



Frederick County Solid Waste Management Options Study

January 11, 2016 Public Forum Summary Report

Table of Contents

Background	1
Solid Waste Management Options for Consideration	2
Ranked Evaluation Criteria.....	4
Other Factors for Study Consideration	7
Study Next Steps	7
Contact Information.....	7
Appendix A: Workshop Structure and Scope.....	8
Appendix B: Additional Resources	8

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 January 11, 2016 workshop](#). Throughout this workshop, participants stressed the need to balance the desire for cutting-edge solutions for radical waste reduction with solutions that are more cost effective and easier to successfully implement. Participants also emphasized education as a crucial first step to improving solid waste management practices in the County.

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

- Encourage teachers to provide more materials electronically rather than in print
- Replace Styrofoam with reusable trays and utensils in school cafeterias
- Encourage increased use of reusable bags instead of plastic bags
 - Educate consumers about the environmental benefits of reusable bags
 - Charge a fee for plastic bags in retail and grocery stores
- Encourage manufacturers to produce longer-lasting products and encourage people to hold on to their goods rather than constantly upgrading to the newest technology or product
- Hold 'Biggest Loser' contest, awarding the municipality that reduces its municipal solid waste by the largest amount each year
- Voluntary pay-as-you-throw or save-as-you-recycle programs

Recycling

- Three-bin recycling, especially in school cafeterias
- 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)
 - Potential program to give the money earned from recycling to charities
- Tiered dumping/tipping fees for haulers based on the percent of waste their customers recycle
- Recycling of clam shell containers and other mass-produced goods that can't currently be recycled
- Offer county recycling services to commercial properties, including small businesses and residences located on commercial properties
- Ban non-recyclable materials (e.g., Montgomery County's ban on Styrofoam)
- Establish one-stop site for all recycling (e.g., batteries, fluorescent bulbs) to reduce energy required to recycle certain materials
- Prevent litter from falling out of recycling trucks (e.g., a grate on the back of the truck)

Composting

- Participate in the Master Composter Program or Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders training program to educate County residents about backyard composting
- Change Frederick County's zoning to permit composting partnerships with local farms (e.g., private residences or restaurants could donate their food waste to farmers)
 - This would also increase locally-produced foods, reducing packaging
- Develop a Grants Management Program to facilitate and oversee all community composting activities
- School composting program for cafeteria food scraps similar to the one in Howard County
- Establish County-wide yard waste composting program that includes pickup and transportation to the composting site
- Build large-scale composting facility
- Compost food waste from large institutions
- Incentives for composting

Reuse

- Free-cycling programs at landfills (e.g., a drop-off point for high-quality, too-good-for-the-landfill waste)
- Resource recovery parks (i.e., sites where discards are taken to be prepared for reuse and then sold on the open market)
- Change County zoning to encourage development of reuse, repair, and recycling businesses

Education

- Assess efficacy of current waste management education programs
- Educate grocery stores and restaurants about food waste policies to divert waste to local farms or shelters, and work with them to change any policies that inhibit recycling or reuse
- Educate consumers about ways to reduce their food waste



- Education programs on how to recycle (e.g., store plastic bags within one another so they won't fly out during transport)
- Education program in schools about public responsibility
- Education program to reframe waste as a resource, so people will manage their "waste" more responsibly

Monitoring and Implementation

- Create waste reduction goals to measure the County's progress against those goals
- Brand the County's waste management strategy and establish a mascot to increase participation
- Require that schools and other institutions participate in County waste programs, offering training to staff and ensuring effective monitoring

Other

- Buy a more efficient and powerful trash compactor to expand the in-county landfill capacity, and invest the cost savings in zero-waste projects
- Place waste collection sites along railroad lines to reduce transportation costs
- Include bio-solids in the County's waste management plan
- Develop phone app that sends reminders for solid waste pickup dates, or an annual calendar of solid waste pickup dates (e.g., MyWaste, which currently send reminders for recycling and yard waste pickup dates)

