



Frederick County Solid Waste Management Options Study

November 9, 2015 Public Forum Summary Report

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Background

In response to the need for long-term solid waste and recycling management for Frederick County, the recently elected County Executive established a steering committee tasked with identifying viable waste management alternatives. This effort, referred to as the **Solid Waste Management Options Study**, will inform the development of a long-term waste management strategy that will meet the needs of Frederick County residents.

To involve County residents in the strategy development, the County is soliciting community input through five facilitated community workshops held at locations throughout the County, collectively called the **What's Next? Solid Waste Public Forum**. The Solid Waste Public Forum provides the community with the opportunity to suggest solid waste management options for consideration and to prioritize the criteria for assessing and selecting the options for inclusion in the strategy.



The locations and times of all five community workshops are provided in the following table:

Date	Time	Location
Monday, November 9, 2015	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Winchester Hall, 1st floor 12 East Church Street Frederick, MD, 21701
Thursday, November 19, 2015	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Oakdale High School, Room B200 5850 Eaglehead Drive Ijamsville, MD 21754
Monday, December 7, 2015	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company 1500 Volunteer Drive Brunswick, MD 21716
Monday, January 11, 2016	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Urbana High School, Media Center 3471 Campus Drive Ijamsville, MD 21754
Saturday, January 23, 2016	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Thurmont Town Hall 10 Frederick Road Thurmont, MD 21788

This document provides a **summary of meeting discussions and findings from the November 9, 2015 workshop**. Throughout this workshop, participants emphasized the need to identify environmentally friendly, sustainable, and cost-effective solid waste management solutions that could be widely implemented across the County. Participants also emphasized the need for increased outreach aimed at educating County residents and businesses about recycling, reuse, and source reduction as well as incentivizing participation and compliance. Many attendees expressed dissatisfaction with the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), and several people emphasized that waste-to-energy and anaerobic digestion are not viable waste management options for Frederick County.

Solid Waste Management Options for Consideration

During an open discussion, meeting attendees identified the following solid waste management options for inclusion in the Solid Waste Management Options Study:

- Resource Recovery Parks (i.e., discards are taken to the park where they are prepared for reuse and then sold on the open market)
- Fabric recycling
- Pay-As-You-Throw programs
- Mattress recycling
- Vermicomposting/worm farming: using worms, in addition to microbes and bacteria, to turn organic waste into fertilizer
- Three-bin recycling (composting, recycling, and trash)
- No commingled recycling (separate out glass from paper)



- TerraCycle model: recycle difficult-to-recycle waste through a company that partners with major brands to reuse their old materials, offering monetary incentive for charitable organizations of participants' choice
- Source reduction, such as charging for bags at grocery stores
- Construction and demolition debris recycling
- Composting programs, including at restaurants and markets
- Integrated programs with the business community (like the SORRT [Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons] program in Montgomery County)
- Bottle deposit on all disposable containers with collection sites to return bottles
- Easily accessible recycling in multi-dwelling buildings
- Recycling at County festivals and public events

