

# **Anne Arundel County\_FAV\_HB1094.docx (1)**

Uploaded by: Baron, Pete

Position: FAV



February 24, 2021

## **House Bill 1094**

### **Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility House Environment and Transportation Committee**

#### **Position: FAVORABLE**

The Anne Arundel County Administration supports the development of comprehensive waste disposal solutions for the Baltimore region. According to population forecasts published by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the region's population is expected to increase by about 9% between 2020 and 2045.<sup>1</sup> This increasing population will generate more municipal waste of all kinds, and will likely require additional disposal capabilities that have yet to be designed.

The Administration welcomes the opportunity to be part of the workgroup tasked with designing these solutions. As participants on this workgroup, we will endeavor to ensure that such solutions do not burden communities with pollution for generations to come, but minimize potential environmental and human health impacts. We will also work with other workgroup members to thoroughly evaluate environmental justice and equity impacts on any potentially affected community. Finally, we will insist upon solutions that focus on recycling, reuse, composting and the advancement of zero waste principles.

For all these reasons, the Anne Arundel County Administration requests a **FAVORABLE** vote on HB 1094.

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<sup>1</sup> Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 2020. Round 9A Cooperative Forecasts available at: [https://baltometro.org/sites/default/files/bmc\\_documents/general/community/demo-and-socio-forecasting/Round-9A\\_Jurisdictional.pdf](https://baltometro.org/sites/default/files/bmc_documents/general/community/demo-and-socio-forecasting/Round-9A_Jurisdictional.pdf)

# **BaltimoreCounty\_FAV\_HB1094.pdf**

Uploaded by: Conner, Charles

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.  
*Director of Government Affairs*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Deputy Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.: HB 1094**

**TITLE:** Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Ruth

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:** **FAVORABLE**

**DATE:** February 24, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1094 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility. This legislation would require the Maryland Department of the Environment to convene a work group to evaluate regional waste disposal throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County.

Changes in the recycling system, increases in local populations, and unexpected single use items generated from the pandemic has led to an abundance of solid waste in the state needing immediate attention. This is why Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has made passing legislation to solve this issue a priority of his this session. The County's Eastern Sanitary Landfill is reaching capacity and other regional jurisdictions are finding themselves in the same spot. While there have been attempts at the state and local level to find creative solutions to this problem, there has yet to be a regional approach to take on Maryland's trash in some of the State's most populated counties.

Local jurisdictions continue to work together and connect to process regional trash. This legislation seeks to formalize this and provide state resources for regional strategizing. By convening representatives from local jurisdictions, House Bill 1094 will integrate the plans of municipalities that already are dependent upon each other. Additionally, the workgroup will explore the need for a regional waste disposal facility that will work for all member counties. This legislation is urgently needed.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1094. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).

## **BDC - 2021- HB 1094 - workgroup regional facility(**

Uploaded by: Greenfield, Aaron

Position: FAV

**Bill Title:** House Bill 1094, Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

**Committee:** Environment & Transportation

**Date:** February 24, 2021

**Position:** Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC), a world leader in the finance, design, construction, engineering, and operation of anaerobic digestion facilities. With more than 220 anaerobic digestors built throughout the world, our expert team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers and marketing experts has over 20 years' experience in the finance, design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support with insured and guaranteed operation of each plant. We are proud to call Howard County and Maryland our US home.

This legislation requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to convene a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility to serve Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. The workgroup must include six representatives of local government, one representative each from Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County, one representative from the Maryland Environmental Services and one representative of the waste diversion industry.

Bioenergy Devco supports the intent of House Bill 1094 and is encouraged that a representative from the waste diversion industry will serve on the workgroup. Any plan to establish a regional waste disposal facility – amongst six jurisdictions - must include waste diversion as a priority.

