DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING
Overview

• For more than 26 years, Prince George’s County has owned and managed the Prince George’s County Organics Composting Facility – a 200+ acre site located in Upper Marlboro

• The facility is operated by the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), through an intergovernmental agreement

• MES turns yard trim, including grass clippings, leaves, brush, small branches into a trademarked product called Leafgro®. Christmas trees are shredded into mulch and given away to residents during a popular annual mulch-giveaway event

• Leafgro GOLD® includes food scraps and yard trim
• Private and County contractors deliver yard trim and food scraps to the facility

• Approximately 172,000 households receive yard trim curbside collection by County contracted haulers

• Nearly 60,000 tons of yard trim is processed annually

• 9,785 tons of food scraps processed during fiscal year 2018
FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

• May 2013 tested food scrap composting utilizing mobile Gore Cover Technology

• 2 expansions GORE system since 2013 from 3 heaps to 4 and from 4 heaps to 8 heaps; with incremental food scrap increases of 1,509, 4,400 to 9,785 tons respectively

• December 2018 the full scale 12 Mega Heap Bunker System with Gore Covers installation was completed; allowing for processing of an additional 32,000 tons of food scraps per year
FOOD SCRAP CUSTOMERS

- County’s Department of the Environment
- University of Maryland – closed loop
- Private contractors/haulers
- Several County municipalities
- Federal entities such as the Smithsonian
- Washington Nationals Park
- Out-of-County entities
- County has voluntarily handled special event food scrap composting for the Maryland Department of the Environment among others
• Waste Characterization Study at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill revealed organics comprise nearly 50% of what is being thrown away as trash

• December of 2017 the County implemented a one year EPA grant funded residential food scrap collection pilot

• approximately 200 households

• Pepper Mill/Carmody Hills, Wilburn, Ft. Washington/Tantallon & West Laurel
FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING PILOT

FY18 Pilot

• 1.5 gallon Kitchen bin & 35 gallon wheeled cart; “How To” Guide and other engagement materials

• 1 time supply of compostable liners

• Collected weekly on Monday, yard trim collection day

• 1st six months collected separate from yard trim

• 2nd six months combined with yard trim
NEXT STEPS – RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

FY20 Program

• Fall of 2019, in recognition of ARD
• Opt-in; target of 3,000 households; Expansion county wide within 3 years
• 1.5 gallon kitchen bin & 35 gallon wheeled cart; engagement materials
• Targeting Friday trash & recycling collection areas
• Collected combined with yard trim on Monday
FUTURE PLANS

• Expand to other County agencies
• Promote/implement school composting programs
• Provide information to multifamily properties; encourage programs/pilots
• Promote/encourage Commercial food scrap composting
• Maximize our operation & GROW again