

Prince George's County
The Prince George's County Solid Waste, Resource Management and
Recycling Advisory Commission
aka, The Solid Waste Advisory Commission

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024 AND 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission (“SWAC”) is proud to provide this report on the extensive activities undertaken in 2024 and 2025. This report also includes recommendations and goals to continue to assist the County in making improvements in its solid waste operations. The SWAC has fulfilled its mandate to assist the County and the Department of the Environment in meeting regulatory requirements, departmental plans and programs, and County budget targets, and in fulfilling each of the powers and duties assigned in its enabling legislation. The SWAC held public meetings addressing a variety of solid waste related topics with both internal and external experts providing updates and information. Four committees provided considerable input and feedback to the Department and the County.

Two most important projects, as well as multiple additional important efforts, were undertaken: First, the SWAC provided comprehensive feedback on the sections of the Ten Year Waste Management Plan that pertained to the operation of the Sustainable Waste Management Division (formerly the Resource Recovery Division) programs and services; second, by researching and providing a detailed report to the County on how it could strengthen its operations that manage the methane generated at the landfill and organics facility; and additionally through many other projects listed below. While Prince George’s County is clearly a leader in solid waste management in the DMV, the SWAC strongly encourages the Prince George’s County government to continue to go beyond what is required and strive to increasingly develop more efficient and effective means to capture and repurpose greenhouse gas. By continuing to improve the capture of methane, the local community will benefit from the reduction of pollutants on the local level and the region, nation and world will

benefit from the contribution of a “decrease” in gases that make up our current climate crisis. Other methods for reducing methane include strengthening the food diversion, food scrap, and composting efforts both residential and commercial.

APPRECIATION

The SWAC wants to recognize the unflagging support and assistance of the staff of the Sustainable Waste Management Division (SWMD) of the Department of the Environment:

- Marilyn E. Naumann, C.P.M., M.O.L.O. Associate Director
- Timothy B. Richards, Deputy Associate Director
- Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer
- Kevin Roy B. Serrona, Resource Recovery Specialist
- Antoinette Peterson, Administrative Aid
- Steven Birchfield, Site Operations Supervisor, Maryland Environmental Services

The Associate Director, Marilyn Naumann and Resource Recovery Specialist Kevin Roy B.

Serrona have been especially helpful in managing our meetings, facilitating information acquisition, and supporting our programs and efforts over many years. Steve Birchfield, Site Operations Supervisor, Maryland Environmental Services also helped us better understand the operations at the Organics Composting Facility through several tours and waste counts.

J. Kenneth Battle, Jr., TIEE Director at Prince George’s County Council has been a very welcome and appreciated addition to the Commission in his role as ex-officio Commissioner.

Under the new County administration, late in 2025, we welcomed Dr. Sam Moki, the new Director of the Department of the Environment and Anthony Bennett, the new DoE Deputy Director. We appreciate their interest and support by regularly attending our Commission meetings and supporting our efforts. Dana Cooper, Manager of Boards and Commissions is providing ongoing guidance and direction.

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

Pursuant to SUBTITLE 21. - REFUSE.

DIVISION 1. - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

SUBDIVISION 2. - SOLID WASTE, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Sec. 21-125.01. The Prince George's County Solid Waste, Resource Management and Recycling Advisory Commission; established.

The Prince George's County Solid Waste, Resource Management and Recycling Advisory Commission ("Commission") is established to provide community input, guidance and advice to the County Executive and County Council on matters relating to solid waste, resource management and recycling management within the County. (CB-84-2004; CB-87-2012)

Sec. 21-125.02. - Powers and duties of Commission.

