

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – 5:30 – 7:30pm**  
**MEETING NOTES**

**SWAC members in attendance:**

Amy Maron, Chair	Oladapo Awe
Robin Barr, Vice Chair	Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, non-voting)
Kavita Battula, Secretary	Troy Cavell
Chaz Miller	Lauren Greenberger
Fred Kranz	Barry Shanoff
Michelle Ennis	Pradip (Peter) Mukerjee
Andrew Cassilly	
Chaz Miller	
Dawn Sellis	

**SWAC Members absent:** Kaela Martins; John Meyer

**DEP Officials in attendance:**

Jon Monger, Director, DEP  
Jeff Seltzer, Deputy Director, DEP  
Willie Wainer, Chief, Recycling and Resources Management Division (RRMD)  
Lisa Shine, Executive Administrative Assistant to the RRMD Division Director  
David Frank, Technical Liaison to SWAC  
Kailey Laleker, DEP Zero Waste  
Alan Pultyniewicz, RRMD

**Guests**

Rachael Virgin, WasteZero  
Kristen Brown, WasteZero

**Members of the public**

Mike Ewall

**AGENDA**

Meeting started (approx 5:35)  
January 2025 Minutes approved (approx 5:40)

**Pay-your-way Presentation/Waste Zero** by Rachel Virgin, New England (approx 5:45)

- Pricing mechanism is key (e.g., bag fee)
- Recycling has leveled off; state cannot accommodate trash generated
- Unit-based pricing (UBP) is the fastest, fairest way to reduce trash (bag-based)
- Uniform carts work well; variable rates/sizes are costly

- Bag-based UBP reduced waste 40-50% in a pilot program in New Windsor, Maryland; it was not adopted for political reasons and misinformation (e.g. illegal dumping fears)
- Pay-your-way is a hybrid approach towards UBP that allows choice: households can elect UBP or flat rate
- Local stores carry bags for purchase; managed by WasteZero
- Step-wise approach to reduction

#### Q&A from SWAC (6:26)

- Implementation costs discussed
- Manual vs automated collection (cart tippers, mechanized arm) discussed
- Likely increase in items donated vs thrown in a pay-to-throw system

#### **RRMD Update:** 7 pm (Alan)

##### Electronics and battery collections for residents

- Schedule pick-up by calling 311
- All existing contracts are being renewed
- Mailer is being sent to residents about two weeks prior to start
- Battery recycling instructions will also be provided
- Sequential rollout, by December all residents will be able to schedule
- Pattern shows surge at beginning that tapers off and stays at consistent level
- All household batteries (alkaline and rechargeable, but not, for example, car batteries)

#### Amy: Plastic Bag Ban (7:10)

- Councilmember Stewart's ban approved!
- 10 cent fee (exemptions for certain establishments and for those on SNAP or WIC)
- Businesses required to advertise, they keep 5 cents

#### March Meeting (7:15)

- Budget update from Anthony Skinner
- Chaz will be working on SWAC priorities

#### No public comments/questions

#### Public Briefing Last Monday by Arcadis/DEP before County Council (7:20, summarized by Lauren)

- Council asked DEP to discuss how waste would be handled under "emergency extension" for transfer station and incinerator
- Arcadis attended and advised that transition would be require 7 years
- DEP seems to understand, community wants more information/justification
- No financial data presented and lot of cost issues
- Sugarloaf Citizens Association proposed food composting at Dickerson site once incinerator closed

- Amy will circulate letter
- Jeff explained that there are various timelines, not all are 7 years; more information will be forthcoming (hopefully cost info in the next month)
- Willie will address outstanding questions (at next meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

### **ACRONYMS**

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
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
MRBT	Material Recovery and Biological Treatment
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 Citizens 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