



# Frederick County Solid Waste Management Options Study

## December 7, 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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
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 December 7, 2015 workshop](#). Throughout this workshop, participants engaged dynamically with each other, offering suggestions across a broad range of waste management strategies. They emphasized the importance of source reduction in long-term waste management, the desire to expand recycling services to include previously un-reached areas (e.g., commercial buildings, townhouses, public event spaces), and the need to proactively engage businesses to improve their waste management practices and support reuse programs.

## Solid Waste Management Options for Consideration

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

### Source Reduction

- Pay-As-You-Throw programs, potentially requiring haulers to offer customers a variable pricing plan
- Trash-free lunches at schools, including replacing Styrofoam trays with recyclable or reusable trays
- County-wide ban on Styrofoam
- Fee for single-use plastic bags
- Legislation/incentives to improve companies' packaging materials (e.g., a ban on non-recyclable packaging materials, or requiring the use of compostable containers such as those made from hemp-based plastics)

### Recycling

- Three-bin recycling (i.e., composting [including food scraps], recycling, and trash)
- Glass-recycling program that can accommodate colored glass
- Bottle bill (i.e., a deposit on beverages sold in recyclable containers, which is paid back once the bottle is returned to the vendor or a bottle return facility)
- Curbside recycling for commercial buildings
- Accessible recycling at public events, including at county fire stations and other public event spaces
- Collecting recycling once a week and trash every other week to encourage recycling and send a message that residents should strive to reduce waste
- Legislation that encourages/requires builders to recycle their construction waste
- Financial incentives that encourage businesses to recycle and reuse

### Composting

- Small-bin worm farming (i.e., using worms, in addition to microbes and bacteria, to turn organic waste into fertilizer) to increase composting in townhouses, restaurants, or other non-rural sites
- Incentives (e.g., property tax reductions) for backyard composting, similar to the county rain barrel program, and data collection about the amount of waste diverted through backyard recycling efforts
- Composting programs in schools to manage their food and organic waste
- Collecting paper towels from public restrooms for composting
- Incentives for businesses willing to serve as commercial composting facilities

### Reuse

- Program for households to provide their food waste to local farmers for use as livestock feed
- Architectural salvage programs, similar to DC and Baltimore programs that hire people to deconstruct architectural waste for reuse
- Sites where people can drop off unwanted items that may be of value to others and/or take home items that others dropped off (e.g., “Bone yards” similar to those in Brunswick)
- Building in a window of several days before the County’s bulk trash collection for people to put out their items early, encouraging others to pick it up for their own use to keep it from becoming part of the waste stream
- Eco-Industrial Parks (i.e., an industrial park where firms collaborate to reduce their energy and material use), including:
  - Resource Recovery Parks: sites where discards are taken to be prepared for reuse and then sold on the open market
  - Symbiotic Industrial Parks: industrial parks where industrial plants use the by-products of each other’s production in their own feedstock
  - Agro-Eco Industrial Parks: eco-industrial parks that provide support for sustainable farming and food processing
- Supporting or building organizations’ door-to-door collection of waste that can be reused (e.g., Goodwill’s clothing collection)



- Financial incentives that will encourage recycling or reuse businesses (e.g., thrift stores) to come into the County
- Reducing tipping fees for companies that make efforts to reuse materials, reducing the amount of trash contributed to the waste stream

#### **Education**

- Providing residents with information on how much they throw away and recycle (e.g., a program in Australia where residents can earn prizes if their waste bins are free of recyclable materials) to help residents better understand their habits and make course corrections
- Educating businesses about reusable industrial container options
- Develop county-wide curriculum that educates students, starting with elementary schools, about the importance and practices of composting, reducing, reusing, and recycling to improve waste management practices at school and at home
- Developing a training curriculum for businesses to use during employee orientations to teach employees about reducing, reusing, and recycling both at work and at home

#### **Other**

- Surveillance cameras around common dump sites with heavy littering to enforce existing fines
- Bring back the “Big Sweep” program (i.e., non-profits are sponsored in a walk-a-thon to collect litter along roads)
- Incineration, with revised regulations to substantially improve state oversight