- a. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:
 1. Review and offer recommendations on the ten-year solid waste management plan for the County;
 2. Investigate, prepare fiscal impact statements, and make recommendations on systematic programs and alternative methods, both public and private, for the storage, collection, transportation, processing, disposal and resource recovery of solid waste, including sludge;
 3. Evaluate the impact of the solid waste management program on citizens, institutions, businesses and industries throughout the County;
 4. Recommend methods to assure public involvement in solid waste planning and develop educational programs to inform the public on all aspects of solid waste management;
 5. Recommend local and state legislation necessary to accomplish effective solid waste management;
 6. Review and comment on the annual County budget for solid waste activities; and
 7. Submit to the County Executive and County Council, and make available to the general public, an annual report of the activities of the Commission. (CB-84-2004)

Sec. 21-125.03. - Commission composition; term; officers.

- a. The Commission shall be composed of no less than nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15) members appointed by the County Executive and subject to the confirmation by the County Council. At least five (5) of the appointments, one of whom shall be designated as the vice chairman, shall be selected from a list of persons submitted by the County Council. One (1) ex-officio member may be appointed by the County Executive and one (1) ex-officio member may be appointed by the County Council. Members shall be selected so as to represent broad geographic areas of the County, the solid waste industry, business users, environmental, public health and civic community and the general public, at least one member shall be appointed from the communities surrounding the Brown Station Road landfill.
- b. The term of office for each member shall be three (3) years.
- c. The County Executive shall designate two (2) members to serve as chairman and vice chairman. The Commission members shall elect annually from their own membership such other officers as it deems necessary. Staff support shall be provided by the Department of the Environment.

(CB-84-2004; CB-87-2012; CB-30-2014; CB-025-2022; CB-109-2024)

Sec. 21-125.04. - Meetings.

The Commission shall meet in public session at least quarterly during the calendar year. (CB-84-2004; CB-87-2012)

For 2024 there were 8 commissioners with one new appointment and in 2025 there were 9 commissioners. Appendix 1 is a list of commissioners for 2024 and 2025.

ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Activities

- Regular Solid Waste Advisory Commission meetings every third Tuesday of the month. Meeting notes from every meeting are enclosed as Appendix 2.
- **Committees: Meetings and activities by the following:**
 - Education and Outreach
 - Greenhouse Gas
 - Legislation
 - Reuse
- **Special Public Presentations Organized by SWAC**
 - Update on Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (“BSRSL”) Cell C construction – Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Waste Management Division (“SWMD”) (February 20, 2024)
 - Several updates on solid waste related legislation – Martha Ainsworth, Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee Chair (Dec 17, 2024 and in January 2025)
 - Presentation of the new MDE regulations on landfill methane – April 16, 2024 – Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer, SWMD
 - Presentation on the OCF Pond Retrofit Project – May 21, 2024 -- Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer, SWMD
 - Presentation by Craig Coker of Coker Composting and Technology on anaerobic digestion – September 17, 2024
 - Presentation by former DOE Director Andrea Crooms on the haulers’ contract on October 15, 2024 and January 21, 2025
 - Presentation by Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer, SWMD, on the progress of the Area C construction on Feb. 18, 2025
 - Presentation by Ms. Kristen Brown of WasteZero on the PAYT (Pay As You Throw) scheme on March 18, 2025
 - Presentation on the budget, Tim Richards, Deputy Associate Director, SWMD, Spring 2024 and April 15, 2025
 - Introduction and conversation with Deputy Director Anthony Bennet, DOE on August 19, 2025.
 - Presentation on developing update of Area C by Eric Jackson, Senior Engineer, SWMD on October 21, 2025.
 - Presentation by Kristie Blumer of the Compost Crew on its initiatives in the DMV area on November 18, 2025
 - Presentation on the PGCPs Compost Program by Sara Gillespie on November 18, 2025
- **Tours and related Organized by SWAC**
 - Organic Waste Sort at Organics Compost Facility (OCF) on March 12, 2024, Spring of 2025, December 3, 2025 with SWAC Commissioner participation

