



SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY RECYCLE



Spring Toward Sustainability- One Bin at a Time!

As we move into summer, take a look at everything the SWDA has accomplished over the past month. In this issue, you'll also find information on recyclable materials, what items are accepted at the Baldwin County MRF, and what will be accepted at the new CHaRMs.

The Baldwin County MRF has been operational for the past four months. In April, Green Machine, GBB, and LaBella visited the facility for a performance test—check out the results later in the newsletter.

Construction on the Fairhope CHaRM is nearing completion, and work on the Magnolia CHaRM will begin soon.

Ever get confused by the numbers on different products? Our recycling guide later in the newsletter will help you understand what each number means and how to recycle accordingly.

This year, the SWDA was proud to sponsor the Baldwin County High School Robotics Team. The Cyber Tigers traveled to Tuscaloosa to compete in a robotics competition—find out how they did later in the newsletter!

In April, the SWDA partnered with the North Baldwin Chamber to provide recycling services at their Crawfish Cook-off. We also set up an outreach table to educate residents about SWDA's recycling initiatives.

On Saturday, May 3rd, the SWDA hosted its first-ever Family Fun Day for all SWDA employees. Staff and their families enjoyed walking through the Waste and Recycling Adventure Center and participating in the many events and activities throughout the day.



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MRF Update

In April, we welcomed teams from Green Machine, GBB, and LaBella on-site for a performance test of our sort line.

Day 1: We processed over 20 tons, with an average of 7 tons per hour over a 4-hour period.

Day 2: We maintained that momentum, processing 20 tons at an even high average of 8 tons per hour.

Huge thanks to our MRF Leadership, Operations, and Maintenance Teams—your hard work and teamwork made this milestone possible just four months into operation. Great job, team—let's keep the momentum going!



CHaRM Facilities

Fairhope CHaRM is nearing completion, with a ribbon cutting targeted for late June 2025. Meanwhile, construction on the Magnolia CHaRM officially began on May 12, 2025, with an anticipated opening in late July 2025. Orange Beach and Spanish Fort locations are coming along and are in the design phase with council approval.

Consumer Guide to Recycling Codes

The following information can help you determine the type of recyclable materials and if you can recycle them at your local recycling facility.

Glass



This symbol means clean glass can be recycled. There are three codes for glass:



Mixed Glass



Clear Glass



Green Glass

Paper



This symbol means that paper and cardboard is made with at least 75% recycled paper or cardboard. There are three paper recycling codes:



Cardboard



Plain Paper



Mixed Paper

Plastic

The recycling codes for plastics are divided into seven categories. Higher numbers usually mean the plastic is harder to recycle.



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE):
A widely used, easily recyclable plastic accepted by most recycling programs. It's commonly found in disposable food and drink containers like water bottles, soda bottles, and frozen food packaging.



High-density polyethylene (HDPE):
A solid-colored plastic commonly accepted in recycling programs. Found in cleaner bottles, some food containers, and cutting boards.



Polyvinyl chloride (PVC):
PVC is harder to recycle than PET 1 and HDPE 2. It's found in toys and bottles like detergent and shampoo containers.



Low-density polyethylene (LDPE):
A soft, flexible plastic used in thin bags. Not always accepted in curbside recycling, but many grocery stores collect it.



Polypropylene (PP):
PP plastic is used in straws, cups, and some food containers. It can be recycled, but make sure it's accepted area.



Polystyrene (PS):
PS plastic, or styrofoam, is found in takeout containers and disposable cups. It's usually not accepted in recycling programs.



Other:
These include bisphenol A (BPA), polycarbonate, and bio-based plastics.

Information provided by:  energy saver

Baldwin County High School Robotics Team



The Solid Waste Disposal Authority is a Silver Sponsor for the Baldwin County High School Robotics Team.

The Cyber Tigers went to Tuscaloosa to compete in the Alabama State Robotics Competition and came in 5th place.

Congratulations to the Baldwin County High School Robotics Team!

Sustainability Shout-Out

North Baldwin Chamber



On May 17th the North Baldwin Chamber held a Crawfish Cook-off at Halliday Park in Bay Minette. The Chamber has partnered with Novelis to provide aluminum cups and the SWDA to provide recycling at the event.

Community Engagement



On April 15th, Terri Graham and Susan Kilby Aaron accepted the Environmental Stewardship Award on behalf of the SWDA.



On April 22nd, Jennifer Doan and Amy Galemore taught a recycling lesson to Foley Elementary's 3rd Grade class.

Family Fun Day



On May 3rd, the Solid Waste Disposal Authority hosted its first-ever Family Fun Day, welcoming employees and their families to the Waste and Recycling Adventure Center (WRAC) for an afternoon of fun and learning.

The event featured face painting, an inflatable slide, cornhole, a dunking booth with the directors, giveaways, and food. Families had the opportunity to explore the WRAC and learn more about the recycling process in an interactive way. Children participated in a scavenger hunt, where they searched for answers related to recycling and discovered hidden "Saltys" throughout the facility.

It was a great day to celebrate our team and raise awareness about the importance of waste reduction and recycling in a fun, family-friendly environment.



What to Recycle and Where

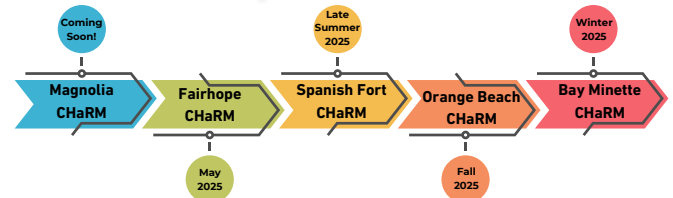
What Can You Recycle in Baldwin County and Where?

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.



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 June 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