

Memorandum



Date: June 18, 2026

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(11)
October 6, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Report on the Establishment of Reporting and Compliance Requirements for Solid Waste Reduction, and Recycling Programs in Multi-Family Residential, Commercial, and Mixed-Use Properties - Directive No. 251069

Executive Summary

This report is provided pursuant to Resolution No. R-878-25, sponsored by Commissioner Marleine Bastien, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") on September 3, 2025. The Resolution directed the Mayor or Mayor's designee to prepare a report within 180 days on establishing or enhancing comprehensive reporting and compliance requirements for waste reduction and recycling across multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties including the provision of mechanisms to measure and improve program effectiveness, and promote accountability among property managers, owners, and permitted haulers.

Under my administration the Department of Solid Waste ("DSWM") is dedicated to maximizing waste diversion and recovering as much recyclable material as possible. Additional reporting requirements per this directive will support our goal by ensuring that recycling services and information are reaching as many residents as possible and strengthening accountability and tracking mechanisms countywide.

This report recommends reporting requirements for multi-family, commercial, and mixed-used properties highlighting type, frequency, and volume of recyclables collected, outreach and engagement efforts to property owners, and hauler information, to be done on an annual basis by "DSWM."

Additionally, the report outlines potential reporting requirements for permitted haulers on a quarterly basis highlighting collection volume for each serviced property, available contamination rates, and recommendations for solid waste reduction or diversion. The report also addresses possible requirements for permitted recycling facilities and waste diversion facilities to provide the type and volume of recyclables collected and implement a deadline for an annual report with such data to be provided to the County prior to February 15th each year. The report also details recommendations for a requirement that property owners provide recycling education materials to their residents, as well as to display reporting information online in a format that is readily accessible to the public.

Background

Miami-Dade County ("County") Department of Solid Waste Management ("DSWM") has provided curbside recycling collection services to County residents since 1990 and has promoted waste diversion efforts Countywide for over three decades. Section 15-2.2 of the Code requires recycling programs for all multi-family residential properties and stipulates that at least newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, and plastics be accepted in the recycling program. Section 15-2.3 of the Code requires all commercial properties to provide a recycling program that recycles a minimum of three of the following

items: office paper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, aluminum, steel, other metals, plastics, textiles, and wood. DSWM provides enforcement of these sections of the Code in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and in the municipalities within the system. For example, DSWM Code Enforcement Officers provide routine inspection of multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties to confirm that such properties have recycling collection services. If Code Enforcement Officers identify a property that does not have recycling services, they provide guidance to property owners as to how to adopt recycling services at their property. These properties, multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use, are not required to report recycling metrics from their own operations. DSWM, in response to Directive 251850, has also identified potential approaches to improving recycling collection and services in multifamily establishments. Such recommendations outlined in the report include minimum recycling standards and standardized education and outreach collateral.

Haulers in Miami-Dade County are required to receive a hauler's permit from DSWM. As part of the hauler reporting requirements, haulers provide a list of all of their existing customers in DSWM service area receiving waste collection services. Although the haulers are not required to outline specifically which of their customers receive recycling services, most haulers outline which customers receive garbage collection services, recycling collection services, and construction and demolition debris collection services. The customer list that each hauler provides will, at minimum, outline the customer's name, address, and cost paid by the customer. However, this list does not necessarily outline the recycling collection service frequency, volume of collected material, or any applicable contamination data.

Recycling facilities throughout the County are currently required to provide monthly operating reports to the Department of Environmental Resources Management ("DERM") highlighting the materials received by the facility and the total volume of material received. Although permitted recycling facilities are supposed to submit monthly operating reports for each month of the year, there isn't a set deadline for when monthly operating reports must be submitted. Without a deadline, it can be difficult for the County to accurately capture the total amount of materials recycled within a calendar year. The County is required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") to determine its annual recycling rate, so timely data is critical.

Reporting and Compliance Requirements for Properties

As outlined in this report, multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties are currently not required to report any waste data to DSWM or any other County department. Without this information, it can be challenging to determine the total impact of recycling efforts across the County. Additionally, this information could assist the County in evaluating whether other municipalities are enforcing Section 15-2.2 of the Code on behalf of the County. That said, requiring the properties themselves to report the type, frequency, and tonnage of recyclables collected may be challenging. Properties often don't receive a report on the total amount of material collected from their facilities. Commonly, properties contract collection services based on service frequency and receive an invoice specifically for the number of times a container is serviced per week. The haulers themselves often don't collect specific data detailing the total tonnage of recyclables collected for each customer as most haulers collect recyclables from several properties prior to delivering the recyclables to a recycling facility. As such, it is not possible for

haulers to attribute a specific volume or tonnage of material to an individual customer. That said, it is feasible for properties to report on the recycling container size at their property and its service frequency.

