

Organics Management Guide Submission

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Website: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works-and-transportation/waste-reduction> (includes link to toolkit)

Select the Primary Entity Type Please identify the category that best represents your project: Policies, Infrastructure, and Education – The how, where, and what of management approaches

Questions:

- 1. Background: Provide context for the program, project, or policy — why it was developed, when it began, and the problem or opportunity it addresses.**

The food waste program was developed in 2025 as part of the County's overall recycling and source reduction efforts. The concept is to educate the public on ways to reduce food waste and encourage them to donate to local food banks and pantries.

- 2. Summary: Briefly describe the initiative, including its goals, location, and primary outcomes.**

The Countywide program includes educational materials, including a rack card and magnet, a food waste tool kit, a canvas bag, and a paper bag. We have shared the rack card and magnet and the tool kit with organizations working on food waste, and local churches. The bags are being distributed in grocery stores and other locations.

- 3. Percent of Overall Diverted Material: If available, include data or estimates on the portion of the community or organization's total diverted material no longer associated with the waste stream that this program or policy addresses.**

N/A Too early in program

4. Key Program Elements or Policy Provisions: Describe the structure and main components of your program or policy. Explain the investments origins (who, how much). Please include as many of the following elements as applicable: What types of materials are being managed? (e.g., surplus recoverable foods, food scraps, wasted food. How are these materials managed? Who is responsible for managing them? (Organizations, agencies, businesses, or other entities) What products are generated, and how are they utilized or managed? (e.g., compost, animal feed, energy products) Who funds the management of these materials? (Funding sources, grants, partnerships) Who generates these materials? (Identify the origin: households, institutions, businesses, etc.)

1. The material is being managed as diverted and recovered food.
2. The materials are managed by individuals and organizations.
3. Individuals and organizations are responsible for managing the food.
4. The product generated is recoverable food. This does not include food diverted through reduced food waste.
5. The program is funded by the County's recycling outreach budget.
6. The materials are generated by households.

5. Regulatory Impact: Describe how laws, policies, regulations, and/or code have affected your program or project. This may include positive, negative, or neutral impacts. Consider noting which regulations apply, how they influenced implementation or operations, any challenges or barriers encountered, and how compliance requirements shaped program decisions.

We have seen little or no effects from the regulatory climate.

6. Measurable Increase in Supply: Include data or qualitative outcomes showing growth in collection, diversion, or reuse volumes if available.

N/A Too early in program

7. Behavior Change: Describe whether the initiative resulted in measurable behavior change and explain how you determined this. If behavior change

occurred, outline the strategies that proved most effective. Please include any available data or evidence that supports your findings.

N/A Too early in program

8. Benefits and Impacts (Economic, Environmental, and Social): Describe the economic, environmental, and social sustainability impacts of the program, policy, or initiative. This may include both positive and negative outcomes. You may address impacts such as costs or savings, job creation, waste reduction, emissions, resource conservation, community engagement, equity, or public health. Please include data or qualitative observations where available and note any trade-offs or challenges.

N/A Too early in program

9. How Stakeholder Buy-In Was Achieved: Explain how the program gained support from key stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, businesses, residents, nonprofits).

Support for the program has been gained through one-on-one meetings with individuals and organizations.

10. Stakeholders' Perspectives and Dynamics at Play: Highlight collaboration dynamics, challenges, or differing stakeholder interests and how they were addressed.

N/A

11. Lessons Learned: Share what worked well, what didn't, and recommendations for others seeking to replicate your approach.

We have received positive feedback on the rack cards and magnets.