

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 3, 2025– 5:30 – 7:30pm
MEETING NOTES

SWAC members in attendance:

Amy Maron, Chair	Andrew Cassilly
Robin Barr, Vice Chair	Dawn Selis
Kaela Martins, Secretary	Chaz Miller
Fred Kranz	Dapo Awe
Peter Mukerjee	
Lauren Greenberger	

SWAC Members absent:

Barry Shanoff
Kavita Battula
Mark Symborski (M-NCPPC rep, nonvoting)
John Meyer
Michelle Ennis
Troy Cavell

DEP Officials in attendance:

Kaley Laleker, Division Director, Zero Waste
Lisa Shine, Executive Assistant, Office of the Chief, Recycling and Resource Management

Members of the public:

Peter Ettinger

AGENDA

Meeting started (approx 5:32)

June 2025 Minutes approved (approx 5:35)

Presentation on Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Reduction Efforts (approx. 5:37) by Kaley Laleker

Overview of C&D Material

- C&D is waste generated during construction, renovation, and demolition of buildings and roads.
- Typically includes materials such as concrete/asphalt, wood, roofing, drywall (gypsum), cardboard, metal and plastic.
- Some of these materials can be easily recycled, others may need to be collected or separated in certain ways to be recyclable.
 - Untreated and unpainted wood can be recycled for mulch.

- Recycled concrete can be used for concrete paving fill material, road base
 - Clean construction scrap drywall can be recycled for soil amendment or cement additive
- C&D material that is offloaded can be variable depending on where its coming from and what type of project.

Montgomery County's C&D Material

- In 2024, 265,000 tons of C&D waste was generated.
 - In comparison, only about 100,000 tons of food scraps were generated in the County.
- Almost half of this waste was sent to the Shady Grove Transfer Station, with the remaining sent to private facilities.
- 24% of C&D waste was recycled, 11% was burned at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), and the remaining 65% was landfilled.
- The tipping fee for loads over 500 pounds is currently \$93/ton. There is no charge for loads under 500 pounds.
 - In comparison, the tipping fee for municipal solid waste (MSW) in the County is \$84/ton.
- Usable building materials are collected at the transfer station and sent to the Loading Dock, a nonprofit building materials reuse center, in Baltimore.
- There is one private C&D recycling facility, C&D Recovery, located in Montgomery County. Within the region, several other private C&D facilities receive the County's C&D waste for recycling or disposal:
 - Ritchie Land Reclamation
 - Sun Recycling
 - C&D Recovery
 - Laney (The Recycle Center)

Montgomery County's Goals for C&D Management

- Goal: Increase recycling and reuse of C&D materials generated in the County.
 - To move close to zero waste and address a significant part of the waste stream.
 - Reduce the amount of material received at the transfer station
 - Support local markets, recyclers, developers, and construction contractors
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- More of the C&D waste will need be recycled at the transfer station.
 - Challenge: The limited space at the transfer station makes it difficult to receive and sort materials. Materials may arrive commingled, sometimes mixed with MSW.
- More C&D private recyclers will be needed while also increasing recycling rates at those private recycler sites.
 - Challenge: Only one private recycler within the County.

- Challenge: The incentive for C&D haulers to take materials to recyclers is low based on the distance needed to transport that material and the tipping fee. Many regional facilities also require a two-ton minimum load, excluding small haulers and collectors.
- Challenge: Some C&D materials either have low value, limited markets, and/or are not clean enough to sell when commingled with other C&D. Materials are often not source-separated at job sites.

Montgomery County Actions for C&D Management

- Small-Scale Sorting Pilot (Fall 2025)
 - Pilot at the transfer station that will select loads of incoming C&D and sort readily recyclable materials – metal, cardboard, clean wood, rubble
 - Pilot will gather info on how much material could be readily diverted from transfer station.
 - Pilot will inform recommendations on permanent changes to help sort C&D material
- Incorporate C&D into Long-Haul Request for Proposal (RFP) (Fall 2025)
 - RFP will include requirement that contractor submits a plan for recycling C&D material sent to the transfer station.
- Identify other technology opportunities and pilots (Ongoing)
- Consult with C&D stakeholders for input (Fall 2025)
 - Conduct consultation with collectors, haulers, recyclers, and generators to confirm current operating practices, drivers for recycling vs. disposal, and barriers to increased recycling.
- Complete a regional market analysis (Spring 2026)
 - Determine existing regional markets for C&D materials as well as gaps.
- Conduct a C&D composition study (Spring 2026-Spring 2027)
 - Currently pursuing grant funding to conduct a four-season study to understand the makeup of C&D waste
- Establish and track County-wide goals for C&D recycling (Ongoing)
 - Once more data is available
- Expand outreach tools and materials (Fall 2025/Winter 2026)
 - Create a C&D-specific website and some updated fact sheets and case studies of how job site source separation could be done successfully in different types of sites.
- Targeted outreach/compliance activities for construction and demo companies (Spring 2026)
 - Use existing field staff to conduct education and outreach at construction/demo sites.
- Collaborate on a new C&D track for Montgomery County Green Business Certification

