

# Maryland Environmental Service **CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING PERSPECTIVES**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SOLUTIONS  
FOR A BETTER  
TOMORROW**



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# WHAT IS MES?

## AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY OF THE STATE

- MES is a not-for-profit business unit of the State of Maryland
- MES provides multi-disciplinary environmental compliance services to:
  - State and local governments in Maryland
  - Federal government
  - Industry
  - Private sector partners





# ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS

## MAJOR SERVICE AREAS

- Three large composting facilities
- Two Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF)
- Durable Medical Equipment Program
- Energy Plant Operations
- Environmental Monitoring
- Recyclables Marketing
- Used Oil and Antifreeze Recycling
- MES operates facilities on behalf of our clients

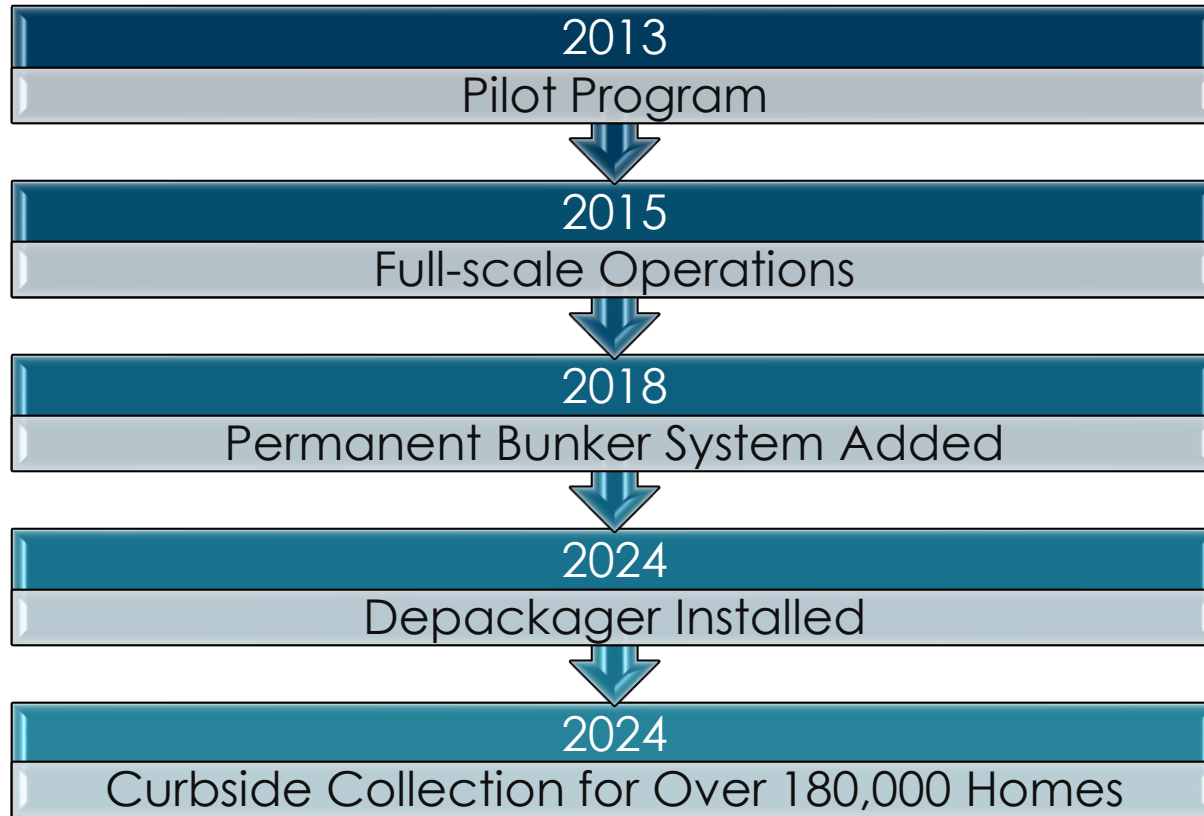
# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ORGANICS COMPOSTING FACILITY (OCF)

- 50 Paved Acres
- Windrow Operation
- Mobile CASP System
- 12 Bunker CASP System
- 65,000+ tons per year
- Award-winning, nationally recognized facility





# OCF FOOD SCRAP JOURNEY



## OVERVIEW

- MES **operated since 1989.**
- Since 2013, the OCF has **diverted tens of thousands of tons of food waste** from landfills, including over **15,000 tons in FY25** alone.
- Compostable packaging is important to the collection of large scale food scraps

# CONNECTION AND EDUCATION

- Marketing Department coordinates depackager loads
  - Material type
  - Time of delivery
  - Loose or palletized
- Prince George's County Curbside Collection
  - Commingled with yard trim
  - Not run through the depackager
- Commercial Customers
  - Work with site staff and marketing to understand acceptable materials





# COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING

- Necessary for large-scale compostable diversion
  - Schools
  - Restaurants
  - Hospitals
- Ease of use and collection is critical for significant diversion



# CHALLENGES

- Expansion of compostable packaging may not align with acceptable feedstock at facilities
- Clarity around at-home composting
- Look-alike products





# USEFUL, CLEAR, AND ACCURATE LABELING

- Recycling is still struggling with labelling after decades
- Compostable packaging can learn from the recycling industry
- Getting in front of this is critical to ensure product reliability and continued acceptance



# QUESTIONS?

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