Montgomery County Food Waste Strategic Plan
Stakeholders Meeting
June 26, 2017
Overview

• Progress towards Montgomery County’s recycling goal
• Food waste is our next frontier
• Council Bill 28-16 calls on DEP to develop a Food Waste Strategic Plan
• Need to focus on the many aspects of reducing food waste, redirecting excess food to others with unmet needs, increasing recycling, and using compost more
Montgomery County’s Integrated Solid Waste Management System

- Reduce Waste
- Reuse Items and Materials
- Recycle
- Compost
- Convert Waste to Energy
- Landfill
Montgomery County’s Waste Reduction & Recycling Goal

70% by 2020
Steady Increases in Recycling

625,407 Tons of materials recycled in CY 2015
56% recycling rate
61% waste diversion rate
…”Examine the feasibility of targeting additional materials types for recycling including food waste generated at restaurants, schools and institutions.

Work with MDE to clarify regulations governing the permitting and operation of food residual composting so as to remove impediments to the development of new food residual composting facilities in our region.

Within six months of adoption by MDE of new and comprehensive regulations governing the siting, permitting, construction and operation of food composting facilities in Maryland, DEP will develop a strategy to contractually obtain access to or promote the development and use of food waste composting capacity to service Montgomery County waste generators.

Continue to conduct pilot projects and establish best management practices for food residuals collection, transportation and processing.

Continue to evaluate innovative collection techniques to increase cost-effective recycling of all kinds.”

Source: Comprehensive Solid Waste Management 10 Year Plan - Page 5-12
Generators of Food Waste

- Largest generators providing greatest opportunity
  - Restaurants, grocery and food-related businesses
  - Schools
  - Institutions
  - Large-scale senior living communities
- Other generators
  - Single-Family Households
  - Multi-Family Properties

Estimated food waste generated in CY 2015: approx. 151,144 tons

Source: Montgomery County Waste Composition Study 2013 as applied to total tons generated in CY 2015
Current County Efforts to Reduce and Recycle Food

- Utilize sources of data to identify sources of food waste, and evaluate opportunities
- Pursue capacity at food waste processing and/or compost facility(ies)
- Investigate the state of food recycling and market conditions
  - Food recycling facilities (compost and AD)
  - Collectors providing collection services
Current County Efforts (continued)

• Conduct Demonstration Food Scrap Recycling Project
  • Best practices developed through first-hand experience
• Conduct outreach and education, provide technical assistance to businesses, schools, institutions, multi-family properties
• Coordinate, as appropriate, with other local jurisdictions on food waste
CB 28-16 Requires Strategic Plan for Food Waste
Emphasis of CB 28-16

- Reduce the unnecessary generation of food waste
- Divert excess consumable food to others with unmet needs
- Advance composting
- Encourage use of finished compost
Strategic Plan to Advance Composting, Compost Use and Food Waste Diversion

Per Council Bill 28-16, DEP will:

• Identify/examine many elements in reducing food waste and increasing composting
• Make comprehensive and far-reaching recommendations
• Consult with substantial set of stakeholders and interested parties

These elements include:
• Legislative changes;
• County policies/initiatives;
• Models/best practices;
• Metrics for assessing diversion, composting;
• Goals/target dates;
• Challenges/means of overcoming challenges;
• Potential sites for food waste composting operations;
• Environmental/public health benefits; and
• Cost estimates, potential economic benefits
Our Approach

- Establish stakeholder working groups to work on issues
- Each working group prepares documents that address issues raised
- Documents are reviewed by other working groups
- Opportunity to discuss documents
- County will compile documents into draft Strategic Plan
- Stakeholders will review draft Plan
- County will prepare the final Plan; submit to County Council
Consult with Stakeholders

• Identify stakeholders
• Conduct initial and follow-up meetings with stakeholders
• Seek stakeholders’ expertise in plan development
• Receive input on draft strategic plan
• Hold work sessions for feedback, input
Working Groups

• Reducing food waste/channeling food to others
• Backyard composting & community-scale composting
• On-site institutional/on-site business composting
• On-farm composting
• Commercial composting* in Montgomery County
• Strategies to maximize collection at the curb

*other technologies may be considered
Issues for Each Topic Area

• Objectives to be met
• Challenges and opportunities
• Models and best practices
• Policy, legislation, regulations that may be needed
• Economics and incentives
• Environmental aspects
• Education and outreach
• Metrics
• Use of finished compost/product
Decision Making Process

- Everyone’s perspective is valuable, and everyone’s input is important.
- Consider all relevant information.
- Evaluate all options.
- Strive for consensus.
- If there is not consensus, find the best alternative – one that most everyone can live with.
- Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the County to recommend a strategy that balances all interests to bring about greatest good for all.
## Next Steps and Timing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 26, 2017</td>
<td>Kick off meeting of stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td>July – early September</td>
<td>Meetings of working groups: discuss issues, develop draft documents</td>
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<td>Mid September</td>
<td>Circulate draft documents to other working groups</td>
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<td>September – mid October</td>
<td>Hold open forum to discuss draft documents, get feedback and input</td>
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<td>Late October</td>
<td>Revise draft documents</td>
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<td>Early November</td>
<td>Compile drafts into single document; distribute for review</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Follow-up with stakeholders to discuss final comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Complete final document</td>
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<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Transmit to Council</td>
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*Blue* – All stakeholders activity  
*Yellow* – Working group activity  
*Green* – County activity
Immediate Next Steps

• Complete your survey form
• Select Three (3) Options for Working Groups
• Indicate your First, Second and Third Preference
• Email your survey form back to us by July 6
Questions?
Contact Info:

Amy Schaffer
amy.schaffer@montgomerycountymd.gov
240.777.6423

Eileen Kao
eileen.kao@montgomerycountymd.gov
240.777.6406