DSWM is currently developing a recycling standardization plan to be implemented countywide. Through this plan DSWM will develop recycling resources for the entire community, including for commercial, multi-family, and mixed-use properties, and provide virtual collateral for property owners to use to inform tenants and residents of recycling policies in the County. The recycling education and outreach component of the plan is anticipated to be finalized in December 2026, including publishing the assets for property owners to deploy. It is recommended that prior to December, the Board adopt legislation requiring all property owners to provide DSWM-developed recycling literature for all tenants and residents to ensure that the County's recycling guidance is made widely available and that as many residents as possible within multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties know how to properly recycle. Accordingly, it is recommended that property owners for multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties not have to report any recycling tonnage data on an annual basis; instead, it is recommended that these properties be required to share with their tenants and residents what is recyclable across Miami-Dade County in addition to reporting recycling service frequencies for their respective properties. It is further recommended that DSWM develop a searchable dashboard on their website detailing the frequency that multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties are serviced, along with the total yardage serviced.

To ensure property owners for multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties are educating their tenants and occupants on what is recyclable, it is recommended that Section 15-2 of the Code be amended to provide DSWM code enforcement with the authority to conduct periodic site visits to such properties within DSWM code enforcement's jurisdiction to verify that residents are receiving outreach and education material and that recycling carts are properly labeled.

Reporting and Compliance Requirements for Haulers

As previously outlined in this report, permitted haulers operating in DSWM service area are required to provide a list of their customers that receive garbage or trash collection services for purposes of collecting the Disposal Facility Fee (DFF). Although haulers are not required to provide this information for customers exclusively receiving recycling services, this information is often included in the information that is required to be reported. The customer list that each hauler provides will, at minimum, outline the customer's name, address, and cost paid by the customer. However, this list does not necessarily outline the recycling collection service frequency, volume of collected material, or any applicable contamination data. Receiving this information from haulers could help verify whether multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties are effectively recycling and educating their tenants and residents.

Although this information could assist the County in its recycling and waste diversion efforts, it would likely be quite challenging for haulers to collect some of this data. For example, most haulers collect recyclables from several properties prior to delivering the materials to a recycling processing facility. Accordingly, haulers cannot report the volume or tonnage for a single property. That said, haulers can report the size of the recycling container that has been provided to each customer. Haulers can also report the total tons of materials that are received by landfills or recycling facilities; this metric would be

helpful to receive to ensure recycling haulers are collecting and processing recyclables at recycling facilities.

Additionally, very few haulers collect any contamination data, much less contamination data at the property level. This is primarily due to the lack of technology available to track granular contamination data. Larger hauling companies do have this capacity, but small to medium-sized haulers do not. For these reasons it is recommended that haulers not be required to provide contamination-level data.

As an alternative, DSWM recommends modifying Section 15-25.2 of the Code to require all haulers to share a list of all customers and their relevant property addresses to ensure every customer is receiving recycling collection services. Haulers should also be required to explicitly report any property that knowingly refuses to recycle to DSWM Code Enforcement so enforcement action can take place against the property. Although these requirements wouldn't directly help curb contamination, they would assist in increasing recycling rates.

Reporting and Compliance Requirements for Permitted Recycling Facilities

As previously outlined in this report, permitted recycling facilities are already required to submit monthly operating reports to DERM. In these monthly operating reports, permitted recycling facilities identify the waste stream received by their facility and the total amount of material received. Accordingly, DERM and DSWM currently receive the necessary information to ensure recyclables are being delivered to recycling facilities across the County. This collected information is critical as it allows the County to accurately report the overall recycling rate to FDEP each year. Although this information is received by DERM and DSWM and is publicly available, DSWM and DERM are collaborating to make the monthly operating reports even more easily accessible to the community.

