



**COMPREHENSIVE  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2025 – 2034  
Montgomery County, Maryland**

**Prepared per Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article of the  
Annotated Code of Maryland**

**Adopted by the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland,  
by Resolution Number 20-771 Adopted April 8, 2025**

**Department of Environmental Protection  
Recycling and Resource Management Division**

**Wheaton, Maryland**

## INTRODUCTION

The Montgomery County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (the “SWMP”) for the succeeding ten-year planning period of 2025 – 2034 was prepared according to Title 9, Subtitle 5, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Regulations under the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.03.03. An Executive Summary, the Montgomery County Council Resolution adopting this Plan, and the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) approval letter are included.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Montgomery County, Maryland, Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (the “SWMP”) for the succeeding ten-year planning period of 2025 - 2034 has been prepared in accordance with Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.03.03. The Montgomery County Council has adopted the Plan through Resolution No. 20-771 and approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

The Annotated Code of Maryland requires the County to review and update the SWMP for the succeeding ten-year planning period at least once every three years.

The County is undertaking a robust analysis of alternative options for recycling and managing solid waste materials, expanding current recycling efforts, and developing new recycling and waste diversion programs as part of its ongoing “Aiming for Zero Waste” (AZW) initiative. The intent of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management System Analysis is to assist the County with achieving the following goals:

- Manage its solid waste materials in an environmentally and socially responsible manner;
- Continue to provide exceptional, reliable, and cost-effective solid waste management and recycling services to the County now and in the future; and
- Modernize and improve our solid waste materials management system.

This alternatives analysis will provide the County with the information required to make informed, data-driven decisions to develop and implement a solid waste management system designed to meet the County’s needs for the next 20-30 years. The analysis will provide a clear understanding of financial costs, environmental and public health impacts, racial and social justice implications, facility impacts, and operational concerns.

The following changes and other pertinent documents are included in this SWMP:

**Chapter 1** provides an overview of the laws, regulations, and government agencies that are a part of this SWMP. Changes to this chapter include:

- Updates to applicable laws and regulations.
- Reference to Food Residuals – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion Regulations (COMAR 26.04.13).
- Reference to House Bill, HB 161 – Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act 2023.

**Chapter 2** provides an overview of population and employment trends and land use considerations that impact present and future solid waste management considerations. Changes to this chapter include:

- Updates to population projections and employment trends.
- Reference to Household Growth Projection for 2034 by policy area.
- Updates to figures and maps as applicable.
- Reference to Community Equity Index in relation to solid waste facilities.
- Reference to highlights of the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, based on Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive).
- Reference to zoning requirements related to solid waste management activities.

**Chapter 3** provides detailed data on waste generation and describes waste collection and acceptance facilities. Changes to this chapter include:

- Updates to waste generation tonnages.
- Updates to figures and maps as applicable. A new map presenting all county-owned facilities and private facilities is included.
- Updates to the summary of Materials Management in Incorporated Cities and Municipalities.
- Updates to the summary of the number of households served and tons managed by each subdistrict in CY2022.
- Updates to biosolids information based on the 2022 Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan and correspondence with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.
- Updates to information regarding in-county solid waste acceptance facilities, including the newly permitted Composting Facility by Compost Crew at Wasche Farm and Aspen Nursery.
- Inclusion of CY2022 tonnage data of solid waste leaving the County for processing, recovery, and disposal.

**Chapter 4** assesses solid waste management needs to address waste generation changes or challenges as well as facility constraints. Changes to this chapter include:

- Updates to waste generation and recycling data using MDE-provided baseline data, CY2022.
- The latest adopted Montgomery County Ten-Year Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan (2022) was used to determine the current conditions and constraints as well as the needs assessment for biosolids and septage management. Correspondence with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission clarified conditions, constraints, and the needs assessment since the 2022 Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan was adopted.
- Inclusion of a new planning initiative for exploring food waste composting, including efforts to establish best management practices through commercial and residential pilot projects.
- Inclusion of the constraints of County-owned acceptance facilities and County facilities needing incremental processing capacity during the term of this SWMP.
- Updates to land use constraints.

- Updates to incentive zoning system (commercial-residential and employment zones).

**Chapter 5** Describes the robust analysis of alternative options for recycling and managing solid waste materials, aiming to design a solid waste management system for the next 20 to 30 years. This chapter will be amended as results and decisions are made to address solid waste generation changes, materials management, and new and improved recycling and solid waste processing facilities. In addition to the planning efforts, this chapter describes the current efforts that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD) are implementing to reduce waste and improve processing capacity:

- Each county-owned facility has an updated Plan of Action to improve safety and increase productivity.
- Discussion about the need for capacity for composting and recycling processing.
- Updates to the Plan of Action for solid waste generation and maximize recycling.
- Updated Plan of Action for biosolids' management.
- Discussion about the Financial Management System of DEP/RRMD that addresses the in-depth role of Chapter 48, the Montgomery County Code, and the Master Authorization in the financial management of the solid waste enterprise fund. This information was included in anticipation of the upcoming financial needs to implement strategies, programs, and infrastructure to reduce waste and increase recycling, as described in Chapter 5 of the SWMP.