Ranked Evaluation Criteria

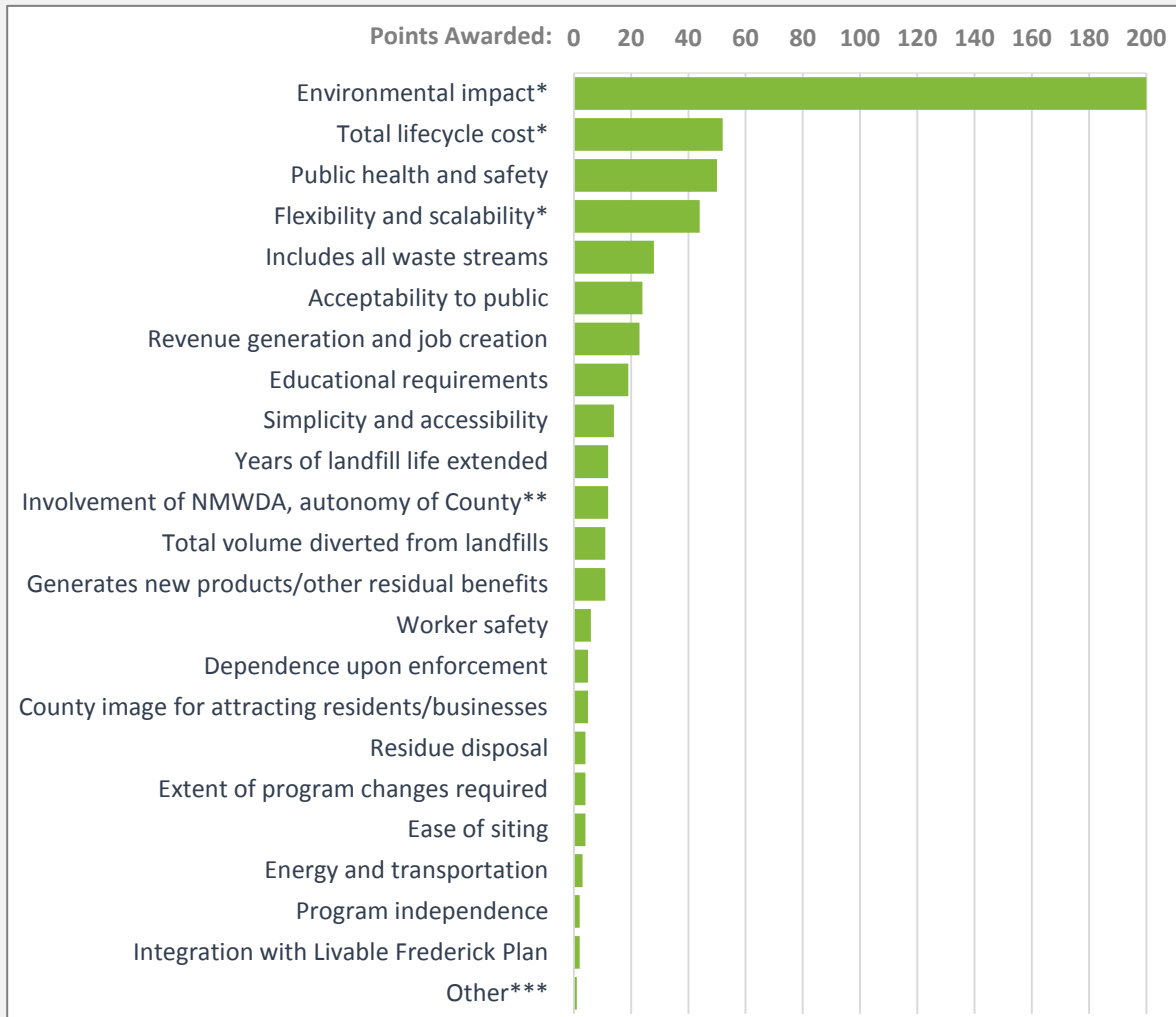
Participants then identified criteria that should be used when assessing solid waste management options. After defining these criteria through open discussion, participants ranked the criteria by order of importance: each participant selected the top five most important criteria, giving the most important criterion five points and the fifth-most important criterion one point.¹ In response to the ranking exercise, several participants emphasized that all of the criteria discussed are important to consider and that none should be excluded as a result of the prioritization exercise.

The graph on the following page shows the aggregated scores for each criteria, followed by a detailed list of all criteria (including criteria that did not receive any points).

¹ Participants who indicated an equal distribution of points across their top five criteria received three points for each criteria, to ensure that all participants allocated 15 points each.



Importance of Criteria for Evaluating Solid Waste Management Options, by Top Score



*These are combined responses to prevent votes from being split across redundant entries. If participants ranked more than one entry within one group, their scores were aggregated to ensure each participant retained 15 points.

**While most attendees did not write in removal of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) on their score sheets, several participants voiced the desire to remove NMWDA from the County's future waste management operations.

***Other responses included requiring public schools to participate in the waste disposal program.



Detailed List of Criteria	Points
Environmental impact: local and remote impacts on land, water, and air; carbon footprint; welfare of current and future human communities	200
Total lifecycle cost to taxpayers and other individuals, capital intensiveness	52
Public health and safety (emissions, odors, vermin, traffic, noise, etc.)	50
Flexibility and scalability (incl. technology commitment, longevity of the solution, ability to handle future growth of the community)	44
Includes all waste streams (e.g., single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, businesses, industry)	28
Acceptability to public	24
Revenue generation and job creation, potential for economic growth to alleviate poverty	23
Educational requirements (public, County staff, citizenship, etc.)	19
Simplicity and accessibility	14
Years of landfill life extended	12
Involvement of NMWDA, autonomy of County	12
Total volume diverted from landfills (both in and out of county)	11
Generation of new products or other residual benefits	11
Worker safety	6
Dependence upon enforcement	5
County image for keeping and attracting residents and businesses	5
Residue disposal	4
Extent of program changes required	4
Ease of siting	4
Energy and transportation	3
Program independence	2
Integration with Livable Frederick Plan	2
Other: public schools required to participate	1
All involved sites are validated with the most rigorous processing requirements	0
Relevant experience	0

