

# Shrusti Amula

Sophomore @Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD

---

## Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Bill#: HB0150 & SB0124

Public Schools – Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste

Position: Favorable

Food waste dumped in landfills or burned in trash incinerators is one of the leading contributors to global warming. The copious amounts of forgotten and disregarded food that are tossed mindlessly into our landfills are a global travesty of massive proportions. Every year in the United States, approximately 31% (133 billion pounds) of the overall food supply is wasted, which impacts food security, resource conservation, and contributes to the **18% of total U.S. methane emissions that come from landfills.**

Overall, Climate change is very important to me and the future of all kids. So, I would like to Thank you for the steps you are taking today to ensure that you all are leaving us a sustainable and environment-friendly Maryland. And thank you for the opportunity to testify to the committee.

My name is Shruti Amula, a Sophomore at Richard Montgomery high school. I am also a founder of an NGO (Rise N Shine Foundation), which promotes Youth of all ages and backgrounds to identify the needs of the community and motivate them to provide volunteer-based services.

In 2018, I was lucky to stumble upon on the idea of Food Waste and its effects on climate, it started as a research project. I worked with Clarksburg Elementary School, a local school in my community, and started a composting program. The school principal and the administrative staff were very supportive. Through this program, the leftover food from student lunch is hauled to compost facilities thus diverting schools' food waste from incinerators and landfills and giving back to the environment through compost. We learned that it is easy to educate young minds on the harmful effects of food waste and spearhead the behavioral adaption to proper disposal of food waste.

However, composting at schools was fairly a new concept, in an already busy and budget-constrained school system. We too had our fair share of challenges. One of the most important challenges we faced was to find a sponsor or funds to cover the cost of hauling food waste for the entire school year. It was very difficult, working at the grassroots level without a proper support system or policies. We solved problems creatively one at a time. Over the years the program has been running smoothly with amazing sustainability benefits (reports attached below) and helping the school get Green school certification (win-win). This year the program was expanded to 2<sup>nd</sup> Elementary school. Rollout to 3<sup>rd</sup> school is on-hold due to the surge in Covid cases.

I applaud the delegates and the committee for your leadership to encourage composting across Maryland schools. I have the experience of developing, implementing, and operating composting programs at school. Please let me know if I could be of any help. Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide my input.

# Shrusti Amula

Sophomore @Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD

School Year 2018-2019 Clarksburg ES

School Year: 2019-2020: Clarksburg ES



## ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**START DATE:** 12-01-2018 **END DATE:** 6-30-2019

Clarksburg Elementary School  
13530 Redgrave Pl  
Clarksburg, MD 20871



### OFFSET EQUIVALENTS:



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**226**

GALLONS  
OF GAS  
CONSUMED



GREENHOUSE  
**GAS**  
FROM

**5,052**

MILES  
DRIVEN  
BY AN AVERAGE  
PASSENGER VEHICLE



**CARBON**  
SEQUESTERED  
BY

**33**

TREE  
SEEDLINGS  
GROWN FOR  
10 YEARS



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**244,502**

SMART  
PHONES  
CHARGED

### COLLECTION WEIGHTS:

Total Weight: 5,602 lbs (2.8 Ton)

**4539 METROPOLITAN COURT**  
**FREDERICK, MD 21704**

**240-608-0283**  
**INFO@KEYCOMPOST.COM**



## ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**START DATE:** 11-01-2019 **END DATE:** 3-31-2020

Clarksburg Elementary School  
13530 Redgrave Pl  
Clarksburg, MD 20871



### OFFSET EQUIVALENTS:



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**177**

GALLONS  
OF GAS  
CONSUMED



GREENHOUSE  
**GAS**  
FROM

**3,946**

MILES  
DRIVEN  
BY AN AVERAGE  
PASSENGER VEHICLE



**CARBON**  
SEQUESTERED  
BY

**26**

TREE  
SEEDLINGS  
GROWN FOR  
10 YEARS



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**190,979**

SMART  
PHONES  
CHARGED

### COLLECTION WEIGHTS:

Total Weight: 4,373 lbs (2.2 Ton)

**4539 METROPOLITAN COURT**  
**FREDERICK, MD 21704**

**240-608-0283**  
**INFO@KEYCOMPOST.COM**

# Shrusti Amula

Sophomore @Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD

Current School Year (November) Clarksburg ES



## MONTHLY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**START DATE:** 11-01-2021 **END DATE:** 11-30-2021

Clarksburg Elementary School  
13530 Redgrave Pl  
Clarksburg, MD 20871



### OFFSET EQUIVALENTS:



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**97**

GALLONS  
OF GAS  
CONSUMED



GREENHOUSE  
**GAS**  
FROM

**2,161**

MILES  
DRIVEN  
BY AN AVERAGE  
PASSENGER VEHICLE



CARBON  
SEQUESTERED  
BY

**14**

TREE  
SEEDLINGS  
GROWN FOR  
10 YEARS



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**104,613**

SMART  
PHONES  
CHARGED

### COLLECTION WEIGHTS:

Total Weight: 2,405 lbs (1.2 Ton)

4539 METROPOLITAN COURT  
FREDERICK, MD 21704

240-608-0283  
INFO@KEYCOMPOST.COM

Current School Year (November) Cedar Grove ES



## MONTHLY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**START DATE:** 11-01-2021 **END DATE:** 11-30-2021

Cedar Grove Elementary  
24001 Ridge Road  
Germantown, MD 20876



### OFFSET EQUIVALENTS:



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**40**

GALLONS  
OF GAS  
CONSUMED



GREENHOUSE  
**GAS**  
FROM

**905**

MILES  
DRIVEN  
BY AN AVERAGE  
PASSENGER VEHICLE



CARBON  
SEQUESTERED  
BY

**6**

TREE  
SEEDLINGS  
GROWN FOR  
10 YEARS



**CO2**  
EMISSIONS  
FROM

**43,791**

SMART  
PHONES  
CHARGED

### COLLECTION WEIGHTS:

Total Weight: 991 lbs (0.5 Ton)

4539 METROPOLITAN COURT  
FREDERICK, MD 21704

240-608-0283  
INFO@KEYCOMPOST.COM