Take food waste as an example. The Maryland Department of the Environment estimates that Maryland food manufacturers and processors produce up to 998,630 tons of excess food waste per year. Most reports suggest that between 30%-40% of food is wasted along the supply chain, from processing through in-home and dining-out consumption. Only 5% of food waste is currently diverted to compost or anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities. As a result, food waste is typically the first or second largest component of the municipal solid waste stream. Excess organic waste is typically disposed of through unsustainable means such as incineration, crowded

landfills, or worst of all, left to pollute local communities. Disruption in the supply chain and related food waste disposal challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for robust organics recycling infrastructure.

Organics recycling facilities in the form of anaerobic digesters and compost add capacity that enables these jurisdictions to manage excess organics in a way that supports the environment and business, allowing municipalities to reduce the use of greenhouse gas emissions while reaching zero waste and clean energy goals.

Passage of House Bill 1094, in concert with approving House Bill 264, Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, will play a critical role in reducing unsustainable means of disposal in the Northeast Maryland region, and set a path towards achieving broader zero waste goals across the State.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on House Bill 1094.**

For additional information, please contact Aaron Greenfield at 410.446.1992

## **Ruth - HB1094 - support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ruth, S

Position: FAV





THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB1094**

Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

Delegate Sheila Ruth

February 24, 2021

Waste is becoming an increasing problem for local jurisdictions. Landfills are filling up, and recycling markets are not as well developed as we need them to be. Decomposing food waste is a major contributor to the climate crisis, yet there is limited ability to divert organic waste in Maryland. Plastic waste is breaking down into microplastic particles, which can now be found everywhere on earth, including in animals and humans.

Each of the local jurisdictions is working on finding solutions to the problem of what to do with our waste, but there are advantages to working regionally. Economies of scale can lead to cost savings. Recycling markets may be easier to develop with the greater output of multiple jurisdictions. Counties and Baltimore City working together along with other stakeholders may be better able to find creative solutions.

HB1094 creates a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility to serve Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. The workgroup will include representatives of each of these jurisdictions as well as representatives of other stakeholders and experts.

I've submitted amendments that clarify that the intent of the bill is for the workgroup to look at the problem of waste holistically and focus on diversion as well as disposal. The workgroup will report on various items, including siting of a new regional waste diversion and disposal facility, cost sharing, developing markets and networks, consolidation, phasing out incineration, focusing on recycling, reuse, and composting, and advancing the principles of zero waste.

I request a favorable report on HB1094.

# **HB1094\_FWA\_NWRA\_WG to Evaluate the Establishment R**

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FWA

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**  
a chapter of the



**National  
Waste & Recycling  
Association**<sup>SM</sup>  
Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Sheila Ruth

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED** – House Bill 1094 – *Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility*

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The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** House Bill 1094, **only if the legislation is amended**.

House Bill 1094 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to convene a workgroup, with a defined membership, to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility that serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The Department must issue a report on the Workgroup's findings and recommendations by December 1, 2021. The required report must include *proposals* (1) for the siting of a regional waste disposal facility; (2) for sharing costs associated with establishing a regional waste disposal facility; (3) for developing service networks; (4) that consider modern technology and consolidation needs, as specified; (5) that provide a commitment to phase out incineration; (6) that focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and (7) that advance principles of zero waste.

While MDSWA has no objection to the creation of a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility, the workgroup does include the private waste industry. The private sector is a critical player across all the Counties identified to be part of this workgroup. The private sector provides the vast majority of the collection of both waste and recyclable materials across the identified region. It also owns and operates a number of recycling and other waste management facilities. To that end, MDSWA would request that a representative from the Association be included in the membership of the workgroup. In addition, MDSWA would take issue with the fact that the charge of the workgroup and its required report presumes certain findings before they have been evaluated. The information to be included in the annual report requires "*proposals*" not the "*findings and recommendations*" of the

workgroup. If the Workgroup is to objectively evaluate the establishment of a regional facility, it should not presume there will be proposals to that end but rather findings and recommendations. Along those lines, MDSWA, also, does not support the language which states the report should “provide a commitment to phase out incineration”. Once again, this is reaching a conclusion before the study has been undertaken. The bill should be amended to reflect a report on the findings and recommendations of the Workgroup with the deletion of the provision that requires the phase out of incineration or amending it to evaluate its continued use.