Other Factors for Study Consideration

The workshop participants also engaged in discussion focused on other factors that should be considered during the [Solid Waste Management Options Study](#). Key discussion points included the following:

- Effective legislation will require cooperation between county, state, and federal agencies.
- Frederick County should leverage programs and experience from Loudon, Montgomery, and Carroll Counties and examine successful programs in Wellesley, Massachusetts.
- The County should develop incentive programs for recycling, including an annual celebration of County diversion, to encourage participation from residents and businesses.
- Recycling education is critical to increasing the county waste diversion rate. The County should use the Frederick County TV station for recycling education, emphasize outreach to schools, and study ways to promote behavioral change.
- Fines for commingling or disregard for recycling would provide a deterrent that could encourage increased County recycling.

Study Next Steps

After completion of all workshops by January 23, 2016, a Draft Report will be prepared by the County's consultant. During preparation of the Draft Report, **an additional "Synthesis Workshop" will be held on February 29, 2016 to summarize findings and guide report finalization.** The Draft Report will be submitted to the County Executive on March 31, 2016, after which a mechanism for public review and submission of comments on the Draft Report will be provided. Details regarding the Synthesis Workshop and mechanism for report review and comment will be communicated via the [What's Next? Solid Waste Public Forum website](#).

Based on comments received on the Draft Report, a Final Report will be prepared and submitted to the County Executive by May 31, 2016. A mechanism for public review and submission of comments on the Final Report will again be provided, details of which will be communicated via the [What's Next? Solid Waste Public Forum website](#). Recommendations from the Final Report will be carried forward into a deeper study of feasible options for implementing changes to the County's Solid Waste Management and Recycling Program. The schedule for this extended study will be communicated after completion of the Final Report.

Contact Information

Address questions and comments about the Solid Waste Public Forum to:

John Daniels, Chair

Solid Waste Steering Committee

WhatsNext@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Appendix A: Workshop Structure and Scope

A team of professional facilitators led the workshop to focus discussions, optimize the use of time, and permit the lively exchange of ideas among participants. Participants were encouraged to provide both verbal and written input to brainstorming and critical analysis discussions to envision the future strategy for Frederick County solid waste management. The workshop included the following sessions:

- Opening Session, including a review of current Frederick County Solid Waste Management practices
- Brainstorm Solid Waste Management Options
- Identify and Rank Criteria for Assessing Solid Waste Management Options
- Discuss Other Important Factors

The workshop scope and boundaries, which were provided to participants in a workshop briefing document prior to the meeting and reviewed at the beginning of the meeting, included the following:

- This effort is focused on **solid municipal waste in Frederick County**, including residential and commercial trash, recycling, yard waste, and building and construction waste. Wastewater, sewage, special and hazardous wastes, and defense-related waste are outside the boundaries of the study and beyond the scope of the Public Forum.
- The County recognizes that past efforts at solid waste management have been met with mixed success. The Public Forum is designed to **look forward** at the best options for the future of the County, not back at past successes or failures. Accordingly, participants are asked to avoid lengthy speeches about what may have occurred in years past without also offering positive contributions for improving the future.
- The Public Forum is intended to **inform** the solid waste management options and evaluation criteria against which options should be evaluated. **No final decisions** regarding solid waste management options or evaluation criteria will be made during the Public Forum workshops.
- The Public Waste Management Options Study will recommend approaches and technologies for managing Frederick County's solid waste management in the most advantageous way. **The study will not consider siting issues** for any future waste management facilities. Siting issues are outside the scope of the Study and the Public Forum.

Appendix B: Additional Resources

To learn more about Frederick County solid waste management, please refer to the following resources:

Frederick County Solid Waste Management Fact Sheet:

<http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/284029>

Frederick County Waste Management (Including Recycling) Website:

<http://frederickcountymd.gov/5634/Waste-Management-Trash-and-Recycling>

Residents' Guide to Solid Waste Management in Frederick County Guidebook:

<http://frederickcountymd.gov/5634/Waste-Management-Trash-and-Recycling>

Frederick County My Waste App – Download free for your smartphone or tablet