Montgomery County, Maryland

DIVISION OF
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Comprehensive
Solid Waste
Management
10 Year Plan

2012-2023

Division of Solid Waste Services
March 2015
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

for the Years 2012 through 2023

Prepared in accordance with Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Adopted by the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland by Resolution Number 18-86 dated March 31, 2015.

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid Waste Services

Rockville, Maryland
INTRODUCTION

The Montgomery County 2012-2023 Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared according to Title 9, Subtitle 5, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Regulations under COMAR 26.03.03.03(A). An Executive Summary, along with the Resolution of the Montgomery County Council which adopted this Plan and the MDE approval letter will appear immediately following the Table of Contents.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Montgomery County, Maryland, Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2012 - 2023 has been prepared in accordance with Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.03.03. The Plan has been adopted by the Montgomery County Council Resolution 18-86, and approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

This Ten-year Plan is updated every three years, as required by Maryland law to reflect amendments by the County Council and the continuing changes that are occurring in the County related to solid waste management. The following amendments, changes, additional appendices and other pertinent documents are included in this Plan:

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the laws, regulations, and government agencies that are a part of this Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan. Changes to this chapter include:

- Dates are updated throughout.

- Tables of applicable laws and regulations are updated. A very significant change is that by County Executive Regulation 7-12, Montgomery County adopted the State’s MRA recycling rate calculation methodology. So, the County will no longer be reporting recycling rates using two different methodologies. In addition, the regulation established a new County goal of 70 percent for waste reduction, by Calendar Year 2020, inclusive of the State’s 5 percent waste reduction credit. No other significant changes have occurred since the last Plan update.
Chapter 2 provides an overview of population and employment trends and land use considerations that impact present and future solid waste management considerations. Changes to this chapter include:

- Dates and population/employment numbers are updated throughout.

Chapter 3 provides detailed data on waste generation and descriptions of waste collection and acceptance facilities. Changes to this chapter include:

- Dates and waste generation tonnages are updated throughout.
- Tables are repositioned to follow text references.
- The County recycling rate calculation method is clarified.
- Recycling descriptions are updated for Office Paper Systems (OPS) mixed paper operation.
- Additional detail is provided on the County’s electronics recycling, multi-family recycling, and special event recycling programs, in order to demonstrate compliance with new State laws.

Chapter 4 assesses solid waste management needs to address waste generation issues and acceptance facility constraints. Changes to this chapter include:

- Dates and generation percentages are updated throughout.
- The recycling goal of 70 percent using State MRA calculation methodology, inclusive of the State 5 percent waste reduction credit, by 2020 is confirmed.
- Text describing the County’s electronics recycling program is added.
• A new planning direction towards exploring food waste composting is indicated, including efforts to establish best management practices through the use of demonstration projects.

Chapter 5 provides a Plan of Action to address solid waste generation issues and acceptance facility needs. Changes to this chapter include:

• Dates and generation data are updated throughout.

• The County’s ban on disposal of recyclables is described with respect to County Executive Regulations 15-04AM and 18-04, and enforcement of those regulations is discussed and the regulations are appended in this Plan.

• Contingency plans for yard waste management, to avoid exceeding the agreed limitation on annual tonnage received at the Dickerson Yard Trim Composting Facility, are expanded.

• The summary Plan of Action table is updated and expanded.

Appendices

Appendix A provides a list of term definitions.

Appendix B is updated to provide a material flow diagram and recycling calculations for a new Base Year, Calendar Year 2012.

Appendix C provides a copy of the County landfill site selection criteria.

Appendix D provides copies of community agreements related to solid waste facilities.
Appendix E provides a copy of County Council Resolution 13-1498 “Creation of Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group (DAFIG)“.

Appendix F provides a copy of County Executive Regulation 6-99AM Expansion of Leaf Vacuuming Collection District.

Appendix G provides a copy of the recommendations made by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

Appendix H provides a copy of County Executive Regulation 7-12 which establishes the County’s recycling rate calculation methodology, adopting the State MRA Recycling Rate methodology, and establishing a goal of 70 percent by 2020, inclusive of the State 5 percent waste reduction credit.

Appendix I provides copies of County Executive Regulation 15-04AM, “Residential and Commercial Recycling” and County Executive Regulation 18-04, “Collection, Transport, and Disposal of Solid Waste”.
COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

Background

1. Pursuant to Sections 9-503 and 9-515 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Environment Article), the governing body of each County is required to adopt and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) a ten-year plan dealing with solid waste disposal systems, solid waste acceptance facilities, and the systematic collection and disposal of solid waste. The Environment Article further requires each County to review its solid waste management plan at least every three years.

2. On February 9, 2010, the County Council adopted the County’s current Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Ten Year Plan 2009 to 2019 (the Ten Year Plan) by Resolution 16-1254.