As stated previously, MDSWA appreciates the interest in evaluating the development of a regional facility and with the adoption of its amendments would welcome the opportunity to work with the local jurisdictions to achieve that end. Absent the adoption of the requested amendments, MDSWA is unable to support the legislation.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000

# **HB1094\_CleanWaterAction\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kunze, Jennifer

Position: FWA



## **HB1094: Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility**

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 24, 2021

### **Positon: Favorable With Amendments**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports HB1094 with amendments addressing the composition of the work group and its mandate, and we thank Delegate Ruth for bringing forward this important issue and for working with us through some amendments.

Regional collaboration on solid waste diversion and disposal is valuable, expecially as local governments look to transition away from reliance on incinerators and landfills and toward composting, recycling, and source reduction. We applaud the significant steps that the local governments named in this legislation have taken toward that end.

Amendments to this legislation will help ensure that the work group created takes a holistic look at regional solid waste management and is equipped to make recommendations based on federally recognized solid waste management hierarchies and the latest information about composting, recycling, and diversion practices.

First, we suggest that the legislation task the work group with evaluating “the establishment of a regional waste diversion and disposal facility” and potentially include “or facilities.” A focus on the diversion of waste may yield possibilities for repurposing/reuse facilities that keep materials out of the waste stream entirely, the optimal solution. And by evaluating both a singular facility or a network of facilities, the work group can make recommendations that may yield more efficient solutions that emit fewer pollutants transporting materials across the region.

Second, the work group should include members who have expertise in specific sectors within the waste diversion industry, including: composting processing and collection, source separation incentives, construction and demolition debris reuse, source reduction via reuse/refill and other business programs, and the various sectors of recyclable materials. Such expertise is crucial in a work group such as this to evaluate the broad range of opportunities available to local governments to reduce the amount of waste going toward landfills and incinerators.

Third, the legislation should include explicit guidance on tools available to help the work group evaluate diversion and disposal options. The EPA’s “Managing and Transforming Waste: A Tool For Communities”<sup>1</sup> provides valuable case studies and other materials to help local governments

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1 <https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool>

identify programs to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and promote waste prevention and materials reuse across waste generation sectors.

Finally, we ask the committee to amend the requirements for the work group's report to reflect the above recommendations, including exploring both singular and multiple sites for distributed regional waste disposal infrastructure and for collaborative cost-sharing and planning among local governments.

We applaud the intent of this legislation to provide a commitment to phase out incineration; promote composting, reuse, and recycling; and advance the principles of zero waste. We hope the committee will implement these recommended edits to help the work group fulfil that goal.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Kunze".

Jennifer Kunze  
Clean Water Action  
240-397-4126  
[jkunze@cleanwater.org](mailto:jkunze@cleanwater.org)

# **HB1094.Wittner.UpdatedTestimony.Opposed**

Uploaded by: Wittner, Diane

Position: UNF





Monday, Feb 22, 2021

Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB 1094 - Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility  
Position - Opposed

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to HB 1094, Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Facility. As it currently stands, this workgroup would not lead Maryland communities down the path to zero waste, a direction desperately needed for the future of our state. As you know, we are in a climate and pollution crisis of great urgency. Together, we must adapt and mitigate to *less, not more* air, water and soil pollution and return our environment to health. We also must *reduce, not expand*, climate-change inducing carbon emissions.

About me: I live in Towson. I am an educator and founding owner/operator of a pioneering zero-waste small business. Founded in 2015, my company is called Echotopia LLC. I make and sell refillable biodegradable cleaning products, such as laundry detergent. Before covid, I sold my products at farmers markets.

For five years, I set up my stall and refill station at Baltimore's two weekend farmers markets, twice monthly. My customer base grew, and in 2019 it simply exploded. I made a profit for the first time. By the end of 2019, we hit a milestone; using my refill station, my customers had prevented over 2,500 items of packaging trash.

