

To: Education, Health and Environment
From: Bioenergy Devco
**Subject: Senate Bill 552, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement
(Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**
Date: February 24, 2022
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Bioenergy Devco supports with amendment Senate Bill 552, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022).

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), the foremost providers of anaerobic digester solutions and is a pioneer in this sector. For over 20 years and more than 250 biogas plants built and 140 managed throughout the world, our team of experts in the fields of: engineering, biology, chemistry and the microbial sciences, agronomy and soils, designers has significant experience in the design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support. With BDC's U.S. headquarters in Maryland, our first industrial scale anaerobic digester is near completion in Jessup at the Maryland Food Center Authority.

Senate Bill 552 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county. Each county must submit its plan to MDE for review and feedback. The bill prescribes specific areas that the plan must address and the manner by which the county should prepare the plan.

Amendment: BDC supports this legislation and would urge an amendment to require the county plans to encourage the use of “organics recycling” as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

On page 4, line 6, strike “AND”; in line 7, strike “.”; after “PLAN” add “; AND”; after line 7 insert “(XVIII)ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ORGANICS RECYCLING.”

State Policy: In 2019, the General Assembly passed House Bill 510 defining “organics recycling” as processes in which organic material are collected, separated or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. Practices like composting and anaerobic digestion are examples of “organic recycling.” Section 9-1701(n)(1) of the Environment Article.

Additionally, last session, the General Assembly passed HB 264/SB 483 Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, requiring. Beginning January 1, 2023, commercial entities that generate more than 2 tons per week of food residuals and are located within 30 miles of an organics recycling



facility will be required to separate and divert food residuals away from final disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Given the General Assembly’s support for organics recycling which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging the use of “organics recycling” within each county plan benefits the environment and is consistent with state policy.

For these reasons, Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 552.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992