

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 7, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30pm

MEETING NOTES

SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

RRMD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

David Frank, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD
Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD
Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Aide, RRMD

GUESTS: Jane De Marines, Janet Owens

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 5:34 PM on September 7, 2022.

Featured Presentation: Reducing Wasted Food and Increasing Edible Food Recovery in Montgomery County and Outreach, Education and Technical Resources Plan re: MD HB 264 (Food residuals diversion mandate)

Speaker: Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, RRMD

Food is too good to waste educational campaign

- In RRMD’s efforts to reduce wasted food, the emphasis on education and outreach, raising public awareness of this issue and offering strategies to reduce food waste: “reducing food waste begins with you.”
- The information has been translated into three languages (French, Spanish, and Mandarin) and appears in brochures, magnets, a 30-second video, as well as online
- Media used to disseminate the information include websites: DEP/RRMD, Chamber of Commerce; social media, cable TV, streaming radio, movie theatres; ads on buses, bike kiosks; Washington Post inserts, mailings

Edible Food Recovery Program

- RRMD is developing a mandatory edible food recovery program, in consultation with DHHS, Food Council, and Community Food Rescue

- The Working Group has developed interim recommendations, and are now seeking funding to collect data to estimate how much edible food is available for recovery in the County
- Additional funding and resources will be necessary to establish initiatives and support program

Q & A:

Q: How many FTEs for enforcement in waste reduction section?

A: 4 investigators—3 for commercial, 1 for multi-family. They enforce chapter 48 laws on waste, and recycling regulations, including material bans, e.g. for #6 plastic food service ware and plastic straws.

Q: What data exist to track the quantity of edible food potentially available for recovery? Does the County waste composition study capture this?

A: To estimate total food scraps generated, RRMD is currently using data on food scraps in the municipal waste stream from 2017 waste composition study, and a new waste composition study is in process. However, these studies do not distinguish between edible and non-edible food scraps. Manna collects data on tons of food recovered.

Q: Who in County Government works on distributing recovered food to people in need?

A: It will continue to be a partnership. Within county government the key groups are RRMD, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section and Health and Human Services colleagues.

Q: What impact has the Pandemic had on food waste trends? The waste composition study will reflect these changes. Already know that the majority of food waste during the pandemic was from residential; it had been from commercial sector before the Pandemic.

The new normal includes a lot of teleworking. The next waste composition study will reflect these changes. With the pandemic, it may be harder to recover edible food from commercial establishments.

Outreach, Education and Technical Resources Plan re: MD HB 264 (Food residuals diversion mandate)

RRMD was successful in contacting 1459 of the ~1600 business initially identified as potentially covered by the new diversion mandate. (The remainder may not be in operation now.) Based on survey responses, RRMD estimates that 71 businesses meet the 2 TPW threshold effective January 1, 2023 (generating a minimum of 7384 TPY) and 126 additional businesses meet the 1 TPW threshold effective January 1, 2024 (generating a minimum of 6552 TPY). (To be covered by the mandate, businesses also have to be within 30 miles of an operating food scraps recycling facility; because the RRMD calculations did not include the new Bioenergy Devco AD facility in Jessup, these estimates may understate the number of covered businesses.)

Of the 1,459 food businesses contacted, 76 are currently recycling their food scraps either through composting or as animal feed.

RRMD will provide outreach to spread awareness of the bill’s requirements through presentations and mailings, and will offer technical assistance on implementing workplace food scrap recycling programs through its website, webinars, educational videos, site visits, and electronic newsletters.

SWAC Updates

- **Ad Hoc Subdistrict B Consolidation** Committee – Sara Bixby will be scheduling meetings this Fall.
- **Organics Committee**– Robin Barr, Maryland Municipal League rep: Robin is compiling information about the experiences of the incorporated municipalities and cities (which operate collections independently of the County) that have been doing residential collection of food scraps, to provide insights to inform the design of the expansion of County collections of food scraps.
- **Field trips** – Carol will send out polls to schedule field trips to the MRF and Bioenergy Devco AD.
- **Adding SWAC Bios on Webpage** – the committee voted to include short bios of members on the website, following the example set by the Climate, Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (**CEAQAC**) (except we will not include photos.) [Note: Carol subsequently consulted the members who were not in attendance at the end of the meeting when this was discussed, and there were no objections.]

Plans for future SWAC meetings

- **(October) Featured presentation:** RRMD budget issues under consideration at the beginning of the FY 2024 budget cycle, Speaker: Willie Wainer (to inform a SWAC letter to County); report from Subdistrict B consolidation ad hoc subcommittee

Other featured presentations, dates TBA

- RRMD Performance measures, Speaker: Willie Wainer
- C&D waste: current status (quantity generated, facilities processing it), current approaches (banning roofing, raising C&D tipping fees) and future options to promote waste reduction and reuse, Speaker: Willie Wainer

Public Comments: Janet Owens— as a member of Food Council Environmental Impact WG, I really appreciated hearing Eileen’s presentation.

SWAC adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ACRONYMS

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

