

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023 – 5:30 – 7:30pm**

**MEETING NOTES**

**SWAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Carol Jones, Chair	Fred Kranz
Robin Barr, Vice Chair	Heidi Lovett
Adam Diamond, Co-Secretary	Troy Cavell
Amy Maron, Co-Secretary	Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non-voting)
Chaz Miller	

**SWAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ellen Ryan

**DEP STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

David Frank, RRMD Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

Lisa Shine, RRMD Executive Administrative Aide

Willie Wainer, Director, RRMD

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:** Kelly Doordan, Keith Crutchfield

SWAC unanimously approved the minutes from July 2023.

**Featured Presentation:** Update on Pay As You Throw (PAYT)/Save as You Throw (SAYT) Study

**Speaker:** Marilu Enciso, RRMD, Senior Planning Specialist

Marilu Enciso is a senior planning specialist who has been with RRMD for 16 years, and served as the DEP staff representative to the Zero Waste Task Force.

She provided an overview of a report provided by a consultant (SERA, led by Lisa Skumatz) under contract to the County, outlining the goals, outcomes, and design details of a variable-rate trash hauling program for county residents. The consultant’s report and pilot that is being planned are intended to inform RRMD’s decision whether to proceed with such a program, and if so, how to implement it.

**Current SW Context:**

- County is responsible for collecting recycling from 221K SF households (A+B)
- County currently is responsible for collecting trash from 92K SF households (A)
  - Subdistrict A: 15% of county MSW
  - Subdistrict B: 24% of county MSW

**Projected Outcomes from Save as You Throw (SAYT)**

- 10% annual decrease in trash disposal
  - 5.6% annual increase in recycling tons (16K tons), with 9K (53%) from subdistrict B
  - 4.2% (12K tons) in source reduction, with 7K (55%) from subdistrict B
- 2.5% increase in overall county’s recycling rate
- It will require an increase in system benefit charge,
- It will raise processing capacity issues.

**Consultant's Recommendation:** Amend chapter 48 of county code: County shall provide trash collection county-wide, in order to capture the majority of the benefits.

**Rationale:** more than half of the gains for increased recycling and source reduction will come from implementing SAYT in subdistrict B

**Pilot program:** county is setting up a pilot program to be launched next year, in an area with a statistically similar population to the county as a whole; goal is to incorporate as many attributes for planned program as possible

### **Proposed Services and Infrastructure for the full program**

Carts:

- Carts for SAYT would be County owned- 3 size options for trash, 1 size for commingled recycling, 1 for food scraps.
- Households still provide their own yard trim bin or bags.

Services:

- Households receive once-a-week collection; would need to use stickers for excess trash beyond their selected cart size.
- Bulk pick-ups would be reduced from 5 to 2 seasonal pick-ups.
- Transfer station drop-off would charge a fee.
- Allow one cart size increase per household per year; Downsizing cart at no cost.

Infrastructure:

- Some modifications would be needed at MRF, which planned upgrade will take care of
- Throughput deficit will occur at paper processing facility: will need to export to another facility
- Will need cart depot for 220k carts; cost per cart: \$65 + delivery cost

Resident fees:

- Base fee for 35-gallon trash cart, more for larger trash cart
- Recommended fees: 35-gal cart, \$20 increase over current \$288/yr charge; \$260 increase for 96 gal cart; charge \$3-4 per excess trash bag.

Fact that county puts solid waste charge on once-a-year property tax bill makes it less visible and less likely to influence behavior than a bill that appears monthly or quarterly.

### **Questions and answers:**

- Do estimates for decreased trash change if introduce food scraps?  
A: Projections do not include food scraps.
- Where is the money coming from for carts? A: Solid Waste Fee.
- What is status of the report? A: Almost done. Will be available after staff review.
- Who's managing pilot? A: RRMD collection section will handle boots on ground; Finance will handle finances.
- How do different policies interact? What order does it make sense to implement them?  
A: Consultant recommended: start with subdistrict consolidation, then food scraps, then PAYT.
- How will program enforce good behavior? How will County keep people from leaving trash on ground? A: More outreach and inspection.

SWAC Comment: Need to focus on goal—reducing waste make pricing more transparent.

## Updates from RRMD, Willie Wainer

### **Consolidation**

Thanks to SWAC subcommittee that drafted Subdistrict B Report. RRMD is responding to questions posed by SWAC.

### **Collections Contracts (subdistrict B)**

Only received 1 bid for collections in areas 6 and 8 because of Labor Peace Agreement: law requires winner bidders for contracts over \$250,000 to remain neutral when labor unions seek to organize their workers. (Note: in each district, hauler provides recycling services to all SF residents, trash services for 12-16% of residents.) Waiting for best and final offer.

To move forward with electric trucks, the RFP offered proposers the option of proposing smaller, non-CDL vehicles, for recycling, i.e., getting away from split bodies that take commingled on one side, paper and cardboard on the other. Smaller vehicles can be electric. Routes in areas 6 and 8 are no more than 10 minutes from the transfer station; on these routes, trucks can unload in the middle of a route if necessary. Did test having small vehicles pickup commingled, rear loaders for paper and cardboard: found no difference in number of trucks.

RRMD is talking to the company that's helping County electrify school buses and Ride-on buses. They will supply RRMD a demonstration truck to test out on actual routes. Will test reliability, operating duration, and ability to handle weight: very excited about this opportunity.

### **Long Hauling of Waste/Alternatives to Incineration**

Received responses to request for expression of interest (REOI) for how to manage 660,000 tons going to the RRF each year. Received two complete proposals; other responses were not complete.

## SWAC Updates

### **Consolidation Subcommittee.** Robin Barr

Report draft has been sent to Willie, and we are looking forward to getting feedback before finalizing the report.

### **C & D Subcommittee.** Amy Maron

**Rationale for proposed new subcommittee:** A number of cities have passed legislation requiring reusable materials be donated or otherwise reused in some way. County doesn't have a policy in county on deconstruction and reuse of reusable building materials. CE is interested in this.

### **Proposed scope for new subcommittee work:**

- Interview some communities around the country.
- Get overview of where MoCo C & D is going, including outside landfills.
- Talk to local builders who are already doing this. (See "Second Chance" signs at tear-downs. )

Meeting adjourned 7:28 pm

## **ACRONYMS**

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