



Frederick County Solid Waste Management Options Study

November 19, 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 19, 2015 workshop](#). Throughout this workshop, participants emphasized the importance of environmentally sustainable solutions; the risk of hindering long-term flexibility by focusing on capital-intensive programs committed to single technologies; the need for clear and aggressive recycling education to maximize participation and reduce recycling contamination rates; and the need to include all waste streams in the County’s program (e.g., apartment and business waste, construction and demolition waste, and biological waste).

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:

- Pay-As-You-Throw programs
- Three-bin recycling (i.e., composting [including food scraps], recycling, and trash)
- Composting programs similar to those in San Francisco
- Providing composting tumblers for county compost collections, or discounted tumblers for personal use
- Resource Recovery Parks (i.e., discards are taken to the park where they are prepared for reuse and then sold on the open market, such as parks being set up by North American Zero Waste)
- Multi-stream recycling with clear labels indicating what can be recycled and specifying the landfill destination of non-recyclable waste to encourage proper sorting (like Whole Foods’ waste management)
- Single-stream recycling programs to make participation easier, particularly at condos, apartments, and businesses who do not currently participate in the County recycling program



- Encouraging retailers and fast food companies to reduce non-recyclable waste (e.g., Styrofoam) that comes from packaging
- Using landfills within the county or closer to the county, but reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills
- Researching waste management programs in other counties (including techniques, policies, incentives, and educational programs), to identify new options and understand the environmental and economic impacts of existing programs
- Working with recycling partners that can accommodate a wider variety of plastics
- Integrated programs with the business community (like the SORRT [Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons] program in Montgomery County)
- Increasing the budget and emphasis on solid waste management education
- Developing enforcement policies and legislation (like those in Montgomery County)