I'm concerned that a plan for a single regional waste disposal facility would lead to a facility that involves burning waste, and/or producing 'refuse-derived fuel' to be burned. This would deprive future generations of Marylanders of an opportunity to have a healthier environment for all. I am concerned that the proposed facility would not dispose of waste. It would simply reshape it, adding to the problem of trash. Then, burning would increase toxic air pollution. Plastics pollute, period. They don't break down. They harm life systems everywhere, including, as we now know, our food and our bodies. The idea of re-shaping throw-away plastics materials into something else to be temporarily reused, creates dangerous community pollution and increased carbon emissions, something Marylanders can ill afford.

**While I applaud lawmakers and citizens who have devoted hours working to solve the issue of 'what to do with our trash' in the proposed legislation HB 1094, I respectfully propose another way forward:**

**Success in other communities such as Frederick informs us that a "pay as you throw" (1) policy creates immediate trash-reduction behavioral change among consumers, as does extended producer responsibility done right, where Washington State is leading. (2)**

**Additionally, common sense dictates that the successful zero waste path means following the "R's" , more or less in this order:**

- 1. Rot - composting**
- 2. Reduce - reducing community consumption of single use, throw-away items**
- 3. Refill - refill packaging**
- 4. Reuse - reusing items, including taking apart re-sellable and re usable parts of items such as mattresses**
- 5. Repair - fixing things, decreasing planned obsolescence/poor quality items**
- 6. Recycling paper, cardboard, metals and glass. Recycling is the least desirable option, for two obvious reasons. Recycling requires using energy, and energy use can be polluting. Additionally, sorting even these materials for recycling can be difficult or costly. To conclude, even recycling these materials involves investments and learned new behaviors on the part of Marylanders, and should only be a last resort on our zero waste path. As for plastic, we learned in the "The Story of Plastic" movie (3) plastics recycling isn't successful *anywhere* in the world, so let's admit that truth and be innovative.**

Though it's necessary it's also complex to transform our economy and habits. But the true zero waste path will benefit our economy. And consumer choice/lack thereof is a factor, as is lobbying on the part of plastics makers, the oil and gas industry that seeks continued profits at any cost. But in 2021, getting to zero waste is more urgent than ever if we want life systems to have a chance in Maryland and beyond.

**This written testimony provides you with good news. In my experience as a zero waste path business owner, I discovered to my delight and relief that Marylanders are hungry for the *true* zero waste path now. I was told this repeatedly, for years, from people from all walks of life, particularly from our youth. Just look at the image at the top of this page, and you'll see many smiling faces.**

I respectfully urge you to reconsider HB1094. I remain opposed to this proposed legislation. I look forward to telling my hundreds of customers about the Maryland General Assembly's holistic, realistic zero waste legislation that benefits everyone in our state. Thank you for your leadership and work on behalf of all Marylanders.

Sincerely,  
Diane Wittner  
Echotopia LLC, A Zero Waste Business  
Towson & Baltimore, Maryland  
[diane@echotopia.org](mailto:diane@echotopia.org)

(1) *City of Frederick Key to Recycling in Frederick County, Maryland*  
<https://ilsr.org/city-of-frederick-key-to-recycling-in-frederick-county-maryland/>

(2) *With recycling's dirty truths exposed, Washington works toward a cleaner, more sustainable system*  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/with-recyclings-dirty-truths-exposed-washington-works-toward-a-cleaner-more-sustainable-system/>

(3) *Story of Plastics movie, 2019*  
<https://123fullmovies.co/the-story-of-plastic-full-movies-666227.html>

## **HB1069\_MDE\_LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Crumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Re: House Bill 1069 – Water Supply - Private Well Safety Program**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 1069, entitled Water Supply - Private Well Safety Program and would like to offer a letter of information regarding this legislation.

House Bill 1069 establishes two new programs: a well safety program and a well surveillance program. The well safety program will have a dedicated private well safety fund consisting of revenue collected by a special transfer tax. The imposed tax will apply when transferring any residential property served by a private water supply well. The well safety program will include grant opportunities for covered households, not necessarily property owners, to assist with costs related to water quality tests, well remediations and costs associated with septic systems. Grants may also be provided to counties to disburse funds to covered households and for educational outreach activities. The bill would require a public accessible portal component for water quality testing results and certificates of potability.

