

**To: Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**From: Bioenergy Devco**  
**Subject: House Bill 217, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**  
**Date: February 2, 2022**  
**Position: Favorable with Amendment**

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Bioenergy Devco supports with amendment House Bill 217, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

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. The core expertise of our company lies in planning, producing and constructing the plants. For over 20 years and more than 250 biogas plants, our qualified team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers and marketing experts has significant experience in the design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support.

This bill establishes the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) and study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland. The task force must make recommendations on how to update MRA to focus on the recycling and diversion of materials to help achieve the State's recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities, including (1) the locations of possible facility sites, as specified; (2) cost-sharing opportunities; (3) developing service networks; and (4) advancing principles of zero waste. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must provide staff for the task force. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. By June 30, 2023, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly. The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, and terminates December 31, 2023.

Much has changed since the MRA was enacted in 1988. Thirty years ago, the majority of recycled material was paper and scrap metal. Cardboard and post-industrial waste comprised most recycling activity, along with some small volumes of plastic and glass. Today, we are seeing a dramatic increase in material type, and it expands almost daily. We still recycle all types of paper, but now we are able to recycle many grades of plastic, all sorts of metals, e-waste, organics and food waste, cooking oil and tires. Additionally, in 2019, the General Assembly passed House Bill 510 which defines "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.



Composting and anaerobic digestion are included in this definition. While changes have been made to the MRA over the years, House Bill 217 takes a holistic approach.

BDC supports House Bill 217 but we ask that a member from the “organics recycling” industry is included in the Task Force.

For these reasons, Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on House Bill 217.

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