Developing the Aiming for Zero Waste plan

A Vision for Sustainable Materials Management in Montgomery County

The Aiming for Zero Waste plan will strategically evaluate the County’s programs and facilities to guide the County’s actions and investments over the next 20-plus years.

What is the purpose of the plan?

The Plan will address and evaluate the current programs and facilities to update waste diversion goals, maximize waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, develop strategies to reach the new goals, and evaluate current facilities and operations.

In 2016 the County achieved:

- **55%** Recycling rate
- **60%** Waste diversion rate (Includes earned 5% source reduction credit)

**County goal**

70% Diversion by 2020
About the County

- Population: 1,039,040
- Employees: 544,558
- Languages spoken: 39
- Area: 495 square miles

Country-provided services

- Curbside collection of trash, scrap metal, recyclables, yard trim, and bulk trash from single family homes and multi-family homes with six units or less
- Public drop-off for materials recycling and disposal
- Materials processing and disposal
- Education, outreach and technical assistance

Award Winning Systems and Facilities

- 2015 - Gold Award for Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems Excellence - Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
- 2014 - Silver Award for Excellence in Composting - SWANA
- 2014 - US EPA Clear Air Technology Excellence Award for the RRF
- Award Winning Solid Waste Management System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subdistrict A</th>
<th>Subdistrict B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Trash and Dual stream recycling)</td>
<td>(Dual stream recycling only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92,000 Households</td>
<td>125,000 Households</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

105 trucks and 500 routes every day
COUNTY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

County Materials Management Facilities and Service Areas

1. Resource Recovery Facility
2. Yard Trim Compost Facility
3. Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station
4. Recycling Center
5. Site 2 landfill
6. Poolesville Beauty Spot
7. Closed landfill

Legend:
- **Green** - Subdistrict A - County provided recycling, yard trim, scrap metal and trash collection service
- **Blue** - Subdistrict B - County provided recycling, yard trim and scrap metal collection service
- **Light Blue** - Other municipal collection areas
WHERE DOES YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLING GO?

**Trash**
- Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station
  - Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)
    - Ash (Used for roads at landfills)
    - Energy (Power for homes)
    - Recovered materials (Metal for recycling)

**Recycling**
- Non-recyclable materials
  - Recycled to various markets
- Sorted by type of material
  - Different materials sent to various markets
WHERE ARE WE?
JUNE 2018 - OCTOBER 2018
- Current state assessment
- Benchmarking and best practices

WHAT’S LEFT?
OCTOBER 2018 - JUNE 2019
- Review existing materials processing facilities
- How to manage what’s left

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?
AUGUST 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019
- Improvements to current system
- Prepare draft planning document

DRAFT AND FINAL MASTER PLAN
JUNE 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2019
- Conduct an assessment of Montgomery County's existing solid waste management system
- Compare Montgomery County with the following jurisdictions:
  - Austin, TX
  - King County, WA
  - Minneapolis, MN
  - Toronto, Canada
  - San Francisco, CA
- Gather feedback on future system (public comment opportunity)
- Identify and research additional options for waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery
- Identify improvements to the current system
- Develop draft plan (public comment opportunity)
- Review of existing materials processing facilities
- Identify options for managing what’s left
- Develop final plan (public comment opportunity)
EXAMPLES OF SOURCE REDUCTION OPTIONS USED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Reduce wasted food at home, schools, restaurants, supermarkets, etc.  
  (e.g. EPA’s “Food too good to waste”, food donations, on-farm composting, etc.)

- A standard-sized trash container  
  (e.g. all residents use the same size trash container, size may depend on types of diversion programs)

- A Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) program  
  (e.g. you pay for the amount of trash you set out at the curb for collection, could use special bags, or different sized containers)

- Clear bags for trash  
  Clear bags help collectors identify materials that are banned from disposal (e.g. recycling)

- Reduce trash collection frequency  
  (e.g. every other week trash collection, or some other less frequent schedule)

- Put limits on the amount of trash collected  
  (e.g. reduce the number of trash containers collected, or the number of bulk trash pickups)
EXAMPLES OF REUSE OPTIONS USED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Reuse centers
  (e.g. small household goods, furniture, toys)

- Waste exchange
  (e.g. develop centers for exchange of arts and crafts supplies, school and office supplies, sports equipment)

- Reuse events
  (e.g. support curbside giveaway events, swap events etc. through promotion)

- Sharing libraries
  (e.g. support organizations or develop partnerships for sharing libraries for kitchen appliances, musical instruments, sports equipment, party supplies etc.)

- Fix-it / repair clinics
  (e.g. clothes, small appliances, bikes)

- Construction and Demolition (C&D) drop-offs for reuse
  (e.g. windows, doors)

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Finding a new purpose and another use for used items can keep waste out of disposal facilities.
EXAMPLES OF RECYCLING OPTIONS USED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Food scrap collection and processing
- Change in collection methods
  (e.g. bottles/cans/paper collected in one container, manual vs automated collection of materials)
- Resident / business / small hauler drop-off / recycling centers
- Collection of other materials for recycling
  (e.g. textiles, mattresses, ceramics, carpet, C&D materials)

Recycling takes used materials and processes them into something new.
EXAMPLES OF LOCAL REGULATORY/POLICY OPTIONS USED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Bans on single-use materials used in retail
- Ban on food disposal for certain businesses generating certain amounts of food scraps
- Mandatory participation in organics recycling
- Requirements for C&D recycling for certain types of construction / renovation projects
- Programs to develop local / regional material markets to support recycling processors and sustainable materials management

Regulations and policies will help the County move towards a circular economy.
EXAMPLES OF STATE REGULATORY/POLICY OPTIONS USED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- Extended Producer Responsibility laws that mandate companies to manufacture sustainable product/package design, takeback of their materials at retail locations or provide funding for recycling

- Laws that would mandate consumers to support recycling infrastructure through product stewardship laws (e.g. a fee at retail to fund an item’s end of life, such as paint, electronics)

- Laws that mandate manufacturers to take back their products at the end of their life

- Encourage take back of packaging materials and use of more efficient/sustainable packing practices (e.g. Blue Apron, Amazon, HelloFresh)

Regulations and policies will help the County move towards a circular economy.
Be part of the solution, not the pollution.

**OTHER OPTIONS**

- **Targeted additional educational campaigns for certain sectors / materials**
  (e.g. food waste in schools, electronics recycling)

- **Consideration of expansion of County collection services**
  (e.g. provide trash collection to all single family homes in the County to ensure a consistent level of service and programs, provide collection of materials to multi-family homes and/or small businesses in the County)

- **More anti-litter / recycling / trash containers in public places**

- **Consideration of economic incentives to encourage waste reduction and recycling**
  (e.g. excess trash fees, grants for businesses to purchase supplies for setting up composting programs)

- **Additional support for small businesses through cooperative collection programs**
  (e.g. involving shared containers and service agreements to save space, make collection more efficient and reduce costs)
CONTACT US

Website: https://montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/master-plan.html

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mcrecycles

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TalkinTrashMC

We're interested in your feedback, please fill out a comment card with your ideas and take our survey here on one of our ipads.