The well safety fund will not finance the well surveillance program established in this bill. The surveillance program would be a new program for the Department and the counties to conduct field sampling and surveys of private water supply wells in areas of suspected contamination. Based on field results areas are designated as hotspots which will encompass an entire zip code. The definition in the proposed bill for designating hotspots expands beyond the results of field surveys. According to the definition in a two-year period, a zip code would be a hotspot if half of any water quality testing indicates an exceedance of a maximum contaminant level. Designation of a hotspot will trigger notification to Maryland Department of Health to the owner of any impacted well.

The Department would be required to develop regulations and operational programs to accommodate this legislation. The proposal does specify the county government would be responsible for specific duties; this may overlap current delegated duties pertaining to well construction such as well construction standards. The bill does not address enforcement or consider any ramifications to properties located within designated hotspots.

The proposed bill requires testing and disclosure of results every three years for all residential rental property served by a private water supply well. Every property served by a private residential water supply well must test for five contaminants and provide results to a purchaser. The five contaminants are inconsistent with the proposed definition for water quality testing.

Because of the complexity of this issue and the desire to have a well-formed program, if a new program is needed the Department would like to suggest that this bill be amended to form a summer workgroup to thoroughly examine the issue. The workgroup would provide detailed advice and recommendations by the end of the calendar year, which would provide ample time for legislation, if needed, to be drafted for the 2022 Legislative Session. The Department would be willing to chair and staff the workgroup.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 1069 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Vaughn Stewart

## **Testimony Del. Ruth.pdf**

Uploaded by: Eader, Caroline

Position: INFO

**From:** Caroline Eader, [Zero Waste for Zero Loss](#)

**To:** Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**Date:** February 22, 2021 (Hearing date of 2/24/21)

**Re:** INFORMATIONAL - HB 1094, "Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility."

HB 1094 specifically states its purpose is to "...provide a commitment to phase out incineration; ...focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and... advance principles of zero waste." In support of this goal, I submit the following information.

Maryland [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13](#), "Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland" adopts a sustainable materials management policy with an emphasis on environmentally and economically sustainable methods to reuse resources and to "empower new partnerships across State and local agencies."<sup>1</sup> Reference to this Executive Order within the bill would be appropriate.

Additionally, Baltimore City has adopted "Less Waste, Better Baltimore", whose mission and goals should be incorporated into the Workgroup's tasks.<sup>2</sup>

In furtherance of the bill's objectives, professionals with specific skill sets should be named as members of the Workgroup. Composting programs and pay-as-you-throw programs provide large increases in waste diversion rates. Therefore, composting experts, pay-as-you-throw and source reduction experts should be explicitly included as members of the Workgroup. The recycling industry is multi-layered, and therefore 2 – 3 experts in the recycling business should be considered for participation with the Workgroup.

Additionally, the Workgroup should explore the policies and programs to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators, and not only the addition of "disposal facilities."

To clarify the purpose of the Workgroup and its goals to increase diversion, I offer the following definitions to be incorporated into the bill:

**WASTE PREVENTION.**—The term "waste prevention" includes reuse, recycling, and other methods to reduce the amount of materials disposed of in landfills or incinerated.

**SOURCE REDUCTION.**—The term "source reduction"—

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1 Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland, 2017, <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx>

2 <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/LWBBTask7ReportFINAL4-15-20.pdf>

(A) includes—

- (i) activities that reduce consumption of products or services that create physical outputs, such as packaging, that is secondary to the intended use of the item being consumed;
- (ii) measures or techniques that reduce the amount of waste generated during production processes; and
- (iii) the reduction or elimination of the use of materials which are not able to be recycled without degrading the quality of the material; and

(B) does not include incineration.

