



# RECYCLING Essentials

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**GREATER RICHMOND AREA:** 12206 Old Stage Road, Chester, VA 23836 • O: 804-706-5877 • F: 804-706-1666

**GREATER PENINSULA AREA:** 5602 Chestnut Avenue, Newport News, VA 23605 • O: 757-247-5766 • F: 757-247-9532



## FUN FACT:

In 2019, TFC recycled 85,736 tons of paper. At 17 trees recycled per ton, that's 1,457,512 trees.

*Thank you for Recycling!*



Dear Friends of Recycling,

At TFC Recycling, not only are our colors Green and Gold, it symbolizes who we are and why we are different.

The Green stands for our company-wide commitment to sustainability. Over one-third of our fleet now runs on cleaner burning Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles instead of diesel fuel. We are one of the only private haulers in the area that

brings unrecyclable waste to a Refused Derived Fuel plant that converts waste to energy instead of a landfill. Our educational and outreach efforts focus on ways to help customers reduce, reuse and recycle. We have invested millions of dollars into our Materials Recovery Facilities that separate recyclables more efficiently and effectively than anyone else in the region. And we do so much more in our efforts to leave our Earth a better cleaner place to live.

The Gold stands for our culture and commitment to service. We have a saying: "It is not how many customers we serve, but how we serve our customers." We are a locally owned and operated family business. Our success depends on our reputation and our ability to exceed our customer's expectation. We strive to provide



the best value and are blessed to be celebrating over 46 years in business. We appreciate our customers – the customers we serve and our committed TFC recycling team – for your business and commitment to be TFC Green and Gold!



Thanks and God Bless,

*Michael Benedetto*

Michael "Recycle" Benedetto

## New TFC Recycling Contracts

TFC Recycling is proud to announce in June that it has entered into new long-term contracts with the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk to provide curbside recycling collection and processing for their residents. These contracts maintain the partnerships for recycling services that TFC has continued to provide over the last ten years.

“We are pleased with the commitment to recycling and sustainability shown by Chesapeake and Suffolk and look forward our continued involvement through these new contracts”, said Michael Benedetto, President of TFC Recycling.



TFC collects recyclables from approximately 68,000 and 32,000 residents in Chesapeake and Suffolk, respectively. In 2019 the company processed over 150,000 tons of recyclables at its Material Recovery Facility, which has operated in Chesapeake since 1973. Chesapeake generated approximately 14,500 of those tons with Suffolk at 5,800 tons.



Tad Phillips,  
VP of Strategy  
& Business  
Development

## It's All About the “Why”



“We are changing the way our industry does business because we passionately believe that it is our responsibility to care for the environment by preserving our natural resources and by improving the air quality in our communities. We do this by using innovative technology to capture more resources and improve air emissions quality of our fleet in a manner that ensures the safety of our employees and the public. We believe in the passionate pursuit of excellence in everything we do.” - TFC Mission Statement

I frequently remind our management team that it's all about the “why”. The “why” represents the purpose, cause and beliefs of the organization- why TFC exists. I believe our mission statement above reflects this conviction.

Most companies will tell customers what they do and how they do it better. At TFC, we tell our customers why we do what we do. Our goal is NOT to do business with everyone who needs our service but rather to do business with those who share our beliefs. We tell our customers why we do what we do because that is the foundation of building long-term relationships. And we have many!

TFC is NOT the largest and most capitalized company in our industry. Those companies have tremendous resources and talented people. Yet against these competitors, we succeed. We succeed because we have purpose, a belief system that our customers and the public at large understand, appreciate and can follow. They get our “why”.

Over the past several years, TFC has faced what at times seemed like insurmountable challenges, at first dramatic changes in the recycling industry and more recently, the COVID-19 crisis. Yet, though all of this we never lost sight of the “why”. Nor have we lost sight of the many employees who have remained and weathered the storm with us. We are now well positioned for future growth, are humbled by the passion of those who share our beliefs and excited that all of you, employees and customers alike, are on the journey with us. -Paul



Paul Stacharczyk,  
Senior Vice President/COO

## Hoses, Cords, Wires, Chains – Just trash ‘em!

### Is your recycling tangling up the process?

We have all been there before – our necklaces have tangled themselves together, string or wires have stopped up our vacuum roller, our headphones become a knotted mess in our pocket. Here we are, faced with the frustrating and time-consuming challenge of detangling something!



What does this have to do with recycling? Imagine that same challenge and frustration on a much, much, much larger scale!

When items such as hoses, cords, wires, chains, ropes, and plastic bags are placed in a curbside recycling bin, people just like you and I are faced with the daunting challenge of detangling them from recycling processing equipment.

Every day, individuals working at material recovery facilities (MRFs), spend up to eight hours removing “tangles” from equipment. This creates an unnecessary safety hazard for workers and forces the MRFs to shut down, wasting time that could be used to successfully recover material for recycling.

### What exactly is a “tangler”?

Tangles are any item that can wrap around equipment at a recycling processing facility — this includes, but is not limited to, plastic bags, plastic film (think thin plastic wrap that you put around food or plastic that is put around plastic bottles to keep them together), clothing, ropes, strands of lights, hoses, wires, chains, blinds cords, and metal hangers.

Tangles are a part of a longer list of recycling contaminants (items that cannot be recycled curbside, that are placed in the recycling bin). Along with batteries, electronics, Styrofoam, and food waste, tangles are one of the worst culprits that can't be recycled, but that people put in their curbside recycling.

There is no way to be certain how these tangles find their way into a curbside recycling bin, but one guess is “wish-cycling” — well-intentioned recycling that ends up creating more problems than solutions.

