

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2022 – 5:30 – 7:30pm

MEETING NOTES

SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carol Jones, Chair Robin Barr (MML rep.), Vice Chair Adam Diamond, Secretary Jasim Ahmed Sara Bixby	Troy Cavell Paula Jenson Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett Amy Maron	Ellen Ryan Candy Schimming Mark Symborski, (MD NCPPC rep, non- voting member)
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SWAC MEMBER ABSENT: Chaz Miller, Heidi Lovett, Shaun Kiviat

RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Willie Wainer, Director, Recycling and Resource Management Division (RRMD)

Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide, RRMD

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:34 PM on June 1, 2022.

Motion by Sara, second by Fred to approve minutes of the April meeting (accurate as of the time of that meeting). Carried, all indicating approval.

The Chair welcomed the new 5 members to SWAC as of June 1.

Briefing by Willie Wainer—Review of RRMD Programs

Goals of the program:

- 1) Provide excellent customer service
- 2) Aim for Zero Waste, with guidance from the TF of the same name

Recycling Performance: Montgomery County has the highest recycling rate in CY 2020 among all MD counties, using the MDE recycling measure. The MDE report was just published:

- Direct link to (1-page) MDE chart with the cross county comparison:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/Resources/Files/recycling-rate/CY20-mass-balance.pdf>
- MDE report it comes from, which has a lot more information:
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/Documents/MD%20Solid%20Waste%20Managemen-t%20and%20Diversion%20Report%20CY20%20%281%29.pdf>

Note: 2021 figures will not be public until MDE approves them, around this time next year.

Program Updates:

- **Commercial food scraps program**
 - Started two years ago. Very successful. 4 partners graduated to date.
 - Goal of program: show businesses that food recovery is possible. Prepare them to contract with private food scraps hauler after learning the ropes in the program.
 - Partners are businesses that have been identified as producing a significant amount of food scraps that are not being recovered. Provide them training and containers.
 - Have 24 in program now. Adding nine more partners June 13.
 - To date, close to 1 million lbs. recovered through the program.
 - On another front, a new MD law SB264 requires large generators within 30 miles of a recycling facility to take food scraps there. RRMD is doing outreach and providing education to these businesses. RRMD estimates over 1,000 businesses meet the 1 ton/week threshold.
 - Don't know about enforcement of state mandate, but County will track entities subject to law.
- **Residential food scraps program**
 - Residential Pilot: one each, subdistricts A and B. Higher response in Silver Spring than Potomac. Have expanded program to two routes in each area. Getting a lot of data on weekly diversion and participation rates per hh. Collection same day as trash/recycling.
 - Extending pilot for one more year, for a total of 2 years, and will expand geographic scope to add two other areas, one in each subdistrict. For subdistrict B, will select an area around Montgomery Village, which has highest contamination rates for recycling. Also looking in Bethesda for subdistrict A.
 - Finding very little contamination
- **Contamination prevention program**
 - Inspectors go ahead of recycling trucks and tag containers with contamination, explaining why they were not picked up. Give residents the opportunity to remove contaminants and put recycling out the next week for pick-up. Started with pilot in Montgomery Village, which had highest contamination rate. Residents appreciate recycling education.
 - A huge success in reducing contamination at MRF—was 40%, now gone down to 15%--saving \$500k a year in processing costs, and exportation of waste materials.
- **Backyard composting—**
 - Have 500 residents that are trying rodent proof containers. Will continue with this pilot. It is an important option to provide for recycling organics, since some people want to do their own composting.
- **E-waste collection**
 - New pilot program has been going well. Batteries frequently catch fire at transfer station and MRF. Want to recover as many electronics as possible. Will amend all hauler contracts to include electronics collection. At transfer station, recyclers take televisions and other devices.

- **Save as You Throw RFP**

- Close to having a contract for this. Will disclose company once contract is finalized. Will be with one of premier PAYT companies in the country. They will look into how to deal with subdistrict issue. Will have to look at how to price, given the county's system benefit charge and free drop-off program at transfer station.
- If consultant says need to merge subdistricts to make PAYT work then could put proposal to County Council to create one collection district.

Questions and Answers

Q: Does MoCo have adequate capacity to handle commercial food waste diversion/recycling covered by mandate?

Willie: Counting on AD facility in Jessup—can handle businesses east of Georgia Avenue. Pre-consumer waste is fine for AD facility, but soiled paper not good. Will require a lot of education for generators.

DEP is putting together an RFP for organics processing infrastructure.

Q: What about post-consumer waste?

Willie: Post-consumer is more difficult part. Pre-consumer is pretty easy. Teach kitchen personnel to only put food scraps into dedicated containers.

Q: Why not go countywide with residential organics curbside collection now, after initial pilot is concluded?

Willie: Cost is considerable to purchase containers for 220,000 residents - about \$12-15 million. Don't yet know where there is capacity to recycle food waste on large scale. There is room at the Dickerson facility to expand composting and build a combined food scrap and yard waste composting facility at Dickerson like the one in Prince Georges County, but the Sugarloaf agreement is currently an obstacle. County needs an independent report that lays out opportunities and options for handling food scraps—either composting or AD. If report says combine yard waste with food scraps, and Dickerson is best place, the County Council and County Executive will have to weigh in.

SWAC updates: SWAC subcommittee reports

- Carol explained the SWAC's subcommittees, provided updates, and asked for volunteers for each particularly from the new members to SWAC
- Candy: Schools - presentation on food waste composting in Montgomery County schools at next meeting
- Jasim: volunteered for the Schools committee
- Sara: Chairing Subdistrict Consolidation subcommittee; Troy volunteered for the committee
- Amy: volunteered for Traditional recycling committee (plastics, EPR – Jawondo bill); plus Subdistrict Consolidation.
- Have had a public education committee in the past. Have addressed this within topic areas, but may want a separate committee.

- Two topic areas are not yet assigned to a subcommittee.
 - Incorporating ZW TF actions into the county’s **Climate Action Plan *List of Actions***. The Climate Action Plan has a chapter on zero waste, but they were not included in the List of Actions that are being prioritized and whose implementation is tracked.
 - A public information campaign for Zero Waste initiatives.

Potential Topics for Future SWAC Meetings

- July topic is Sustainability in MoCo Public Schools.
- Other suggestions:
 - RRMD budget presentation, issues under consideration at the beginning of the budget cycle (Fall 2022)
 - RRMD Performance measures
 - Public information campaign for Zero Waste Initiatives (as per SWAC April 2022 budget letter)
 - Incorporating ZW TF actions into CAP list of actions (as per SWAC April 2022 budget letter)
 - C&D waste

Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 pm

ACRONYMS

C&D	Construction and Demolition	MML	Maryland Municipal League
CC	County Council	OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
CE	County Executive	PAYT	Pay As You Throw
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
CPI	Consumer Price Index	RRMD	Recycling & Resource Management Division
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group	SA	Service Area for County collection
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection	SAYT	Save As You Throw
FTE	Full Time Employee	SCA	Sugarloaf Community Association
FY	Fiscal Year	SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment	SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
MC	Montgomery County	T&E	Transportation and Environment Committee
MES	Maryland Environmental Services	TPD	Tons per Day
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility	ZWTF	Zero Waste Task Force