3. On September 28, 2010, the Ten Year Plan was amended by Council Resolution 16-1486 to comply with newly amended Environment Article Section 9-1703(b)(10), which requires county plans to include recycling plans of public schools.

4. Per MDE request, on September 9, 2013 and October 3, 2013, respectively, MDE received from the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) informal revised draft updates of the Ten Year Plan and the MCPS Recycling Action Plan for preview. That draft Ten Year Plan reflected and was based on the County’s new 70 percent recycling goal as expressed in Executive Regulation 7-12, adopted on October 16, 2012 by Council Resolution 17-566.

5. By letter dated December 3, 2013, MDE provided comments to DSWS’ draft of the Ten Year Plan requiring specific language and other changes for MDE approval.

6. On February 18, 2014, MDE issued revised “Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Tonnage Reporting Survey Guidelines for CY 2013”, which Guidelines would abrogate the County’s means to fully achieve its new 70 percent recycling goal by discontinuing the State’s recognition of waste-to-energy residue as recycled when used as alternate daily cover (ADC) at a landfill.
7. On May 5, 2014, the Governor enacted Senate Bill 781 ("Environment—Recycling—Special Events"), requiring the counties to amend their Ten Year Solid Waste Plans, by no later than March 1, 2015, to contain certain provisions relative to recycling at certain special events.

8. On August 25, 2014, MDE issued a letter reversing its Guidelines noted in item 6, above, relative to residue generated at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility and used as ADC at a Virginia landfill.

On January 15, 2015, the County Executive transmitted to the County Council a revised Ten Year Plan entitled “Montgomery County, Maryland Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2012 through 2023” responsive to the foregoing MDE preview comments, and new legislation, together with a revised MCPS Recycling Action Plan, dated November 2014.

9. On March 3, 2015, a public hearing was held pursuant to Section 9-505 of the Environment Article.

10. On March 9, 2015, the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee discussed and recommended approval of the revised Ten Year Plan with some technical corrections and revisions and updated background information recommended by County Council Staff.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2009 through 2019 is wholly superseded and replaced with the “Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the Years 2012 through 2023”, dated March 2015; and


This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council
June 30, 2015

The Honorable George Leventhal, President
Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmember Leventhal:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (the “Department”) has completed its review of Montgomery County’s Resolution No. 18-86 for adopting the County’s 2012-2023 Solid Waste Management Plan (the “Plan”). The Montgomery County Council adopted the Plan on March 31, 2015 and forwarded the Plan to the Department for its review and approval in response to the requirements of Section 9-503(a) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. The Department received the adopted Plan on April 16, 2015.

Based on this review, the Department has determined that the adopted Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 9-503(a) of the Environment Article and the Code of Maryland Regulations 26.03.03 provided that the following change is included in the Plan. In accordance with Section 9-507(a) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Plan is approved provided that a revised section of the Plan that includes the referenced change is submitted to the Department with the next 2-year progress report:

- On Page 3-29, in Table 3.3 “Solid Waste Acceptance Facilities Located in Montgomery County,” must include “Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility” in the table, as this facility is a solid waste acceptance facility.

Be advised that Section 9-506(b)(2) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the County to submit a progress report to the Department at least every two years including any revisions or amendments to the County Plan that have been adopted. Since the County’s Plan was adopted on March 31, 2015, the County must submit to the Department its progress report on or before March 31, 2017.

Also, Section 9-515(b) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires the Montgomery County Council to prepare a County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) at least once every three years. In addition, the Montgomery County Council must consider factors such as planning, zoning, and population estimates in the statement of objectives and policies of the SWMP.
The law further requires the County Executive to prepare preliminary and final drafts of the SWMP as specified in Section 9-515(c) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and submit to the County Council for its approval. As the County Council adopted the Plan on March 31, 2015, the updated (new) SWMP for the planning period 2018-2027 must be approved by the Department and adopted by the County Council by March 31, 2018. To ensure that the approval process is completed on schedule, the Department recommends that the County submit a draft SWMP to the Department for review and comments prior to the County’s adoption of the plan. The draft plan should be submitted to the Department by August 1, 2017. The County-adopted plan should be submitted to the Department for its review no later than December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your continuing interest and cooperation in providing sound and long-term solid waste management planning for the County. If you have questions on these matters, please contact Mr. A.Hussain Alhija, Program Manager, Resource Management Program, at 410-537-3314, or hussain.alhija@maryland.gov, or you may contact me at 410-537-3304.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hilary Miller, Acting Director
Land Management Administration

cc: Dan Locke, Chief, Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services
    William Davidson, Chief, Montgomery County Division of Northern Operations, Emissions, Strategic Planning
    A.Hussain Alhija