads consisted of: ♻️

51 loads of **OCC**

21 loads of **Mixed Paper**

6 loads of **PET**

2 loads of **Aluminum Cans**

1 load each of **Clear Plastic #2; Colored Plastic #2; and Steel Cans**

CHaRM Update



With the Fairhope CHaRM now open and construction underway on the new Magnolia CHaRM, SWDA is expanding convenient recycling options across Baldwin County. The Magnolia location will accept both standard and hard-to-recycle materials, such as electronics and batteries. As use of the Fairhope CHaRM increases, the recycling drop-off site behind the Fairhope Courthouse will close. Stay tuned for updates on the Magnolia CHaRM's opening and the closure of the current Fairhope recycling drop-off site.

Tips for a Sustainable School Year

As the school year kicks off, it's the perfect time to set the tone for more sustainable habits- at home, in the classroom, and on the go. Here are some tips for a sustainable school year:

→ Use What You Already Have:

Reuse last year's backpack, notebooks, and supplies

Repair instead of replacing when possible

→ Choose Eco-Friendly School Supplies:

Pick notebooks made from recycled paper
Use refillable pens, mechanical pencils, or bamboo alternatives.

→ Pack a Low-Waste Lunch:

Use reusable containers, bottles, and utensils

Bring cloth napkins instead of paper ones

Include more fruits, veggies, and plant-based options

Want to be more sustainable this school year? Even if you don't have curbside recycling, you can still help the planet. SWDA has recycling drop-off spots in every town, so it's easy to recycle wherever you live.

Tips for a Sustainable Football Season

From little league to the big leagues, football brings families and communities together.

It's also a great opportunity to teach kids (and adults!) how to reduce waste, recycle right, and celebrate sustainability. Check out our top tips for making your next football gathering greener.

→ Green Your Tailgate

Bring reusable cups, plates, and utensils
Grill responsibly, use propane or electric over charcoal when possible

→ Don't Fumble the Trash

Set up clearly labeled recycling bin at tailgates or home watch parties
Use compostable or reusable napkins and table cloths

→ Carpool

Carpool with friends to reduce traffic and emissions

→ Sustainable Fan Gear

Reuse your fan gear from last season - Jerseys never go out of style!
Thrift team apparel or swap with friends

Political Signs

Did you know that most yard signs are made from Plastic #5, a recyclable material? Instead of throwing them away, you can help reduce waste by recycling these signs properly.

To recycle your yard signs, contact your local municipality to find the nearest drop-off location that accepts Plastic #5. Once you know where to take them, we can coordinate with the municipality to make sure the signs are processed and recycled correctly.

By recycling your yard signs, you're helping conserve resources, reduce landfill waste, and support a more sustainable community. Every small action counts—thank you for doing your part!



Where To Find Us in the Community

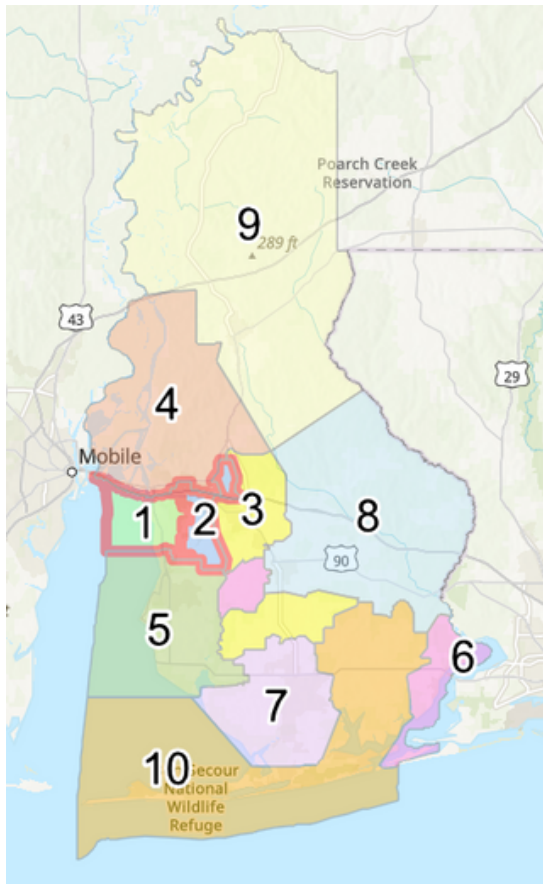
The SWDA is committed to strengthening our connection with the community by sharing valuable information about recycling, waste reduction, and sustainability. We believe that education and collaboration are key to building a healthier environment for Baldwin County and beyond. That's why this September, we're stepping up our efforts to get out into the community and engage directly with residents, businesses, and local organizations.

Throughout the month, you'll have several opportunities to meet our knowledgeable team members, ask questions about recycling practices, and learn practical tips on how to reduce waste at home and work. Whether you're a long-time recycler or just starting to explore sustainable habits, these events are a great way to discover how small changes can make a big difference.

Here are some upcoming events where you can find us:

PEP Breakfast on September 18th
ARC Conference September 10th-12th
6th Infraday Southeast on September 23rd

Curbside Recycling



Want curbside recycling but not sure if it's available in your area? Check out this map to see when service will start near you.