Permitted recycling facilities are required to provide their monthly operating reports to DERM by the 15th of each month, but some facilities do not abide by such deadlines and there are minimal penalties for recycling facilities that don't meet this deadline. Without severe penalties, many permitted facilities submit their monthly operating reports late; this can lead to DSWM underestimating the County's recycling rate. As such, it is recommended that DERM further require all permitted recycling facilities to submit all monthly operating reports by February 15th of the following year. This date will ensure DSWM is able to accurately calculate the overall county recycling rate in a timely manner. Without this information, it can be challenging to determine the total impact of recycling efforts across the County. Some permitting facilities may be delayed in submitting monthly operating reports as it requires downloading or printing a document, completing it, and then uploading it to the relevant portal. To streamline this process, it is recommended that DSWM and DERM collaborate to automate this data entry process for permitted recycling facilities and that this process also makes data extraction feasible.

County Action to Encourage Recycling

DSWM Code Enforcement currently performs random site inspections of properties to verify that they have sufficient recycling programs as defined in the Code. DSWM Code Enforcement provides educational resources to properties that lack recycling programs to ensure they can provide recycling services to the property's residents and tenants. If a property receives these resources from DSWM

Code Enforcement and still chooses to not recycle at their property, properties may be subjected to a fine of \$300 to \$950. These fines may accrue if a property does not implement a recycling program.

Upon implementation of the recommended policy changes, the DSWM Audit and Compliance Section will also track the haulers that submit customer lists that exclude recycling services and will provide this information to DSWM Code Enforcement for further education and outreach. Hauler waste diversion practices are already encouraged as the existing DFF reporting mechanism currently excludes haulers that provide recycling services from paying the DFF as a method to encourage waste diversion.

As previously mentioned in this report, DSWM is currently working to standardize all recycling education and outreach across the County. As part of this standardization effort, DSWM is creating educational materials on proper recycling practice and will create a toolkit for multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties. DSWM has already modified messaging for outreach and engagement collateral for multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties.

DSWM also continues to conduct outreach and education events with homeowner's associations, public schools, and through other events to inform residents on proper recycling practices and to share the importance of recycling. DSWM will continue to build on ongoing efforts to promote waste diversion and increase recycling rates across the County as it further develops these outreach and engagement tools.

Financial Impact

Ensuring recycling services are provided to tenants and residents of multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use properties is critical to maximizing recycling and waste diversion across the County. Requiring haulers to report which customers receive recycling services would not drastically affect their existing administrative processes as many haulers already report customer lists to DSWM as part of the DFF. However, requiring the haulers to report which customers lack recycling to DSWM could lead to increased costs for DSWM Code Enforcement as additional officers may be needed to perform the necessary education and outreach. Furthermore, there are anticipated increased costs for DSWM upon standardizing recycling education and outreach across the entire County; those additional costs, however, will not be a direct result of the required action from this directive. There may also be slight administrative cost increases for haulers that report whether a property doesn't have recycling; however, this could be offset from any additional business the companies may generate from providing non-compliant properties with additional recycling services. DSWM will also continue to identify relevant funding sources to mitigate any potential cost increases that may result from implementation of the initiatives outlined in this report.

Conclusion

The County has set a goal of maximizing waste diversion and recovering as much recyclable materials as possible. Per this directive, additional reporting requirements will help to ensure that recycling information is reaching more residents, and we are maximizing waste diversion wherever possible throughout the County. It is recommended that the Board adopt legislation requiring all property owners to provide DSWM-developed recycling literature for all tenants and residents, ensuring that the County's recycling guidance is made widely available. Drafted legislation will be provided to the Board prior to DSWM finalizing the outreach and engagement material that will be used countywide. It is also

recommended that Section 15-25.2 of the Code is modified to require all haulers to share a list of all customers and relevant property addresses to ensure every customer is receiving recycling collection services. It is also recommended that Sections 15-2.2 and 15-2.3 of the Code are modified to require multifamily, commercial, and mixed-use properties to report to DSWM the recycling container size at their property and its service frequency.

To ensure that permitted facilities submit their monthly operating reports in a timely manner, it is recommended that DERM require all permitted recycling facilities to submit all monthly operating reports by February 15th of the following year. Implementing these initiatives would significantly assist the County in increasing its recycling rate and ensuring as many properties as possible are providing adequate recycling services.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda, without committee review. If additional information is needed, please contact Aneisha Daniel, PhD, Director, Department of Solid Waste Management, at Aneisha.Daniel@miamidade.gov.

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