- Commissioner attendance at Professor Russ Dickerson’s presentation on monitoring GHG emissions -- March 9, 2024
- Commissioner participation in PGC “Green Summit 2024” on October 19, 2024 and PGC “Greenfest” on October 11, 2025
- UMD Study “drive around” for methane analysis at OCF with Commissioners; also UMD drive around of Sandy Hill and other landfill sites
- SWAC Area C Tour – November 4, 2025
- Commissioner attendance at the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit, November 20, 2025

Highlights

- Submission of extensive comments and feedback on the 2024 – 2033 Ten Year Solid Waste Plan (Plan 2035) on March 13, 2024
- Initiated and conducted a major research-effort, and presented report on Landfill/Methane Capture best practices including a detailed report and recommendations from the Rocky Mountain Institute entitled “Recommendations for PG County’s Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill” and a summary of the many EPA-recommended companies we talked to for achieving those goals. A detailed letter that the SWAC sent to the County Executive and County Council is Appendix 3 and information on the promising-sounding companies that better monitor and capture methane – some even offering to do this without any up-front costs from the county – is in appendix 4
- Sent letters of support to the State legislature for:
 - HB 735/SB642 – Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program
 - HB/ 1355 Mattress Stewardship Program Establishment
 - Approved support for HB 168 – Plastic Post Consumer Recycling Content; HB 173 – State Buildings and Highways – Collection of Yard Waste; HB 841 – Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction – Water Bottle Refill Station and Reporting; and HB 457- Chain of Custody for Synthetic Turf Playing Fields
- Supported efforts of DoE to inform the public about the “Bag Bill” and its supported its implementation efforts
- In collaboration with the UMD Capstone program, designed and implemented a resident survey of College Heights Estates neighborhood about food waste and composting practices – shared with DOE to develop improved outreach and increase participation in composting
- Researched and surveyed local bicycle reuse programs (Bicycle Reuse Organization Survey) to determine possibilities for collaboration and diversion of bikes to community programs. It was determined that there was insufficient capacity to implement a program at this time

- Regular review and advocacy to address the landfill gas pipeline problem including the development and implementation of a LFG beneficial reuse program
- Regular updates and review of SWMD activities related to implementation of upgrades to monitoring wells and related infrastructures to comply with the new MDE regulations on methane, and improvements to the gas flaring system
- Annual review and input of the annual SWMD budget and capital expenditures
- Collaboration between the SWAC Outreach and Education Committee and the SWMD to increase compost program awareness and to increase participation in composting including SWAC helping on the content of a RRD flier and writing up a “why composting” flier that we handed it out to residents at the County’s Greenfest events both in 2024 and 2025
- Regular review of standard SWMD reports on recycling, composting, and the waste sort and emissions related data
- Advocacy and support for the DOE-UMD Landfill Emission Study
- Support and assistance in promoting the Durable Medical Equipment Facility for Prince George’s County residents
- Research and outreach on multifamily recycling including an ongoing survey of the 27 municipalities
- Assistance provided to the 21st Delegation-in making their annual reception sustainable, with virtually no trash, only composting and recycling, both in 2024 and 2025
- Request for fencing and tree planting at BSRSL
- Support, oversight, and feedback about haulers and bulky materials
- Recruitment of new Commissioner – Luisa Robles appointed on September 17, 2024 and whose term expires on November 5, 2027
- Oversight, review and feedback on the rollout of the *new* vendor/hauler contracts
- MPIA requests for various plans, reports and information to fulfil SWAC duties
- Facilitated a council resolution to increase the number of commissioners on SWAC from 9 commissioners to between 9 and 15 commissioners
- Providing suggestions for sources of grant funds and monitoring the status of grants that SWMD applies for
- Outreach to residents at Riderwood Retirement Homes about the Durable Medical Equipment program
- Three presentations at Victoria Falls Senior Community and one at the West Laurel Civic Association on composting and recycling
- Four articles in various issues of the West Laurel Civic Association newsletter encouraging residents to compost
- Three meetings with Michelle Blair about mandatory recycling in Laurel, MD
- Worked with University Park officials to increase composting in that municipality

