



# News Release

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## **Executive Gardner Announces New Food Waste Composting Initiatives for Residents, Schools and Businesses**

FREDERICK, MD – Executive Jan Gardner today announced three new initiatives to encourage composting of food waste by residents, schools and businesses. Composting extends the life of landfills, conditions soils, and improves water and air quality, and was the recommendation of the Solid Waste What's Next steering committee's 2017 final report.

“We can be proud that Frederick County is moving in the right direction when it comes to composting,” commented Executive Gardner. “We want to demonstrate that composting works and to help establish a market for composting businesses in Frederick County.”

The first initiative is a pilot program to accept commercial food waste at the county's transfer station for a reduced rate. The goal is to encourage private businesses to offer composting of food waste by demonstrating that it works. Executive Order 01-2019 establishes a lower tipping fee for haulers that bring source-separate food waste to the transfer station, beginning Sept. 9, 2019. Compostable material will be taken to an existing organic composting facility.

Food items that will be accepted through the pilot program are:

- fruit and vegetable scraps;
- meat;
- dairy products;
- fish;
- egg shells;
- coffee grounds and filters;
- tea bags;
- shredded paper and paper products, such as paper towels, napkins and tissues; and
- pizza boxes.

The Executive's second initiative will help public school students learn the proper way to separate their foods. In order to ensure the schools' food waste is free of contaminants, the county is providing a grant to Frederick County Public Schools to support part-time composting coaches so the schools' food waste can be free of contaminants.

The third initiative announced today is an effort to encourage more backyard composting by residents. The county will provide low-cost composting bins to residents on a first-come, first-serve basis at a special event in the spring of 2020.

For more information, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/compost](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/compost).

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