



# Frederick County Solid Waste Management Options Study

## February 6, 2016 Public Forum Summary Report

### Table of Contents

Background .....	1
Solid Waste Management Options for Consideration .....	2
Ranked Evaluation Criteria.....	3
Other Factors for Study Consideration .....	6
Study Next Steps .....	6
Contact Information.....	6
Appendix A: Workshop Structure and Scope.....	7
Appendix B: Additional Resources .....	7

### 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, February 6, 2016*	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Thurmont Town Hall 615 East Main Street Thurmont, MD 21788

\*This workshop was originally scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2016 but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

This document provides a [summary of meeting discussions and findings from the February 6, 2016 workshop](#). Throughout this workshop, participants discussed the need to improve waste management practices in households, schools, and businesses, highlighting solutions for improving the usability of composting and recycling (e.g., household composting bins and recycling for multi-dwelling locations) and emphasizing education as a crucial mechanism for increasing individual investment in waste management.

## 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:

### Recycling

- Recycling for multi-dwelling locations (e.g., apartment complexes), such as:
  - Setting regulations for building development that ensure recycling programs are incorporated into building design (e.g., installing recycling chutes)
  - Partnering with existing multi-dwelling locations to develop customized recycling programs for each location
  - Increasing the frequency of recycling collection to allow residents to store recycling bins in their own apartments
- Strengthening recycling programs in schools, including by educating and monitoring custodians to ensure trash remains sorted
- Three-bin recycling (i.e., composting [including food scraps], recycling, and trash)

- Pay-As-You-Throw programs
- Providing public recycling bins on County streets
- Studying County-wide household recycling rates to identify regional pain points, and responding with increased outreach and education in those areas
- Partnering with other counties to build a regional Resource Recovery Complex (i.e., sites where discards are taken to be prepared for reuse and then sold on the open market)
- Launching a Residual Research Center to study ways of using materials that are currently unable to be recovered
- Recycling metals through out-of-county recycling centers (e.g., current program in Montgomery County)
- Identifying recycling partners for all plastic types to build more local recycling capabilities
- Expanding retailer/commercial recycling participation (e.g., grocery stores offering incentives to customers that bring recyclables back to the store)

### **Composting**

- Developing a centralized (community-wide or County-wide) composting service
- Educating residents about household composting
- Providing bins to households for composting
- Providing separate trash collection and food waste collection programs (e.g., the waste collection system that used to be offered in D.C.)
- Organizing a food collection program for giving unused food to food pantries or livestock
- Encouraging composting in restaurants and other large producers of food waste

### **Education**

- Working with churches, schools, and other cultural thought centers to educate the public about responsible waste management
- Behavioral change programs targeted toward different groups of people (e.g., those who actively engage in recycling and composting, those who are willing to engage in recycling and composting, and those who are resistant to recycling and composting)
- Encouraging consumers to avoid items with a lot of packaging by educating them about the costs and environmental impact of packaging
- Developing a curriculum for the County to use to teach students about the value of recycling

### **Other**

- Researching current best practices for waste streams
- Developing a regional digestion facility for food waste (e.g., anaerobic digestion)
- Encouraging businesses, especially through incentives, to reduce their packaging (e.g., produce packaging in grocery stores)