- Work with Bethesda Green to create a track for construction and demolition companies within the green business certification to highlight C&D recycling efforts
- Develop job site recycling policy
 - Research what other jurisdictions are doing (complete)
 - Consult with the Department of Permitting Services on policy options to make sure changes would be aligned with their process for permitting projects (Fall 2025/Winter 2026)
 - Develop policy recommendations and consult with stakeholders (Spring 2026)
- Consider change to C&D tipping fee at transfer station for FY27 (Fall 2025)
 - Based on what the tipping fees are at regional facilities and ensure there is incentive to take material to regional recyclers where available.
- Monitor and apply for grant funding to support C&D recycling programs (Ongoing)
- Work with other County agencies to support County projects

Current C&D Related Policy in Montgomery County

- Mandatory Recycling
 - Montgomery County requires all businesses, including C&D companies, to recycle certain materials, including cardboard and metal.
 - But most C&D materials are not mandatory recyclables.
- International Green Construction Code
 - The code has a provision requiring a C&D waste management plan. Also, a minimum of 50% of nonhazardous C&D to be diverted from disposal.
 - This applies only to new construction over 5,000 square feet, and typically only to non-residential construction
 - Reviewing the impact of this provision on C&D diversion
- Other jurisdictions have a variety of approaches:
 - Disposal bans on certain materials.
 - Certification of C&D recyclers and standards that recyclers need to meet.
 - Recycling requirement for certain materials or a certain percentage of all C&D has to be recycled.
 - Deposits are placed when a building permit application is submitted, and the deposit is received back if proof is shown that a portion of the material is recycled.
 - Source separation requirements
 - Deconstruction requirements
 - Tipping fee surcharges

Questions from SWAC:

- In the coming years, will residential drop-offs be allowed for under two hundred tons or less?

- The County currently allows C&D waste under 500 tons to be dropped off for free at the transfer station. However, this material is not currently being recycled.
- With the challenge in getting contractors to source separate rather than dumping commingled material, could DEP potentially offer reduced tipping fees if they separate on site?
 - Yes, one of the policy options being considered is having a tiered structure for tipping fees that would give a cost break to those who can bring material in already separated. This would help with the current limitations to sort material at the transfer station due to space challenges.
- What research has been done so far on bringing C&D recyclers into the County?
 - DEP has spoken to a few recyclers such as Revolution Recovery and Second Chance, as options to improve recycling, reuse and repurpose of C&D waste in the County. Preference would be for less material to come to the transfer station and to go directly to private recyclers. The more options that are in the County the better.
- For jurisdictions focused on C&D waste what is their main goal (i.e., increase recycling)?
 - Most policies in other jurisdictions are focused on increasing the recycling of C&D waste. There is also an increasing policy in deconstruction, which focuses more on salvaging materials for reuse.
- Which jurisdictions are succeeding the best at C&D recycling?
 - Seattle is a good performer, with about 65% recycling of C&D material. They have a comprehensive policy that regulates recyclers and requires job sites to send materials for recycling or reuse. There are also incentives for deconstruction.
- Are you thinking about developing legislation to require builders to separate and find markets for the materials?
 - Yes, that would be one of the job site recycling policy options we are exploring. This would also be part of education and outreach. DEP would like to develop case studies showing how source separation can occur on a variety of different types of sites.
- Who in DEP is tasked to working on C&D?
 - DEP has new division called Zero Waste Programs. Kaley Laleker is leading this division. Waste reduction and recycling is part of this division.
- For the transfer station pilot, where is that specifically located? Can SWAC tour that area when set up?
 - It will be located near the DOT materials. DEP can show people the process and/or provide an update with pictures once started.
- Are there jurisdictions on the east coast with C&D diversion initiatives?
 - Yes. Massachusetts for example, has a disposal ban and standards that recyclers have to meet to ensure that they're recycling a certain percentage of the banned materials.

- Do you plan to have a relationship with Community Forklift?
 - Community Forklift did recently visit the transfer station, so they may be opportunities to work with them on reuse and salvage.
- Do we know where materials sent for recycling are going or what they are being recycled into?
 - DEP is not currently following the ultimate end use of what a product is made into. But we do know what those end uses could be/likely are as highlighted in the presentation.
- Does the state of Maryland have C&D policies?
 - No, the Maryland Recycling Act is focused more on MSW.

RRMD Updates (6:29)

The Council chose to not fund the Material Recovery and Biological Treatment (MRBT) for FY26. DEP briefed the Council in July 2025 to develop an RFP for Long Haul to Landfill, given the RRF contract expiring in April 2031. The RFP would change material being sent to the transfer station to instead be transported and disposed in the landfill. DEP has drafted the RFP and is in the final stages of review. It should be issued within the next month or so. If the RFP is successful and buy-in is received from the Council, the start date would be FY27.

Jon Monger is leaving the department. Jeff Selzter will be acting director.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 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
H&E	Health and Environment
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
NPV Net Present Value
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