Chapter 5 also introduces the County's Aiming for Zero Waste (AZW) initiative. The AZW initiative will include various programs and projects that encompass waste diversion and reduction, recycling and composting, facility upgrades, and operational modifications, including but not limited to the planned closure of the Resource Recovery Facility, education and outreach, and associated policy and programmatic changes. This SWMP is a critical element of the AZW initiative as it provides a foundation for the plan of action over the succeeding 10-year planning period. This SWMP will be amended as required during the succeeding 10-year planning period as AZW programs and projects are implemented. The currently identified programs and projects to support the AZW initiative are listed below:

- Commercial Food Scraps Recycling Partnership Program
- Residential Food Scraps Pilot Program
- Save-As-You-Throw Program with co-collection of Food Scraps and Yard Trim
- Edible Food Recovery Program
- Organics Management Facility Development
- Material Recovery Facility Upgrades
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management System Analysis
- Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Program
- Subdistrict B Consolidation

Resolution No.:	<u>20-771</u>
Introduced:	<u>January 14, 2025</u>
Adopted:	<u>April 8, 2025</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: County Council at the Request of the County Executive

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**SUBJECT:** Adoption of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

**Background**

1. Pursuant to Sections 9-503 and 9-515 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the governing body of each County is required to adopt and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) a ten-year plan dealing with solid waste disposal systems, solid waste acceptance facilities, and the systematic collection and disposal of solid waste. The Environment Article further requires each County to review its solid waste management plan at least every three years.
2. On October 12, 2021, the County Council, by Resolution 19-1008, adopted the current 2020-2029 Ten Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for Montgomery County.
3. On October 22, 2021, the MDE received the SWMP for its review and approval to meet the requirements of Section 9- 507 of the Environment Article.
4. On February 3, 2022, the MDE approved the adopted SWMP and set September 1, 2024, as the deadline for the County to submit a draft 2025-2034 SWMP.
5. On August 30, 2024, the draft of the 2025-2034 SWMP was sent to MDE for its technical review and tentative approval.
6. On September 24, 2024 , MDE completed the review and determined that the Draft 2025-2034 SWMP will meet the requirements outlined in Sections 9-503, 9-505, 9-1703 of the Environment Article, and COMAR 26.03.03 provided that DEP modified the Plan according to MDE's instructions.
7. On December 31, 2024, the County Executive transmitted to the County Council a revised Ten Year Plan entitled "Montgomery County, Maryland Comprehensive Solid Waste

Management Plan for the Years 2025 through 2034" (dated December 2024) responsive to the foregoing MDE preview comments, and new legislation.

8. On February 11, 2025 a public hearing was held pursuant to Section 9-505 of the Environment Article.
9. On March 24, 2025, the Transportation & Environment Committee discussed and recommended approval of the "Montgomery County, Maryland Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2025 through 2034" with changes.
10. On April 8, 2025, the County Council discussed the "Montgomery County, Maryland Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2025 through 2034" and the Transportation & Environment Committee's recommendations.

### **Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, adopts the following resolution:

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2020 through 2029 is wholly superseded and replaced with the "Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2025 through 2034," dated April, 2025.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



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Sara R. Tenenbaum  
Clerk of the Council



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary  
Adam Ortiz, Deputy Secretary

June 24, 2025

The Honorable Kate Stewart  
President  
Montgomery County Council  
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmember Stewart:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has completed its review of Montgomery County's (the "County") Resolution 20-771 for adopting the County's 2025-2034 Solid Waste Management Plan (the "Plan"). The County Council adopted the Plan on April 8, 2025, and submitted the Plan to MDE for its review and approval to meet the requirements of Section 9- 507 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. MDE received the adopted Plan on May 5, 2025.

Based on this review, MDE has determined that the adopted resolution satisfies the requirements of Sections 9-503, 9-505, and 9-1703 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. The resolution also satisfies the requirements of the Code of Maryland Regulations 26.03.03. In accordance with Section 9-507(a) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Plan is approved.

Section 9-515(b) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the Montgomery County Council to prepare a County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) **at least once every three years**. The County Council must consider factors such as planning, zoning, and population estimates in the statement of objectives and policies of the SWMP. The law requires the County Executive to prepare preliminary and final drafts of the SWMP and submit them to the County Council for its approval. A new County-adopted 2029-2038 SWMP must be approved by MDE by **December 31, 2028**. To ensure that the 2029-2038 SWMP review process is completed in accordance with the statutory requirements, MDE recommends that the County submit a draft 2029-2038 SWMP to MDE for its review and comments prior to the County's adoption of the 2029-2038 SWMP. The draft 2029-2038 SWMP should be submitted to MDE for its tentative review by **June 30, 2028**.

Section 9-506(b)(2) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the County to submit a progress report to MDE at least every two years. Since the County's Plan was adopted on April 8, 2025, the progress report is due on or before **April 8, 2027**.



Thank you for your continuing interest and cooperation in providing sound and long-term solid waste management planning for Montgomery County. If you have questions or need additional clarification these matters, please contact me at 410-537-3381 or by email at [rick.kessler@maryland.gov](mailto:rick.kessler@maryland.gov), or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Bradley Baker, Manager, Resource Management Program, at 410- 537- 3314 or by email at [Bradley.baker1@maryland.gov](mailto:Bradley.baker1@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Rick Kessler

Director

Land and Materials Administration

cc: Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive  
John Monger, Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)  
Willie Wainer, Chief, Division of Recycling and Resource Management, DEP  
Marilu Enciso, Senior Planning Specialist, DEP  
Bradley Baker  
Dave Mrgich, Chief, Waste Diversion Division, MDE  
Tariq Masood, Project Manager, Waste Diversion Division, MDE