- Research and outreach to PGC schools to encourage their further developing their composting programs, and then nominated PGCPs representatives for which they received a DoE award for their successes in this effort

SWAC RECOMMENDATIONS
TO PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY DOE, COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY
EXECUTIVE

1. Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL)

- a. Finalize review and agreement with vendor to operationalize a LFG beneficial gas program in 2026. This project has been delayed for far too long.
- b. Review, design and fund an early installation of an expanded gas collection system in the first 5 years of each area C cell.
- c. Review, design and fund real-time monitoring and automatic tuning of wells and identification of gas leaks
- d. Review, design and fund enhancements to daily, intermediate and final cover and mitigation measure for the working face
- e. Implement more frequent and comprehensive emissions monitoring with advanced technologies
- f. Ensure adequate perimeter management including fencing, tree cover and other aesthetic treatments to mitigate landfill appearance
- g. Finalize the Landfill Gas Emissions study with the University of Maryland to more accurately measure BSRSL emissions

2. Organics

- a. Develop, fund and implement comprehensive outreach program on composting, stressing the “WHY” or composting, which the SWAC has long counseled that residents need to understand in order to make the effort to participate
- b. Support and encourage composting programs in every school in Prince George’s County
- c. Work towards the County Council enacting mandatory composting in unincorporated areas of the county -- which will require a much better education program on WHY to compost
- d. Continue to improve the operations of the organics facility through technology and programs

3. Curbside Pickup

- a. Implement more stringent oversight of contracts with haulers to ensure timely, well managed pickups and reduced resident complaints; work toward having haulers’ next contract contain Laurel-style requirements for haulers to encourage/make residents follow recycling and mandatory composting regs

- b. Develop a bulky program that encourages reuse instead of disposal of usable materials
- c. Develop comprehensive reuse programs that identify key waste streams that can be diverted through reuse like furniture, appliances, clothing, tools, lighting, bicycles.
- d. Develop a north County reuse center

4. Legislation

- a. Continue to support the “Bottle Bill”, and other state-wide efforts to reduce, divert and more effectively manage solid waste including mattress recycling
- b. Pass legislation making composting mandatory in Prince George’s County
- c. Work with the County Council and/or School Board to make composting mandatory in all schools in PGC
- d. Work with the County Council to make composting mandatory in ALL County offices

5. SWAC

- a. Recruit, approve and on board new Commissioners ASAP – the Commission is currently below its mandated level of members

SWAC GOALS for 2026

1. Work with DoE to ensure that Maryland COMAR26.11.42 – “Controls of Methane emissions from MSW Landfills” is implemented ASAP
2. Work with DoE ensuring the use of modern technologies for monitoring methane emissions
3. Strongly encourage DoE to facilitate the timely contracting of the beneficial gas reuse project to generate funds from methane collected from landfills for the benefit of the County
4. To work with DoE and the County Council to draft and pass legislation to make composting in Prince George’s County mandatory
5. Encourage the finalization of the agreement with Professor Russ Dickerson and the UMD to implement the Methane Emissions at BSRSL
6. Help to strengthen the communications program of SWMD especially regarding the importance of food scraps and composting to provide more persuasive outreach material on-WHY composting and food diversion are so important
7. Be an information provider to the County government including the Council, the DoE, SWMD and the County Executive’s office on best practices to manage solid waste, reuse, composting and related issues
8. Review SWAC By-Laws: Develop an onboarding packet and process; require all commissioners to serve on committees and participate more actively in the work of the SWAC; set up regular SWAC committee meetings, goals and objectives.