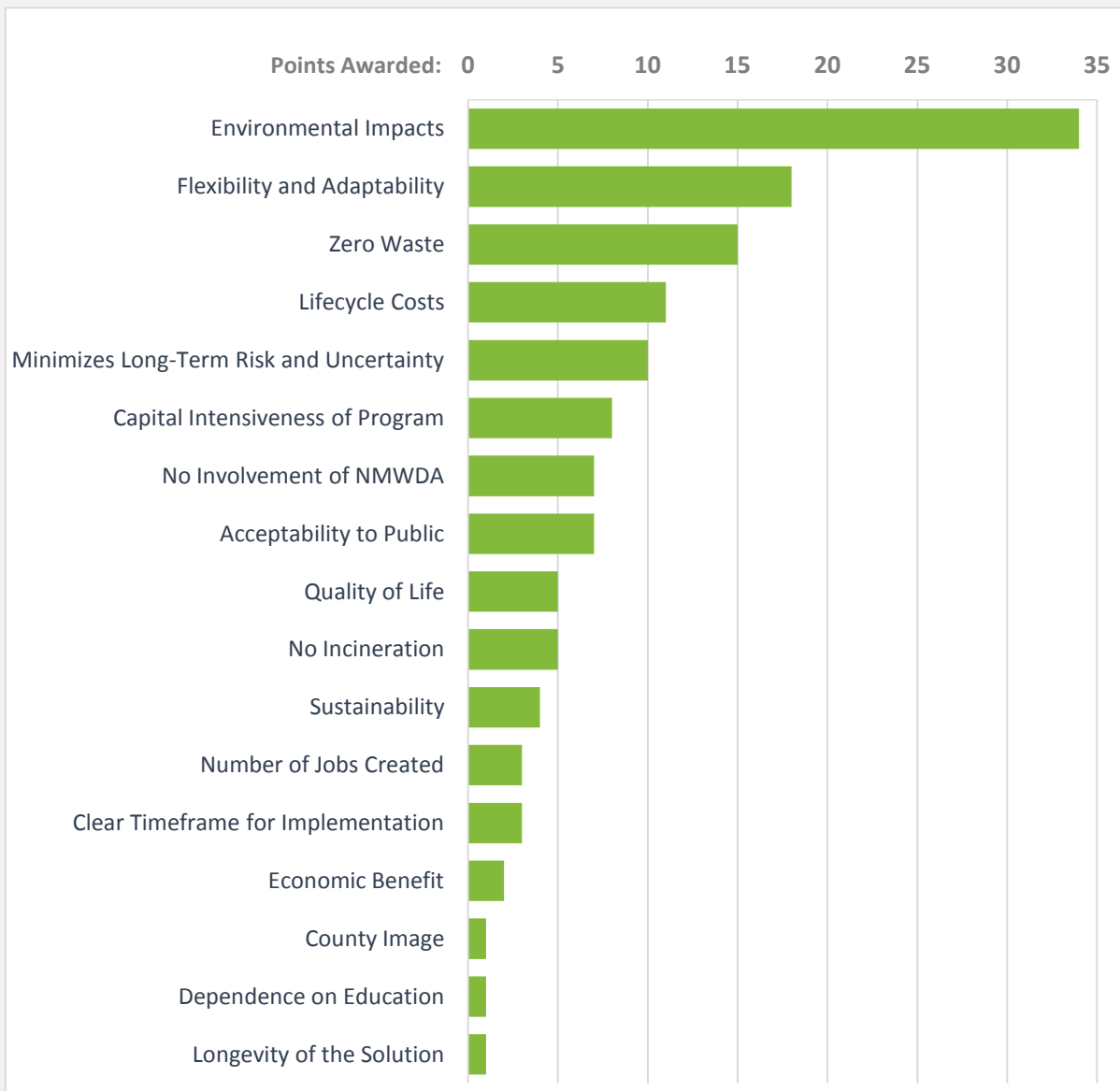
Ranked Evaluation Criteria

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:



November 19, 2015



Detailed List of Criteria	Points
Environmental Impacts (both within and outside of the County), including Carbon Footprint	34
Flexibility and Adaptability (open to advances in technology)	18
Zero Waste	15
Lifecycle Costs	11
Minimizes Long-Term Risk and Uncertainty	10
Capital Intensiveness of Program	8
No Involvement of NMWDA, or other parties that present a conflict of interest	7
Acceptability to Public	7
Quality of Life	5
No Incineration, or programs with similar emissions	5
Sustainability	4
Number of Jobs Created	3
Clear Timeframe for Implementation	3
Economic Benefit	2
County Image	1
Dependence on Education	1
Longevity of the Solution	1
Public Health and Safety	0
Program Independence	0
Enforceability	0
Fair to all Participants	0
Landfill Diversion	0
Energy Production	0
Ease and Simplicity	0
Management Requirements	0
Inclusive of all Waste Streams (e.g. biological, businesses, apartments, etc.)	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:

- Public Forum participants recommended that the County communicate about the Solid Waste Public Forum through local publications to increase attendance and participation. (County representatives indicated that the County Executive did a media blast to all municipalities and distributed a media release prior to the meeting.)
- Participants stressed the importance of making sure all municipalities are aware of this program and future programs; perhaps the County Executive should ask municipalities to send representatives to these meetings.
- Participants expressed interest in additional statistics, including the amount of landfilled waste that is food waste, the results from recent Montgomery and Anne Arundel County waste sorts, the amount of Frederick County construction and demolition waste, the cost per ton of transporting landfilled waste out of the state, and the amount of landfilled waste from residents with curbside recycling access.
- Participants suggested that medical waste should be accounted for in County activity; private companies typically collect this waste and dispose of it through incineration.
- Participants highlighted that the waste management program we pursue is an opportunity to build Frederick County's image as being progressive and intelligent.
- Participants noted that it is important to recognize the elements of our waste management that can be controlled by the County, and what must be handled by the State (e.g., bottle laws must be handled by the State). They suggested including members of the Maryland delegation in the e-mail communications about these meetings and their findings could help expand the programs' reach.
- Participants emphasized that these efforts will require cultural change; we must teach young children to value recycling and reuse, and we must build consumer pressure against large companies that generate substantial waste.

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