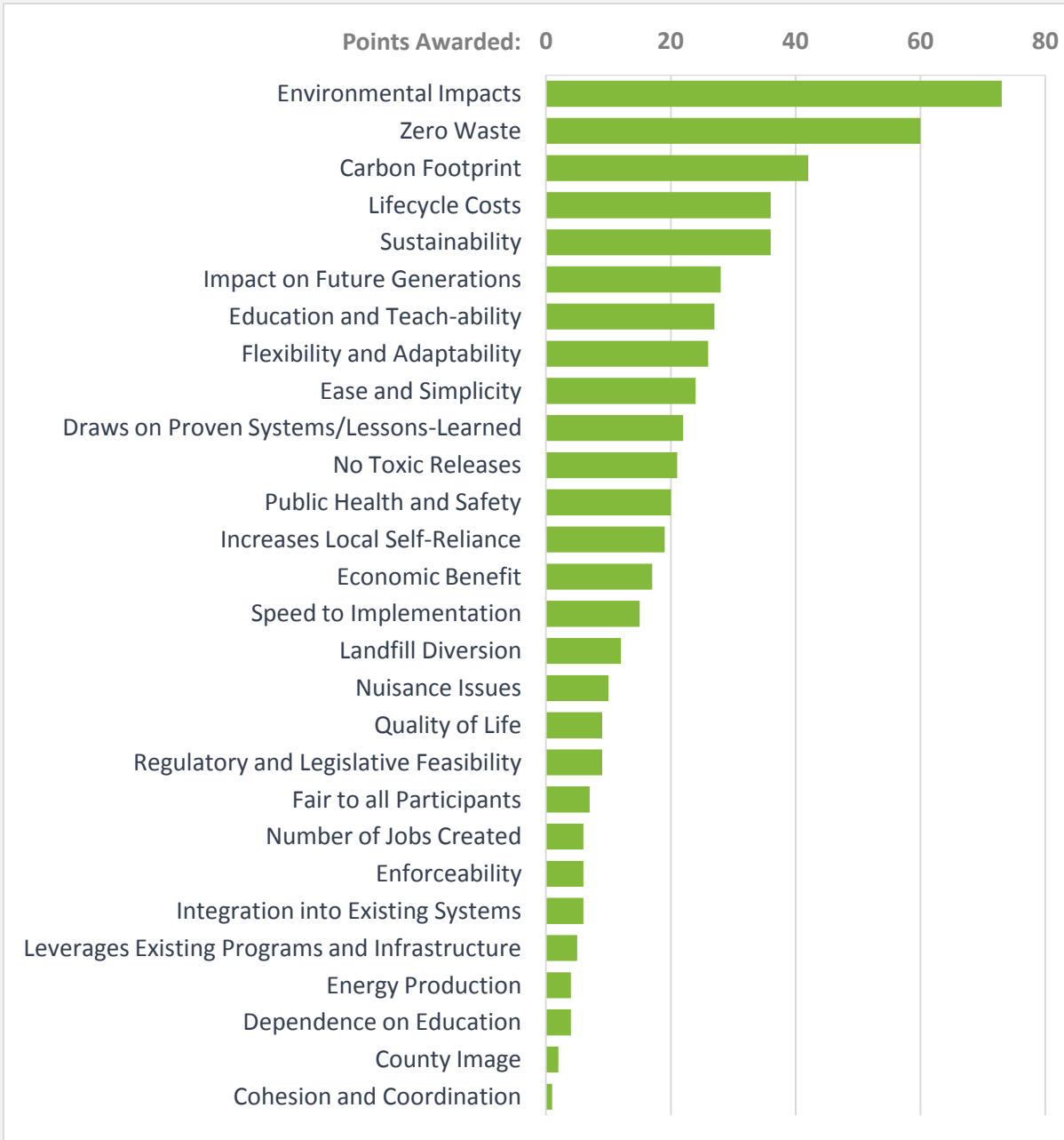
Ranked Evaluation Criteria

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



January 11, 2016



Detailed List of Criteria	Points
Environmental Impacts, both within and outside the County	73
Zero Waste	60
Carbon Footprint	42
Lifecycle Costs (ranked by cost reduction per ton of waste produced)	36
Sustainability	36
Impact on Future Generations	28
Education and Teach-ability	27
Flexibility and Adaptability	26
Ease and Simplicity	24
Draws on Proven Systems/Lessons-Learned, especially through use of statistics	22
No Toxic Releases	21
Public Health and Safety	20
Localized Solutions, Increases Local Self-Reliance (e.g., benefits farms and economic development, doesn't depend on out-of-county options)	19
Economic Benefit	17
Speed to Implementation	15
Landfill Diversion	12
Nuisance Issues (e.g., noise, odors, traffic)	10
Quality of Life	9
Regulatory and Legislative Feasibility	9
Fair to all Participants	7
Number of Jobs Created	6
Enforceability	6
Ability to Integrate into County Waste Management System	6
Leverages Existing Programs and Infrastructure	5
Energy Production (e.g., anaerobic digestion)	4
Dependence on Education	4
County Image	2
Cohesion and Coordination of Different Components	1
Program Independence	0

Other Factors for Study Consideration

The workshop participants also engaged in discussion focused on other factors that should be considered or communicated during the **Solid Waste Management Options Study**. Key discussion points from individual participants included the following:

- To inform efforts, one participant suggested obtaining data and feedback from the county materials recovery facility to pinpoint and address current recycling pain points.
- Participants expressed interest in remaining engaged with the outcome of the Solid Waste Management Options Study following the conclusion of the Public Forum meetings. Additional opportunities include attending the Steering Committee meetings every third Thursday at 7:00pm at Winchester Hall, reviewing and providing comments on publicized Public Forum reports (available on the [What's Next? website](#)), and submitting additional ideas for solid waste management options via email.
- In response to questions from a couple participants, the County Executive indicated that the County faces no hard deadlines for developing their solid waste management strategy.
- When asked if there was any risk that Pennsylvania could refuse to landfill Frederick County's waste, a County consultant indicated that Pennsylvania could not legally refuse the waste but could increase the taxes they collect on the waste disposed of in their state.

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 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