

Maryland Recycling Network Industry Issues Survey - November 2011

Number in cell below rating anchor indicates the number of respondents who selected that value.

Education - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item challenging to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Public education about recycling policies and procedures	1	5	20	14	12	0	3.60
Education of legislators and regulators regarding the value and importance	3	7	13	14	13	1	3.54
Education of land-use and building design professionals regarding the value and importance of recycling	2	11	13	12	11	3	3.39
Education of facilities managers regarding the value and importance of	4	12	12	15	8	1	3.22
Public education about the value and importance of recycling	3	13	18	10	8	0	3.13
Community acceptance of recycling facilities	11	14	11	8	6	2	2.68

Operations - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not a All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Determining and/or acting on opportunity in food collection.	2	2	6	20	16	5	4.00
Available locations for composting facilities	2	5	10	11	20	4	3.88
Identifying and acting on effective new recycling technologies.	1	3	22	14	10	2	3.58
Absence of uniform measurement standards and certification of recycled	1	8	14	13	10	5	3.50
Inconsistent quality of materials collected	2	13	18	9	7	2	3.12
Available locations for waste recycling facilities	5	12	16	11	4	4	2.94
E-cycling Overload	7	12	14	3	7	7	2.79

Markets - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
International market demand fluctuations	4	11	17	11	6	2	3.08
Local market demand fluctuations	4	17	12	10	6	2	2.94
Balancing supply & demand	5	12	18	6	5	4	2.87
High demand for single stream	11	9	16	3	9	3	2.79

Competition - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Public-private revenue sharing	9	8	14	9	3	7	2.74
Public-private competition	9	12	15	8	2	4	2.61
Competition between landfills and composting operations for yard and food	16	8	10	4	5	7	2.40

Costs - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Rising energy cost	5	5	15	17	5	3	3.26
Overall transportation cost	5	4	17	18	3	3	3.21

Rising labor cost	8	11	19	7	2	3	2.66
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Public Policy - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Growing pressure on local governments to find cost savings on solid waste management, including recycling.	4	5	10	19	12	0	3.60
Unfunded legislative mandates	4	11	10	10	15	0	3.42
Inconsistent policies and procedures across municipalities	5	9	12	13	9	2	3.25

Trade - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
National and international players squeezing out the local independents	2	6	15	13	8	6	3.43
Trade issues with volatile overseas markets	2	10	20	6	6	6	3.09

Planning for the Future - Please indicate the extent to which you consider each item a challenge to the recycling community as a whole.

Answer Options	Not at All Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Moderately Challenging	Very Challenging	Extremely Challenging	N/A	Rating Average
Establishing clear responsibility for product stewardship	4	6	15	12	12	2	3.45
Making long term plans in an uncertain environment (anticipating demand,	1	11	16	14	8	0	3.34
Understanding how far we can really go toward zero waste	8	6	11	14	11	0	3.28
Determining the next step after single stream	2	12	18	10	6	3	3.13

Please rank the following six areas in terms of how challenging they are for your organization from Most Challenging (1) to Least Challenging (6).

Answer Options	6 Least Challenging	5	4	3	2	1 Most Challenging	Rating Average
Public education	6	4	3	4	13	13	4.23
Operating costs (incl. transportation)	1	4	9	10	7	10	4.17
Regulatory compliance	4	8	8	9	12	5	3.70
Inconsistent standards	4	8	12	9	7	5	3.49
Volatile markets	6	9	9	9	3	2	3.00
Competition	19	9	5	6	3	2	2.34

Which of the following best describes your organization?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Government Agency	47.9%
Private Business	20.8%
Non-Profit Agency	10.4%
Individual	14.6%
Other (please specify)	6.3%