



All-Star News

All State Agencies Recycle

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Maryland's Food Waste Diversion Bill

During the 2021 legislative session [HB264, *Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion—Food Residuals*](#) was passed. Beginning on January 1, 2023, the bill requires certain food waste generators that produce 2 tons of food residuals a week and within 30 miles of a composting facility to either reduce, divert to food rescue organizations, farms for animal feed operations, or compost or anaerobically digest the residuals.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is working to implement the provisions of the law including providing outreach and education to persons subject

to the law. Persons subject to the law have options for their waste diversion including: reduction, donating servable foods, managing food on-site, divert to agricultural use, and/or divert to an organics recycling facility (compost or anaerobic digestion).

Increasing participation in food residual diversion, has the potential to improve organic recycling capacity throughout the state. Reducing the amount of food waste in our landfills is a major strategy to address climate change by reducing the amount of methane released into the atmosphere and extend the life of landfills.

To sign up for more information and to participate in discussions go to <http://bit.ly/MDEFoodWasteSignup>, or contact Shannon McDonald or Tim Kerr by phone at 410-537-3314 or at shannon.mcdonald@maryland.gov, timothy.kerr2@maryland.gov, respectively.



Eleven State Agencies Reach 30 Percent Recycling Rate in 2020

State government, as a whole, is required to recycle 30 percent of its waste. In 2020, eleven State agencies recycled at least 30 percent of their waste and eight agencies recycled more than 40 percent. State government, as a whole, recycled 23.5 percent of the waste it generated.

The following State agencies reached a recycling rate of at least 30 percent in 2020:

- Comptroller of Maryland;
- Dept. of Education;
- Dept. Of Environment;
- Dept. of Planning;
- Dept. of Transportation;
- Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund;
- Maryland Environmental Service;
- Maryland State Archives;
- Maryland State Police;
- Subsequent Injury Fund;
- University System of Maryland.

Results for all State Agencies are available on the Maryland State Agencies 2020 Recycling Rates Table.

Maryland State Agencies 2020 Recycling Rates

Agency Name	No. of Sites	No. of Sites Reporting	No. of People	Total MRA Recycling 2020 (tons)	2020 MRA Recycling Rate (%)
Baltimore City Community College	1	0	0	0	0
Comptroller of the Treasury	1	1	186	72.25	90.0
Department of Agriculture	2	2	222	5.30	8.44
Department of Assessments and Taxation	24	13	176	9.20	15.39
Department of Budget and Management	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Education	29	10	1,986	69.71	63.28
Department of General Services	25	25	8,598	154.31	10.10
Department of Health	23	9	6,730	160.13	3.83
Department of Human Resources	60	19	6,404	203.43	21.37
Department of Juvenile Services	15	0	0	0	0
Department of Labor	20	8	1,264	44.26	10.09
Department of Natural Resources	6	4	621	14.91	12.87
Department of the Environment	5	5	963	37.08	32.00
Department of Transportation	83	83	27,377	7,131.90	40.63
Department of Veterans Affairs	7	7	929	436.87	25.93
Dept. of Housing and Community Development	3	3	366	57.76	28.37
Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services	37	12	7,970	602.82	5.04
Judiciary of Maryland	2	0	0	0	0
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund	1	1	32	108.69	56.64
Maryland Department of Disabilities	1	1	33	0.11	6.11
Maryland Department of Planning	1	1	185	64.34	63.87
Maryland Environmental Service	3	2	245	5.18	52.06
Maryland Food Center Authority	1	1	1,026	388.79	6.32
Maryland General Assembly	1	0	0	0	0
Maryland Insurance Administration	1	0	0	0	0
Maryland Military Department	22	22	555	66.78	7.92
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission	1	1	140	37.75	27.17
Maryland School for the Deaf	2	2	1,005	120.18	29.56
Maryland Stadium Authority	2	2	1,000	164.10	29.40
Maryland State Archives	1	1	73	3.64	31.82
Maryland State Police	38	29	2,313	856.34	42.58
Morgan State University	1	1	9,700	544.88	8.91
St. Mary's College of Maryland	1	1	1,929	266.60	15.96
Subsequent Injury Fund	1	1	16	3.30	53.92
University System of Maryland	19	13	146,183	4,749.96	38.48
TOTAL	441	280	228,227	16,380.57	23.51