

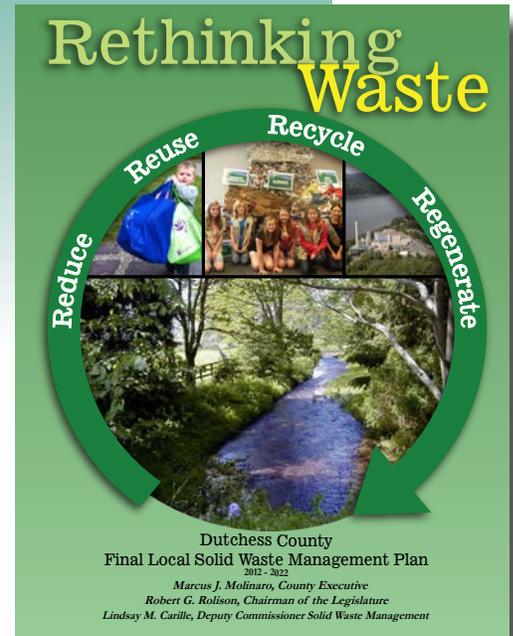
## RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION

**Provide for the separation and collection of recyclable materials, as well as the proper placement and screening of containers, as an essential part of every site plan and development review.**

Recycling is good for the environment, cost effective, and a requirement under Dutchess County law since 1990. Just as nature fully recycles water and nutrients, we can make sure that most waste products are not wasted, but instead reused as part of a whole systems approach to the flow of materials.

Priorities for rethinking the concept of waste are, first, to substantially reduce the amount of unnecessary waste generated, and then to maximize the reuse and recycling of materials that would otherwise be discarded. Recycling is one of the best and easiest ways to dramatically decrease the amount of waste being buried or burned.

Now that Dutchess County curbside collection has gone single stream, it is simpler than ever to recycle. Single stream collection and processing allows a full range of recyclable materials - paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and metals - to be mixed together in the same bin. The materials are separated at the recycling facility. This means only two containers are needed for almost all trash and recycling collection.



*Dutchess County's 2012 Local Solid Waste Management Plan*

### Make Recycling Routine

Planning for recycling should include placement of recycling bins in all common areas, such as sidewalks, parks, entrances to businesses, and public areas of larger residential complexes.



Recycling bins should be placed adjacent to every trash container. If recycling bins are placed too far apart from trash bins, people will often pick the closest container and throw their trash in the recycling bin or recyclables in the trash bin. When no recycling bin is provided, almost everything will be thrown in the trash.



Label containers so it is easy to tell which is for trash and which is for recyclables. The color of the bins, a recycling logo and images all help to easily identify a recycling container. Blue and/or green containers with the chasing arrows symbol are widely recognized to indicate recycling.

*The Village of Rhinebeck provides a variety of attractive street features, including street trees, planters, benches, and these solar compactors, which allow convenient and efficient collection of trash and recyclables.*

## Collection Area Design

Waste and recycling containers are serviced by large, heavy trucks that have limited maneuverability and restricted visibility directly behind the truck. Employees of commercial uses or residents of larger housing complexes need to be able to conveniently carry recyclables and trash from the point of generation to the containers. Other design requirements include:

**Safe and easy access.** Collection is primarily automated; the vehicle drives straight into the container area and remotely raises the receptacle into the truck. A clear maneuvering area with a level concrete container pad and front apron to bear the weight of the vehicle is necessary. If local codes limit early morning collection hours, trucks must be able to access containers during business hours through a full parking area or with vehicles stacked in a drive-thru lane.

**Adequate space.** A minimum of two containers, one for recyclables and one for waste, is necessary. If a high volume of cardboard will be generated, a third container may be desirable. A restaurant or other large food operation may also need containers for food scraps and cooking oil collection and recycling.

**Enclosures.** Secure enclosures create a clean and attractive site. The minimum gate width is typically 12 feet to accommodate the truck. Gates should be able to swing open to 120 degrees with an open position securing mechanism. A separate pedestrian entrance is encouraged.

**Durable materials.** Collection areas are subject to heavy use, so gate hardware should be strong enough to accommodate repetitive swinging and enclosures should be made of durable materials, protected in the front by steel corners or bollards. Lightweight fencing will not hold up over time.

**Overhead clearance.** If the enclosure is roofed, sufficient room to open the container lids 90 degrees needs to be provided. Generally, eight feet is needed to move the container away from the roofed enclosure, with a 20-foot clearance of overhead obstructions for the vehicle to lift and empty the container.

**Screening and Cleaning.** Supplemental screening with evergreen trees and other plants protects the views of nearby neighbors, and regular cleaning controls unwanted pests and odors. High-quality landscaping and solid, opaque materials that are compatible with the architecture of the buildings help integrate the enclosure with the rest of the site plan.



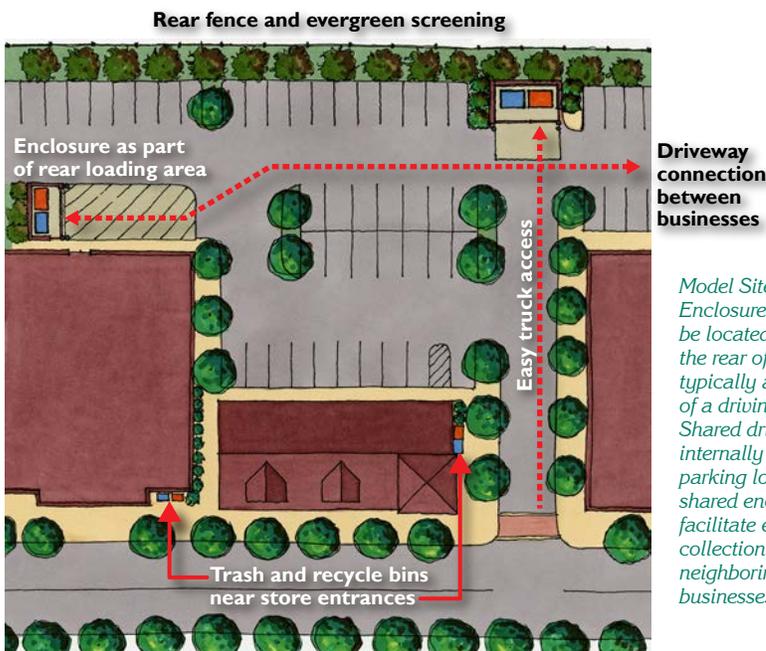
*This enclosure features attractive, durable materials that match the adjacent buildings, steel corner posts, separate pedestrian door, and evergreen screening with rear fence.*



*Incorporating an enclosure into the building context can encourage higher quality architectural treatment and better ongoing maintenance and cleanliness.*



*A well-built walk-in enclosure at a smaller office building keeps the site attractive for the residential neighborhood.*



*Model Site Plan: Enclosures should be located toward the rear of the site, typically at the end of a driving aisle. Shared driveways, internally connected parking lots, and shared enclosures facilitate efficient collection from neighboring businesses.*

The best sources for information on trash and recycling collection are the waste haulers licensed in Dutchess County. Consult with the local hauler early in the project. They can estimate the amount of capacity required, evaluate the placement of the containers, and spot design flaws in the enclosure or waste management system.

Source:  
*Rethinking Waste, Dutchess County Local Solid Waste Management Plan, 2012-2022*