Curbside recycling makes it easy to reduce waste and protect the environment—sign up today and start recycling right at your doorstep!

1. Daphne (inside/outside city limits, west of 181 and south of I-10) **Active**
2. Belforest, Daphne (inside/outside city limits, east of 181 and north I-10), Malbis, and Spanish Forts Stonebridge **Active**
3. Loxley and Summerdale (inside/outside of city limits) **Starts October 6th, 2025**
4. Bromley, Carpenter, Crossroads, Hurricane, Spanish Fort (inside/outside city limits) Stapleton, Steelwood, Pine Haven, Whitehouse Forks **Starts December 1st, 2025**
5. Barnwell, Clay City, Fairhope (outside city limits), Marlow, and Magnolia Springs (inside/outside city limits) **Starts February 2nd, 2026**
6. Lillian, Silverhill (inside/outside city limits), and Ono Island **Starts April 6th, 2026**
7. Bon Secour and Foley (outside city limits), Gulf Shores (outside city limits) **Starts June 1st, 2026**
8. Elsanor, Gateswood, Robertsdale (inside/outside city limits), Rosinton, Seminole **Starts August 3rd, 2026**
9. Bay Minette (inside/outside city limits), Blacksher, Georgetown, Gopher Hill, Latham, Little River, Lottie, Phillipsville, Rabun, Redtown, Stockton, Tensaw, and Vangordon **Starts October 5th, 2026**
10. Elberta (inside/outside city limits), Fort Morgan, Josephine, Miflin, Perdido Beach **Starts December 7th, 2026**

MRF Operations & Partnerships

As the Baldwin County MRF expands to accept recyclables from neighboring counties, we're proud to support growing partnerships that promote regional sustainability. More businesses are choosing to recycle with us, helping reduce landfill waste and protect the environment. We look forward to welcoming even more partners who share our commitment to responsible waste management.

In addition, SWDA CEO Terri Graham has been invited to speak at the City of Mobile and PEP's bi-monthly breakfast on September 18, 2025—an exciting opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen regional efforts.

Welcome New Businesses

We're excited to welcome Tate & Lyle (Washington County) and High Purity Silica (Theodore) to the MRF network. Their commitment to recycling supports a cleaner, more sustainable future. We encourage other businesses to join us in making a positive impact across the region.

Sustainability Shout-Out



In July, the Osprey Initiative, together with other community partners, organized a successful cleanup event in Fairhope. While members of the SWDA team were unable to attend, we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible work being done by Osprey Initiative to protect and preserve our local environment. Their efforts go far beyond cleanup events—they actively deploy litter traps, promote recycling at community gatherings, and lead numerous programs aimed at reducing waste and keeping our natural areas clean. Through these dedicated initiatives, Osprey Initiative is making a significant impact in helping the environment thrive, ensuring a healthier, cleaner future for generations to come. We applaud their commitment and encourage everyone to support their important mission.

Fairhope CHaRM Grand Opening



On August 7th, the SWDA proudly held the Grand Opening of Alabama's first CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) in Fairhope. We were honored to celebrate this milestone with the Baldwin County Commission, Mayor Sherry Sullivan, and many industry and community partners. The Fairhope CHaRM provides residents with a convenient and responsible place to dispose of recyclables and other hard-to-manage materials. It is located at 20609 Bishop Rd., Fairhope, AL 36532, and is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday from 7 am to 12 pm. For more information, please visit baldwincountyswda.org.

What to Recycle and Where

What Can You Recycle in Baldwin County and Where?

The Solid Waste Disposal Authority is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through our comprehensive recycling efforts. As part of our ongoing initiative, we are now accepting the following materials for recycling at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Residents can conveniently recycle these items in several ways:

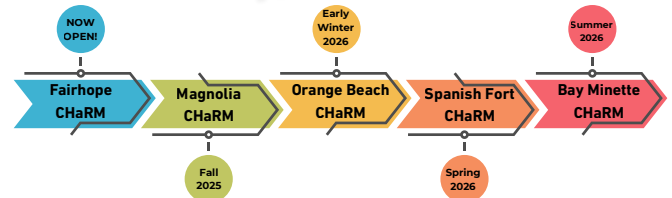
- **At any of our existing recycling drop-off locations** throughout the community
 - **At one of our upcoming CHaRM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) sites**, which will be opening soon to expand recycling options
 - **And through future curbside programs** that will be launched in additional areas across the county
- By utilizing these services, you are helping to save space in the landfill, conserve resources, and protect our environment for future generations. Stay tuned for updates on new locations and expanded services as we continue to grow our recycling efforts.



The following items will be accepted at the Solid Waste Disposal Authority CHaRM (Center Hard to Recycle Materials) Facilities.



CHaRM Timeline



Contact Us!

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Thanks for Reading!

This is a monthly publication so be on the lookout for the next edition in September 2025!

If you would like to be added to the newsletter list please email Jennifer Doan at Jennifer.Doan@baldwincountyswda.org

For more waste and recycling information please visit: baldwincountyswda.org