

3.6 Office Building Recycling Program

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 370, Environment-Recycling-Office Buildings, requiring the collection of recyclable materials from office buildings that have 150,000 square feet or greater of office space; requiring each owner of an office building to provide recycling receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials and for the removal of certain materials for further recycling by October 1, 2021; authorizing certain enforcement units to conduct certain inspections.

By October 1, 2021, unless otherwise agreed upon between an office building owner and a tenant of the office building, as specified, each owner of an office building must provide recycling receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials and for the removal (for further recycling) of the specified materials, as determined by the county or municipality in which the building is located.

Collection and Marketing of Materials

Office building owners, tenants, or through contracting with a private sector company, are responsible for providing all containers, labor, and equipment necessary to fulfill recycling requirements throughout their office buildings. The office building owner or tenants must ensure collection and transportation of recyclable materials to markets, or other legal recycling destinations.

Materials Required to be Recycled

Office building owners/tenants shall recycle the following materials:

- Corrugated Cardboard
- Mixed Paper
- Acceptable Plastic Bottles & Jugs
- Tin/Aluminum Beverage Containers

Responsible Parties

Entities that will be involved in implementing the Office Building Recycling Program include the office building owners and tenants of applicable office buildings, Kent County or its municipalities.

Newly Established/Renovated Office Buildings with at least 150,000 square feet of Office Space

At the time of implementation of this requirement, Kent County had no properties/office buildings that fell within the guidelines. Information was obtained from the Kent County Economic Development Department and SDAT records.

Newly constructed/renovated office buildings that meet the Annotated Code of Maryland, Office Building Recycling Program requirements shall begin participating in the program within three months of being notified by a Kent County agent or its municipalities.

Development/Implementation Schedule for the Office Building Recycling Program

- Kent County is required to amend its recycling plan within the Solid Waste Management Plan by October 1, 2020
- Office building owners/tenants shall provide recycling receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials (cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, tin/aluminum cans) by October 1, 2021.

Program Monitoring

Monitoring of the collection of recyclable materials required in office buildings will be conducted by the office building owners and/or tenants.

Kent County may require the office building owner to submit an annual report (recycling survey form) detailing the recycling tonnages removed from the office buildings and the name of markets or legal recycling destinations for the materials.

Kent County may provide an exemption or alter the requirements of this plan for an office building owner or tenant due to special circumstances identified in a written request, or in response to recycling market trends/conditions that affect the county or municipalities.

Program Enforcement

The County is not required to manage or enforce the recycling activities of an office building located within the boundaries of one of its municipalities; however, an enforcement agent of the County or municipality may conduct inspections in order to enforce this program.

The Environmental Operations Division will notify the office building owners/tenants of the implementation requirements in accordance with Sections 9-1714 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. The County Commissioners or the County Attorney will determine if the County should enforce the law and what level of enforcement actions should be used.