9. Continue to identify and develop more information on methane capture and related issues at the BSRS to advocate for improved systems and processes
10. Monitor Area C landfill construction
11. Provide more oversight and review of the materials processing facility (MRF)
12. Create or support legislative effort that advance the mission of DOE and SWAC
13. Pursue suggestions from fall 202 SWAC meetings that SWAC members (and DoE staff) to try to enhance composting by reaching out to at least some of the following: more of the County's public schools (now 40 of 200 schools have composting programs) as well as private schools; the Board of Trade and its 600 member companies; the MD-DC Chapter of the Composting Council; the 27 County municipalities and its Municipal Council; the Washington area Council of Governments; the PG Co. Economic Development Corporation; the Institute for Local Self-Reliance; more of the county's Civic Associations
14. Explore the possibility of designing and implementing a trial Pay as You Throw program in south Prince George's where current residents pay for private solid waste hauling

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: COMMISSIONERS OF THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Year: 2024

1. David C. Brosch
2. Nai'lah Dawkins
3. Mouhaman Kola
4. Jonathan P. Madagu
5. Nancy Meyer, Chair
6. Charles L. Renninger
7. Luisa Robles (New Commissioner: 9/17/24)
8. Barbara Sollner-Web, Vice Chair
9. William L. Walmsley

Year: 2025

1. David C. Brosch
2. Nai'lah Dawkins
3. Mouhaman Kola
4. Jonathan P. Madagu
5. Nancy Meyer, Chair
6. Charles L. Renninger
7. Luisa Robles
8. Barbara Sollner-Web, Vice Chair
9. William L. Walmsley

APPENDIX 2. See Enclosed. SWAC 2024 and 2025 Meeting Notes

APPENDIX 3: See Enclosed. SWAC Advisory Statement on the Operation at BSRSL: See enclosed document dated October 23, 2025. This document was provided to County leadership including the County Executive, the Director of DoE, and the County Council

APPENDIX 4: See Enclosed. List of vendors of modern landfill technology companies (See Appendix 3 for detailed information about the recommendations)

APPENDIX 5: See Enclosed. Recommendations for Prince George's County from the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)

- Qube Technologies: Provides ground-based device networks for continuous monitoring.
- Contact: Jarett Henry, [JJarett.Henry@qubeiot.com], 1-639-571-8664

- Trelli Sense Inc.: Custom-built methane monitoring platform for complex sites.
- Contact: Ben Siltan, [ben@trellisense.com], 508-397-9062

- Sniffer Robotics: EPA-approved drone and GIS software for methane detection.
- Contact: Rob Reale, 734-412-7657 or 717-321-5535

- Loci Controls: Real-time data and automated tuning for gas collection and leachate management.
- Contact: Nicole Neff, 360-801-0899 or [nicole@locicontrols.com]

- Windfall Bio: Nature-based microbial solution to convert methane into organic fertilizer.
- Contacts: Matt Silverman, McKenzie Wilson, and Kyle Kornack, [matt@windfall.bio], [mckenzie@windfall.bio], [kyle@windfall.bio], 702-595-4513

- Weaver Consultants Group: Specializes in sustainability and Landfill Gas (LFG) collection.
- Contact: Matt Stutz, [mstutz@wcgrp.com], 817-735-9770 x 5162

- Apis Innovations: Focuses on stabilizing gas flows and increasing capture.
- Contact: Rachael Spelman, [rspelman@apisinnovation.com]

- PID Analyzers LLC: Provides catalytic oxidation sensors for detecting volatile hydrocarbons.
- Contact: Jennifer MacLachlan, [pidgirl@gmail.com], 774-413-5281

- Leak Finders Inc.: Offers airborne and mobile emissions monitoring.
- Contact: Jim Riffle, [Jimriffle@leakfindersinc.com], 330-283-6539

Additionally, here are the contacts for RMI and Industrious Labs:

- RMI: Olivia Alves, [oalves@rmi.org], 970-927-3851 or 303-245-1003

- Industrious Labs: Katherine Blauvelt, [Bkatherine@industriouslabs.org], 612-816-4465; [lee@industriouslabs.org]

[The Greenhouse Gas Committee was not able to go carefully through the entire list of 1000 LMOP companies so there are probably many more that may be worth talking to; we suggest that DoE staff could do a more complete search than we were able to do.]