SOURCE SEPARATED.—The term “source separated” —

- (A) means the separation of a stream of recyclable materials at the point of waste creation before the materials are collected and centralized; and
- (B) does not include technologies that sort mixed municipal solid waste into recyclable and non-recyclable materials.

ORGANICS RECYCLING.—The term “organics recycling” means the biological processes by which organics streams are converted to compost which is not harmful to humans, plants, or animals.

REUSE.—The term “reuse” —

(A) means—

- (i) using a product, packaging, or resource more than once for the same or a new function with little to no processing; or
- (ii) repairing a product so it can be used longer, sharing or renting it, or selling or donating it to another party; and

(B) does not include incineration.

RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” —

- (A) means the mechanical processing of material that has reached the end of its current use into material to be used in the production of new products;
- (B) does not include incineration or any other energy recovery process; and
- (C) does not include depolymerization or a similar process.

ZERO-WASTE.—The term “zero-waste” means the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning or otherwise destroying embodied energy, with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

ZERO-WASTE PRACTICE.—The term “zero-waste practice” means a practice used to help achieve zero-waste, including source reduction and waste prevention.

Thank you for considering this information for HB 1094.

Sincerely,

Caroline Eader  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law, Juris Doctor

Zero Waste for Zero Loss

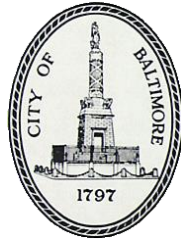
Clean Energy & Zero Waste Policy Support and Implementation



# **HB01094-E&T-LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: INFO



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 1094**

February 24, 2021

**TO:** Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

**RE:** HOUSE BILL 1094 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

**POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) submits the following **letter of information** on House Bill (HB) 1094.

House Bill 1094 would establish a work group of 10 persons representing local government (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties, and Baltimore City), the recycling industry, waste diversion industry, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES). The work group would develop a report that considers proposals for the siting and cost-sharing of a regional waste disposal facility, consolidating waste disposal needs, provides a commitment to phase out waste-to-energy and focuses on waste diversion to advance the principles of zero waste. The work group is to present its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2021. The cost to support such an effort is anticipated to be minimal, however, the short turn-around time to produce a report would appear to be inadequate for such an important issue.

It is important to note that the City of Baltimore and the five (5) counties listed in the Bill are members of NMWDA, a regional coalition which looks at and assists its members with regional approaches to solid waste management, among other things. MES is a quasi-governmental (State) entity that provides expertise, services, and in some cases, operational services for solid waste management facilities with and for local governments, including waste diversion facilities.

In coordination with, and assistance from the NMWDA, Baltimore City Department of Public Works conducted and recently issued its “Less Waste Better Baltimore” operational plan that made recommendations on ways in which the City could expand recycling opportunities; invest in the development of waste diversion facilities, either solely or in partnership; encourage the private sector to do its part to reduce its waste stream through sustainable practices; and policy or legislative actions which could support these efforts (e.g. producer responsibility legislation, similar to bills introduced in this General Assembly session). As these more sustainable practices are developed and ramping up to their planned capacities, the City will be continuing its use of landfilling and waste-to-energy to manage its waste stream. The Less Waste Better Baltimore operational plan can be found at the following link:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/lesswaste>.

The City of Baltimore has located within its borders, a waste-to-energy facility (BRESCO) and a medical waste incinerator, both of which received publicly and privately collected waste from around the region, and in the case of the medical waste incinerator, from out of state as well. The City also owns and operates the Quarantine Road Landfill (QRL) that it uses for disposal of waste it collects that does not go to the BRESCO facility for energy conversion, as well as privately collected waste that may be disposed of for a tipping fee. The City is in the process of developing expansion plans for QRL to extend the useful life of the facility. In addition, Baltimore City recently entered into a new 10-year contract with BRESCO to provide for the disposal of its waste as it works to develop waste diversion programs and facilities that will ultimately minimize the need to dispose of components of waste that can be recycled, reused, or repurposed.

We hope you find this **letter of information** on House Bill 1094 helpful.