“Wish-cycling” often occurs when someone thinks an item, like a hose or metal chain, has value and can be made into something else through curbside recycling. There may be alternative locations where these items can be recycled or sent for reuse – always check your local recycling website for drop off sites for items that can be recycled. Otherwise, although you may wish you can, you cannot recycle your hose in your curbside recycling!

### Simple steps to help.

Keep recycling equipment tangler-free and working properly by leaving plastic bags, plastic film, clothing, ropes, strands of lights, hoses, wires, chains, metal hangers, and other unaccepted materials out of your recycle bin.

Find the right location to take these materials for recycling or reuse. Items such as plastic bags, film and wrap can be taken to retail drop-off locations to be recycled (take them back to your grocery store). These locations do not have to sort the bags from other materials, avoiding the equipment challenges and making recycling possible.

Scrap metal, such as those metal chains, can be taken to scrap metal recyclers, where they can be sent to become new car parts or appliances and not damage recycling processing equipment.

Clothing and textiles can be taken to your local thrift store to be reused, reducing waste and helping your local community.

Recycle the right items in your curbside bin as often as possible, keeping the recycling system healthy and alive.

### Keep Out

- Hose, cords, clothes

### Take to store

- Plastic film and wrap
- Batteries (there are also some drop-off locations for batteries and small electronics)

### Donate

- Clothes
- Linens

### Always recycle curbside

- Paper
- Bottles
- Cans

Article courtesy of THE RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

## Have you heard about Recycling Perks?

Recycling Perks is helping cities and haulers incentivize making the world greener, one home at a time. The Chesapeake-based company strives to improve household recycling efforts, reduce waste, and promote local businesses by offering great savings and exclusive deals that reward residents. Their slogan says it all: “you recycle, we reward”. Over the last ten years, they have expanded their reach to households in 9 states and are determined to continue expanding.

For the Recycling Perks team, it's not just about changing the world. Recycling Perks wants each and every resident to feel awesome about the role they play in achieving this mission. Not only can eligible residents discover great local businesses that offer discounts as perks for recycling, but they can also find rewards from national businesses that help them live their lives more sustainably, making a positive difference every day.



“ This program makes me feel good about the community in which I live and get rewarded for doing my part to help keep it clean. ”

-Greg Guertin, Recycling Perks member

The Recycling Perks rewards program is currently available in several cities across the United States. Participation in the program is free to local residents in most TFC service areas. Residents can head to [www.recyclingperks.com/find-my-city/](http://www.recyclingperks.com/find-my-city/) to see if they are eligible and sign up for their free account. Any city wishing to join the program can contact Recycling Perks at [www.recyclingperks.com](http://www.recyclingperks.com) or 855-813-2154.

“ I love the program, your educational materials, and your ideas. Thank you for all you do. I know it must feel like an uphill battle sometimes, but you really are making a difference! ”

-Kathy Day, Recycling Perks member





TFC was honored to be awarded the  
2019 Green Supplier of the Year by Virginia Green Travel Alliance!

The Green Supplier of the Year is awarded to those who are the most active suppliers of green products and services. TFC Recycling is Virginia's largest residential curbside recycler and the local leader in collection, processing, and marketing of recyclable materials and managing solid waste in VA and NC through innovative material recovery.



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Thank you for this recognition! #VaGreenTravel2020

# RECYCLE RIGHT



**PAPER**

Flattened Cardboard, Newspaper, Magazines, & Mail



**BOTTLES**

Kitchen, Laundry, Plastic Bottles & Jugs (empty, rinse & remove cap)



**CANS**

Aluminum and Steel Food & Beverage Cans (empty & rinse)



**GLASS**

Bottles & Jars (empty, rinse & remove lid)



**CARTONS**

Food & Beverage Cartons (empty, rinse & remove cap)

The items above are acceptable in all TFC Recycling programs.

Please visit <http://cvwma.com/programs/curbside-recycling/what-to-recycle/> for the list of additional acceptable items in the Greater Richmond area.

**NO!**



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap



Do Not Bag Recyclables (keep them loose)



No Tangles, Cords, Hoses, or Ropes



No Flammables, Gas Tanks, Batteries, Propane Tanks, Paint, or Aerosol Cans



No Food, Liquid, or Pizza Boxes (empty all containers)



No Styrofoam™ (carryout or packing material)

## EMPLOYEE Spotlight



**Victoria Norcini** is our Sales and Communications Supervisor that has been with us since May of 2013. When asked what her favorite part of working at TFC is, she said, "The people I work with. We are like a big happy family."



**Nikki Artis** has been with TFC since July of 2019. She is most proud of being recognized for her hard work ethics and being promoted within her first year to Broker Executive. "Nikki enjoys spending time with her children, fishing and having some fun at the beach."



**Regina Thompson** has been with our Customer Engagement Team since January of this year. Her favorite part of working at TFC is speaking to customers and building relationships with them on an individual level. In her spare time she enjoys reading and hanging out in nature.



**Kirsten Johnson** has been with TFC since March of this year. She is most proud of being able to assist our customers by listening to their wants, needs, and concerns. In her spare time, she enjoys walking on the beach, reading, watching movies and tv shows. She enjoys board games and puzzles of all kinds. Welcome Kirsten to our Communications Team!



**Aimy McKillop** has been with TFC since October of 2019 and is our Sales and Communications Coordinator. "I enjoy the fun we have as a team. We get our work done, but we also incorporate fun! We have team meetings 2x a day to stay connected. Victoria has formed a team that is diverse and we all work together cohesively."