



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) (9-1701 – 9-1730)

February 2, 2017





Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Welcome, Introductions & A Little Admin

Our Moderator:

Peter Houstle - MRN Executive Director

Our Presenter:

David Mrgich, Chief

Waste Diversion Division

Maryland Department of the Environment

Mark Your Calendars:

MRN Member Feature - Michele Blair: City of Laurel Recycling Program – Thursday, February 16

2017 Annual Conference - Monday, June 12, 2017

Admin:

Post questions in chat box on left hand side of screen

Recording will be posted on MRN website

Not a Member? Join Today to Support Recycling in Maryland!

www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org





Quick Poll

- Who are you?





Maryland Recycling Act (MRA)

- Each jurisdiction to develop and implement recycling programs by January 1, 1994. Jurisdictions with populations greater than 150,000 are currently required to recycle 20 percent or more of their waste and jurisdictions with populations less than 150,000 are currently required to recycle 15 percent or more of their waste. In no case is the recycling rate to be less than 10 percent (§ 9-505 & § 9-1704)





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- If a jurisdiction fails to meet the specified reductions, State and local authorities can prohibit the issuance of building permits for all new construction (§ 9-512 (b)(1)(iv); and
 - Conduct a public hearing on the proposed recycling rate reduction in a first step to revising the County’s recycling plan. (§ 9-1704)





MRA Original Provisions

- State Government to reduce by recycling the amount of the solid waste stream generated for disposal by at least 20 percent or to an amount that is determined practical and economically feasible, but in no case may the amount to be recycled be less than 10 percent. Additionally, State Agency recycling plans shall include a system for the recycling of aluminum, glass, paper, and plastic generated for disposal (§9-1706)





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- Telephone directories distributed in the State to have a recycled content, by weight, of 40 percent in 2005 and all subsequent years (§ 9-1709)





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- Operation of a Natural Wood Waste Recycling Facility (§ 9-1708)
- Telephone directories distributed in the State to have a recycled content, by weight, of 40 percent in 2005 and all subsequent years (§ 9-1709)
- Newsprint distributed in the State to have a 3-year rolling average recycled content, by weight, of 40 percent in 2005 and all subsequent years (§ 9-1707)





Quick Poll

- How does your jurisdiction recycle?





MRA Additions & Changes

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- A county recycling plan to address the collection, processing, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials from county public schools; requiring a county to submit a revised recycling plan to the Department by October 1, 2010 (2009).





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- By July 1, 2010, the State Agency Recycling Plan to address the placement of collection bins and the recycling of aluminum, glass, paper, and plastic; each agency and unit of State government must implement the plan by January 1, 2012 (2009).





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- A county with a population greater than 150,000 to recycle 35 percent and a county with a population less than 150,000 to recycle 20 percent of its waste stream by December 31, 2015. State agencies must implement a recycling plan with a 30 percent recycling rate mandate (2012).





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- A county recycling plan to address, by October, 2015, recycling at certain special events held on publicly owned property (2014).





Quick Poll

- Have you seen a change in event recycling?





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- Establishing a program or system for the collection, recycling, or disposal of each cell, rechargeable battery or rechargeable product sold in the State (1994).
- Establishing a voluntary, state-wide waste diversion goal of 40 percent by the year 2005, consisting of a 35 percent MRA recycling rate plus up to 5 percent credit for source reduction activities (2000). – **Source Reduction added.**





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- Establishing a program or system for the collection, recycling, or disposal of each cell, rechargeable battery or rechargeable product sold in the State (1994).
- Establishing a voluntary, state-wide waste diversion goal of 40 percent by the year 2005, consisting of a 35 percent MRA recycling rate plus up to 5 percent credit for source reduction activities (2000).
- **Reducing the impact of mercury in the environment by requiring that the Department provide outreach assistance to schools, businesses, and the general public relating to the proper management and recycling of mercury-containing products; prohibiting the sale of mercury thermometers beginning in 2002 (2001).**





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- The voluntary statewide recycling and waste diversion goals increase to 55 percent and 60 percent, respectively for 2020 (2012).





Quick Poll

- In the last five years, has recycling in your county/municipality increased, decreased, stayed the same?





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- Requiring motor vehicle manufacturers to develop and submit to the Department a mercury minimization plan that includes information on mercury switch removal from motor vehicles (2009).
- The voluntary statewide recycling and waste diversion goals increase to 55 percent and 60 percent, respectively for 2020 (2012).
- **A person may operate a composting facility in the State only in accordance with any regulation, order, or permit adopted or issued (2013).**





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- MRA Recycling Rate is defined in § 9-505(a)(18 & 19), not Subtitle 17 (MRA). Referenced in MRA for reporting & failure to meet the rate.





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- Actions for a Counties' Inability to achieve a reduction of solid waste stream is in § 9-512 (b)(1)(iv) and § 9-1704.
- **The MRA outlines County reporting required to show compliance with recycling requirements.**





Key Points

- All of the materials that count towards the MRA recycling rate are not listed in the MRA -- only general guidelines.
 - Recyclable Material (§ 9-1701). Those materials that would otherwise become solid waste for disposal in a refuse disposal system and may be collected, separated, or processed and returned to the market-place in the form of raw materials or products
 - Definition of Solid Waste Stream (§ 9-1701). Garbage or refuse that would, unless recycled, be disposed of in a refuse disposal system located in this State. “Solid Waste Stream” does not include hospital waste, rubble, scrap material, landclearing debris, sewage sludge, and waste generated by a single individual or business and disposed of in a facility dedicated solely for that entity’s waste.





Key Points

- 17-1001 defines “Scrap Metal.” Out of the definition, the Department outlined the scrap metal that counts towards the MRA. These include:
 - Aluminum beverage and food containers;
 - Aluminum foil and food tray containers;
 - Bi-metal, tin, and steel food or beverage containers;
 - White goods (*e.g.*, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, air conditioners, etc.);
 - Lead Acid Batteries (*e.g.*, automobile batteries)
 - Ferrous or non-ferrous materials pulled from the waste stream at a municipal solid waste disposal acility via front-end recycling;
 - Ferrous and non-ferrous metal pulled post incineration; and
 - Any other metals deemed acceptable by the Department.





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- Incineration is excluded. However, a 5% credit is given to Counties that send their waste to a resource recovery facility in operation prior to January 1, 1988.
- The Department issued composting facility regulations (26.04.11) to assist facilities to operate at a reduced environmental risk and clarify requirements.





Quick Poll

- Does your county/municipality have a food scraps management program in place?





Life Made Easier

- The Department assumed the responsibility of reporting all County waste disposed through permitted solid waste acceptance facilities.
 - Counties are now only responsible for reporting waste disposed directly out of State, bypassing Maryland permitted solid waste acceptance facilities; and
 - Ensuring (and reporting if necessary) any waste disposed by a business that the county reported their recycling totals in which the business's waste was not captured by a Maryland permitted solid waste acceptance facility.





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- The Department gathers waste diversion information in the County Coordinator Resources section of the Department's Waste Diversion web page at www.mde.maryland.gov/recycling
 - Included are of the MRA's provisions in the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Tonnage Reporting Survey Guidelines
 - All forms necessary to complete the annual survey





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- **Annual Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report**





Contact Information

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