

Be SMART* Handling Trash

*Save Money And Reduce Trash

Sullivan County does not have to invent new ways to reduce trash volumes and disposal costs. THESE places have already made significant reductions:

Los Angeles, CA 65% reduction

Gainesville, FL 50% reduction

King County, WA (Seattle) 60% reduction

Portland, OR 70% reduction

and considerable reductions also in Alameda and San Diego Counties in CA



How to avoid incineration? Reduce overall trash volume by:

1. Maximizing what the public reuses, recycles, and composts. Recycled and reused materials are resources with monetary value, as is the produced compost.
2. Engaging businesses, schools, government and other public facilities to also recycle.
3. Establishing universal composting programs for households, multi-family units and businesses (especially food related) and for yard wastes.
4. Building materials can be reused and recycled as much as possible to reduce construction and demolition waste.
5. Commit to increasing community education, and tracking waste reduction progress.

What is needed to avoid incineration – Reduce the trash volume!

- Sullivan County needs a materials recycling facility that compliments single stream collection and reduces overall trash volume by 25 to 30% by people bringing and self-sorting their items.
- Encourage Rescue & Repair options, like ‘Repair Cafes’ for highest reuse of items.
- Universal composting programs that are easily and readily available.
- Initiate “pay-as-you-throw,” charging for trash by weight as an incentive for people to minimize trash. This reduces trash volumes by 44% on average, immediately.
- Any inappropriate dumping must be penalized!*

For example, Los Angeles reduced its trash volume by 65%!

WHAT TO DO? - Here are the steps and the benefits of these steps::

- a **Materials Recycling Facility**, like the Wayne County Recycling Center - reduces total county trash by 20%
- establishing “**pay as you throw**” unit pricing of trash volume - cuts area trash volume by another 40%
- Adding in **diversion composting**, 20 to 30% of ‘usual’ trash volume and **re-use/ refurbish of Construction and Demolition (C&D)** materials to divert another 10 to 15% of ‘usual’ trash volume and there is a **TOTAL diversion of up to 70 to 85% of ‘usual’ trash volume where these practices are used.**

Reducing trash volumes and no incineration cuts damage by 85% as less consumption and better recycling pay off. Sullivan residents’ physical and financial well-being are then protected.

SEE more on the DCS website - use the QR code above or do a search for “trash” in the search box on [DamascusCitizens.org](https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org) AND [Energy Justice Network R25-21 RFP Comments](https://www.energyjustice.org) see here: <https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Energy-Justice-Network-R25-21-RFP-Comments.pdf> or <https://bit.ly/4dFzbw6>

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