

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 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 Fred Kranz Heidi Lovett Amy Maron Chaz Miller	Ellen Ryan Candy Schimming Mark Symborski, (MD NCPPC rep, non- voting member)
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SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Troy Cavell, Paula Jenson, Shaun Kiviat

RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

Sarah Mueller, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide, RRMD

INVITED SPEAKERS: Lynne Zárate, Director, Richard Benjamin, and John Meyer III, Division of Sustainability and Compliance, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

GUESTS: Annmarie Bookbinder-Hart, Beth Gingold, Tim Kerr, Diane Lill, Shannon Macdonald, Janet Owens, Erin Petersen

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:34 PM on July 13, 2022.

Featured Presentation: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Sustainability Efforts

Speakers: Lynne Zárate, Director; Richard Benjamin, and John Meyer III, Division of Sustainability and Compliance, MCPS

The Division of Sustainability and Compliance addresses:

- energy and utilities use (a large expenditure item for MCPS);
- environmental compliance (including with underground storage tanks, HazMat, air, water regulations)
- School energy and recycling teams (SERT) program, which “provides necessary resources to staff and students at all Montgomery County Public Schools to help foster a culture of environmental conservation. The special focus of the program is energy efficiency and recycling participation”
- fire codes and indoor air quality

Milestones and Targets

- Montgomery County Climate Action Plan (2021): reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2027, 100% by 2035
- MCPS Sustainability Policy (adopted June 2022): commits the school district to GHG emission reductions in line with the County's Climate Action Plan

Green Features and Recognitions

- 17 MCPS locations have solar PV panels (4.1 MW direct current installed); new structures are built with panels; MCPS is purchasing parking lot lights that are solar powered
- 40 schools have full or partial green roofs
- 32 schools have geothermal technology
- 83 schools have bioretention systems
- 11 MCPS schools have received national Green Ribbon award from US. Dept. of Education
- 91 schools certified under Maryland Green Schools Award
- 37 schools have been built to LEED certification standards; MCPS is transitioning to Green Globes certification for future new construction

Food Waste Reduction, Recovery and Composting

- Food waste separation for recovery or recycling at schools is voluntary: programs are initiated at the school level typically by students, funded by external grants or PTA donations, with support from DSC SERT program and local principals and faculty
- Food scrap recycling in SY2021-2022,
 - Pre-consumer— 7 tons of pre-consumer compostables were collected at two sites (Nutritional Services Central Food Processing and Carver Educational Service Center Cafeteria); these sites are participating in DEP's Commercial Food Scraps Recycling Partnership Program
 - Post-consumer—37 tons of post-consumer compostables are collected from 15 schools (including 10 elementary schools) and hauled by contracted private haulers; in SY2022-2023, 4 more schools (2 elementary and 2 middle schools) will be recycling food scraps
- Food recovery and donation:
 - Stephen Knolls School, a special education program, will be the first MCPS school to pilot food recovery
 - MCPS will continue the use of carts that can be moved around the school after lunch, rather than share tables as a way to share edible food with hungry students
- Food waste reduction is included in the curriculum: connection to nature, food insecurity

Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Montgomery County regulations require recycling of paper and cardboard, various items that are commingled, yard waste, and scrap metal
- In addition, MCPS recycles more than 20 other materials through a voluntary recycling program, including new streams launched in Q2 2022 (markers, single use batteries, glue sticks and bottles), as well as auto batteries, electronics, plastic film, marker pens, motor oil, used tires, wood pallets (and more)

- *Drive for Supplies Program*—collects leftover supplies from lockers at the end of the year, which are then distributed by the International Office to international students

School-level Sustainability Action Plans

- Schools develop plans at beginning of each school year to guide sustainability efforts.
- Every school designates a Recycling Coordinator

Questions and Answers

Are there solid waste requirements included in the various “green” certifications?

- Yes, for national and state programs—waste metrics. For Green School Program need photographic evidence and talk about practices.

Do procurement guidelines include sustainability considerations?

- Procurement guidelines talk about environmental sustainability in procurement.

What waste reduction actions does MCPS carry out?

- Packaging: promote waste reduction through bulk packaging of chrome books; work with contractor to change materials used in packaging. Get rid of installation disks for all new computers, as well as wires for each computer.
- Salvage: e.g., HVAC and locks at demolished schools.

Are there any studies on recycling/generation rates?

- In county stats, the school diversion is lumped into the nonresidential diversion category
- A study was commissioned several years ago; they want to put in a budget request for new study.
- Some schools publish “School Report cards” that show recycling rates

Who collects solid waste?

- Trash is collected by MCPS employees. Recycling is collected by contractors.

RRMD Updates

- As recommended in our April 2022 budget letter, the just-released [MoCo Climate Action Plan Annual Report](#) includes Zero Waste as a new category of activities – see p. 115! At the moment, the page is mainly a placeholder, waiting for the content re the specific zero waste activities to be added. Going forward, zero waste will be included in Work plans and Accomplishment statements. Note that SWAC is cited as providing support to DEP in creating that content, drawing on the Zero Waste TF report.
- MES released their report summarizing and evaluating the two responses to the County’s ROI for Municipal Solid Waste Acceptance, Processing, Transportation and Disposal
- The County awarded a contract for design of a PAYT system for the County
- DEP has expanded recycling collection of electronics to cover service areas 8 through 16 (in Subdistrict B).

SWAC Discussion of Priorities for Future Meeting Topics

Top priorities for the next meetings were:

- Food waste information and education campaigns
- **(October)** RRMD budget presentation, issues under consideration at the beginning of the budget cycle (Fall 2022), Speaker: Willie Wainer (to inform a SWAC letter to County)
- RRMD Performance measures, Speaker: Willie Wainer
- C&D waste: current status (quantity generated, facilities processing it), current approached and future options to promote waste reduction and reuse

Other topics proposed include:

- Optimizing washing and reuse of packaging, Possible Speaker: Crystal Dreisbach, Don't Waste Durham, plus local
- DEP Public Information Activities, Possible speaker: Cindy Pena, DEP Public information officer
- Organics recycling facilities - Onsite composting (restaurants, multi-unit housing), Speaker: Jeffrey Neal, Loop Closing: <https://www.loopclosing.com/>

SWAC adjourned at 7:50 pm.

ACRONYMS

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