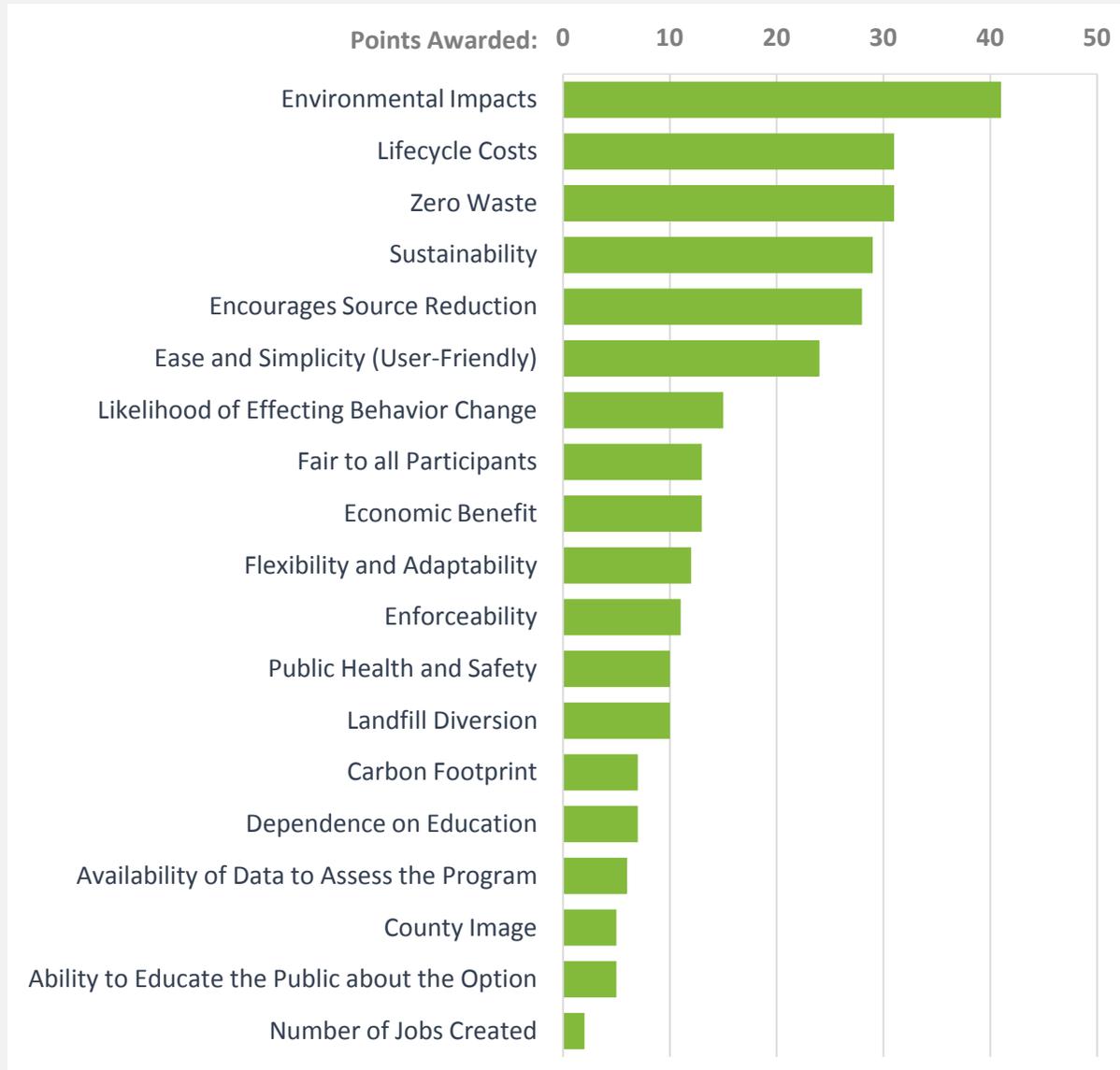
## **Ranked Evaluation Criteria**

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.

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



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



December 7, 2015



Detailed List of Criteria	Points
Environmental Impacts, both local and out-of-County	41
Lifecycle Costs, both financial and energy	31
Zero Waste	31
Sustainability	29
Encourages Source Reduction	28
Ease and Simplicity (User-Friendly)	24
Likelihood of Effecting Behavior Change	15
Fair to all Participants	13
Economic Benefit	13
Flexibility and Adaptability	12
Enforceability	11
Public Health and Safety	10
Landfill Diversion	10
Carbon Footprint	7
Dependence on Education	7
Availability of Data to Assess the Program	6
County Image	5
Ability to Educate the Public about the Option	5
Number of Jobs Created	2
Quality of Life	0
Program Independence	0
Energy Production	0
Takes advantage of existing times/spaces where people are meeting and collaborating together	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 from individual participants included the following:

- Recommendation that the County share its findings and conclusions in Annapolis to help inform State-level waste management dialogue and programs. The participant further recommended that the County engage with other Maryland counties to learn from each other's programs and to build collective waste management solutions
- Recommendation to study waste management programs around the United States and in Europe to learn from their successes
- Suggestion to explore machinery advancements that could reduce waste management labor costs (e.g., machines that sort contaminated waste from recycling)
- Emphasis that, in the long term, the County must reduce the amount of waste it generates as well as improve the way it manages that waste
- Emphasis on the value of solutions that don't have a heavy technology capital expenditure to enable long-term flexibility and adaptability
- Discussion about how the entirety of a Frederick County school being taken out of commission will be recycled

## 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](mailto: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 solid waste management, please refer to the following resources:

*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:*

<https://frederickcountymd.gov/4046/Residential-Guidebook>

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