Winter 2015

All StAR

All State Agencies Recycle

All StAR News

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Join the Maryland Green Registry and the Compost Challenge

– CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
  MDE STAFF

The Maryland Green Registry is a group of organizations working toward a sustainable Maryland. It began in 2009 as a means to showcase businesses' and organizations' positive environmental practices. By joining the Maryland Green Registry, your agency can show it's commitment to the environment and can save money simultaneously. Collectively, members have saved over $79 million annually through their environmental practices.

State agencies are doing a good job coordinating their recycling activities. The Maryland Green

[*See Green Registry, Page 2*]

MARYLAND
Green Registry
Organizations Working toward a Sustainable Maryland
MEMBER
mde.maryland.gov

State Government Mandated to Recycle 30 Percent in 2014

– CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
  MDE STAFF

During the 2012 Maryland General Assembly session, legislation passed that increased the amount of waste required to be recycled by State agencies to 30 percent in 2014, with a goal of 40 percent for each State Agency by 2015.

In 2013, eleven State Agencies recycled at least 30 percent of their

waste and Maryland State Government, as a whole, exceeded the minimum rate requirement and recycled 31.6 percent of the waste it generated.

The following State agencies reached a recycling rate of at least 30 percent in 2013:

- Comptroller of Maryland;
- Dept. of Assessments and Taxation;
- Dept. of Budget and Management;

[*See Recycling Goal, Page 2*]

All StAR's Online Reporting System

– CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
  MDE STAFF

In 2014, MDE instituted a new All StAR online reporting system to capture the recycling data. Instead of having to submit a paper copy of the report, all data was entered online and stored in a database. It was a learning experience for all involved. Thank you for asking questions and taking the time to complete the reports online. The 2014 reports are due to MDE by March 6, 2015. Please contact christy.bujnovszky@maryland.gov with any questions.

Have a story idea or specific questions on a topic? Send to christy.bujnovszky@maryland.gov .

RECYCLING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1719 | www.mde.maryland.gov/recycling
410-537-3314 | 800-633-6101 x3314 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258
Larry Hogan, *Governor* | Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor* | Ben Grumbles, *Acting Secretary*

MDE

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Registry provides the perfect vehicle through which you can share your agency's success stories and results, post your agency's recycling activities and initiatives, and observe what other State agencies are doing to increase their recycling and save energy.

To join, you will need to: share at least five environmental best practices in place at your agency; share at least one measurable environmental result; and update your profile at least once every three years.

The following State agencies are already members of the Maryland Green Registry:

- MD Automobile Insurance Fund;
- Dept. of Agriculture;
- Dept. of General Services;
- Dept. of Housing and Community Development;
- Dept. of Natural Resources;
- Dept. of the Environment;
- Dept. of Transportation;
- MD Higher Education Commission;
- Motor Vehicle Administration;
- Port Administration;
- State Highway Administration; and
- Maryland Transportation Authority.

A new and exciting Green Registry program is the Compost Challenge which promotes the collection of food scraps for composting. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 waste generation data, food scraps account for 21.1 percent of trash thrown away on an annual basis. Food is the largest percentage of waste type that is disposed that could be recycled.

The Maryland Green Registry Compost Challenge was created to highlight the growing number of organizations that are starting to compost. The Compost Challenge will run through June 2015.

If your agency is not yet collecting food scraps, consider conducting a pilot collection program to give you an idea of the volume that may be collected in the future. Several businesses are available that can collect your food scraps from a central location, such as your loading dock, and haul them to a composting facility. Or you may choose to compost directly on site if you have the space to do so. Please contact the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for more information about regulatory requirements related to composting and to locate businesses that may assist you.

The following State Agency Green Registry members are already registered for the Compost Challenge and reporting that they are composting:

- Dept. of General Services;
- Dept. Of Environment;
- State Highway Administration;
- Towson University;
- University of Maryland Baltimore County;
- University of Maryland University College; and
- University of Maryland College Park.

Great job!

Did you know that MDE Headquarters achieved a 70.8 percent recycling rate in 2013? Adding food scraps collection for composting increased MDE's recycling rate by 21.3 percent points over the 2012 rate of 49.5 percent and your organization can do the same!

We encourage you to take the Compost Challenge, compete against other State agencies, and see if your organization can be the "best of the best".

Becoming a member is easy: visit The Maryland Green Registry online at: http://www.mde.state.md.us/marylandgreen/Pages/Home.aspx When you become a member of the Maryland Green Registry, you can register for the Compost Challenge at: http://www.mde.state.md.us/marylandgreen/Pages/CompostChallenge.aspx

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- Dept. of General Services;
- Dept. of Environment;
- Dept. of Transportation;
- MD Automobile Insurance Fund;
- Dept. of Disabilities;
- Maryland Environmental Service;
- Maryland Insurance Administration; and
- University of Maryland System.

Details are available on the Maryland State Agencies' 2013 Recycling Rates Table on the State Agency Recycling webpage located at: http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/StateAgencyRecycling/Pages/programs/landprograms/recycling/stateagencies/rates.aspx

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