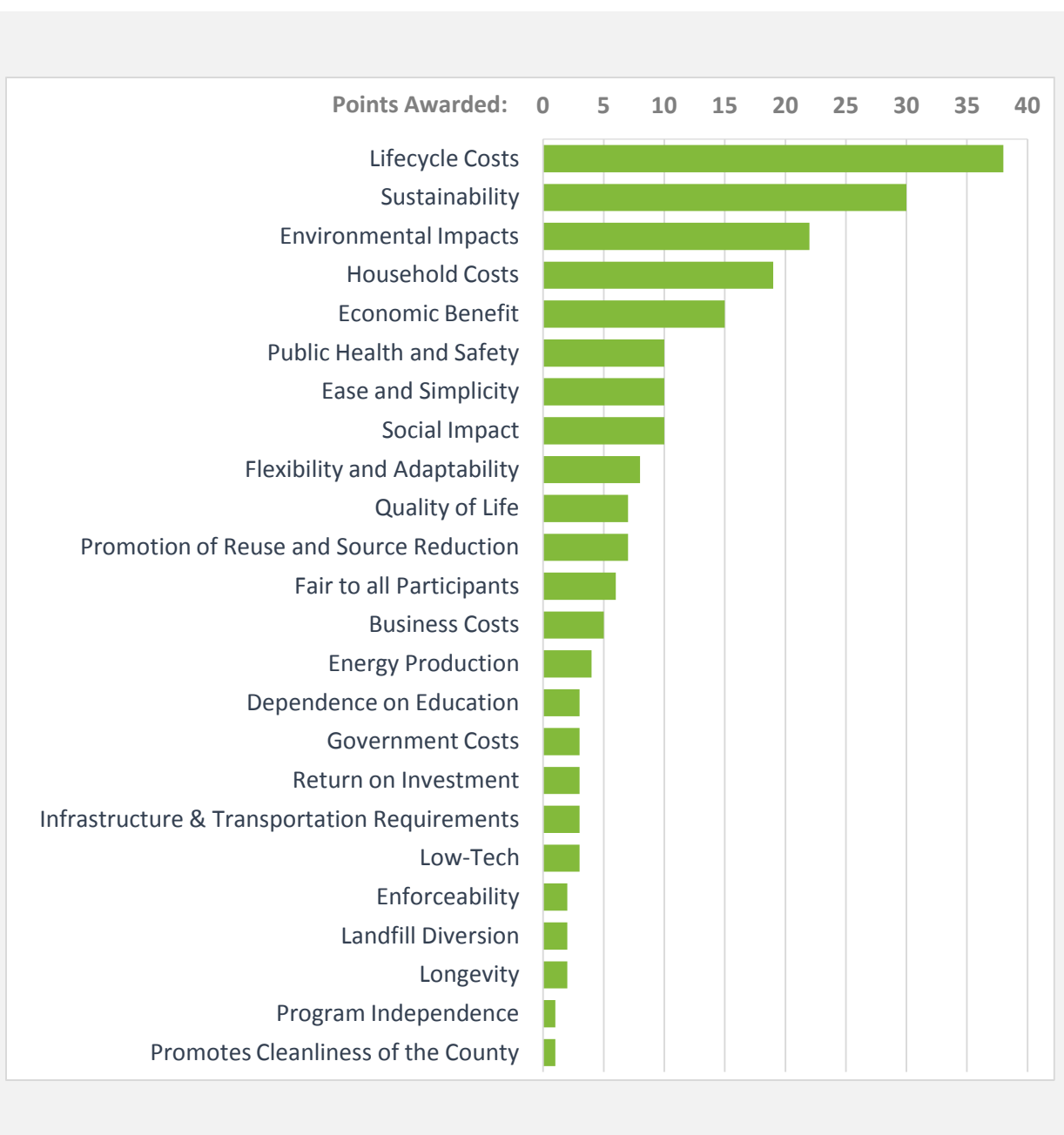


## Ranked Evaluation Criteria

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 below 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**





Detailed List of Criteria	Points
Lifecycle Costs	38
Sustainability	30
Environmental Impacts, both within and outside the County	22
Household Costs	19
Economic Benefit	15
Public Health and Safety	10
Ease and Simplicity, including convenience and accessibility	10
Social Impact, including dependence on behavioral change	10
Flexibility and Adaptability, e.g., no dependence on technology	8
Quality of Life	7
Promotion of Reuse and Source Reduction	7
Fair to all Participants	6
Business Costs	5
Energy Production, weighed against environmental impact	4
Dependence on Education	3
Government Costs	3
Return on Investment	3
Infrastructure and Transportation Requirements	3
Low-Tech	3
Enforceability	2
Landfill Diversion	2
Longevity	2
Program Independence	1
Promotes Cleanliness of the County	1
Carbon Footprint	0
Number of Jobs Created	0
Zero Waste	0
County Image	0
Energy Efficiency	0
Non-Incineration	0



## Other Factors for Study Consideration

In addition to the feedback provided above, one participant recommended that the Solid Waste Steering Committee promote word-of-mouth communication through social “hubs” (e.g., churches and schools) to share information about the study and public hearings with residents who do not read online communications. A few participants also suggested that the Solid Waste Steering Committee recast the study and their own name to emphasize the management of “unused resources” rather than the management of “waste”.

## Study Next Steps

Since all five community workshops have been completed, a Draft Report will now 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*