



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

HB 1450

Education – Food Waste
Grant Program – Established

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: March 6, 2020
Committee: Ways and Means

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for House Bill 1450 – Education – Food Waste Grant Program – Established.

Food waste (or food loss) is food that is wasted, lost, or uneaten and, according to the US Department of Agriculture, is estimated at between 30-40 percent of the food supply. Recovery of this food is beneficial for a broad range of reasons, beyond as a source of food for people. Benefits include feed for animals, uses in industry and agriculture, and the reduction of organic waste in landfills.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Establishes a statewide food waste program that provides grants to school systems and schools to reduce waste in a variety of ways, engages students in environmental literacy regarding food waste, and supports the professional development needs of educators in this area and in implementing food waste programs at their school;
- Supports the County Executive's initiatives to encourage composting of food waste by residents, businesses, and schools, and supplements the County's grants to Frederick County Public Schools to fund dedicated staff and services to capture food waste;
- Supports school projects that incorporate environmental best practices for food waste, composting, and water conservation; and
- Requires the evaluation of the efficacy of the funding in reducing the amount of food waste in school districts and schools, increasing student environmental literacy, supporting effective and relevant professional development to teachers and staff, and providing adequate funds to administer program.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges **SUPPORT** and a **FAVORABLE REPORT** for House Bill 1450.