

## Chirandu Farm Testimony

The County recently passed a law allowing farms to compost food scraps and farm materials on-site, supporting its 10-year plan to reduce waste. This is a great step toward making composting more accessible across the county.

Chirandu Farm is a small farm that has been growing vegetables for four years as part of Montgomery County's farm ecosystem. Our vegetables are distributed through food banks, helping provide fresh, healthy food to local residents. Like many small farms, buying compost is expensive, and transporting it adds even more costs. Being able to compost on-site would save money on both purchasing and transportation while turning food scraps and farm waste into nutrient-rich soil for our crops.

This system helps us grow better food, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, lowers transportation costs, and keeps waste out of landfills—all while supporting the county's waste reduction goals. With so many benefits for farmers, the environment, and the community, why isn't this initiative more prominently featured in the Plan?