



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

SB0134: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs

Hearing Date: February 11, 2025

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Submitting: Liz Feighner for HoCo Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

We urge you to **vote favorably on SB0134** which establishes needed funds and grant programs to reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food from disposal in Maryland.

HoCo Climate Action has been advocating for clean, renewable energy for years along with [advocating for decarbonizing buildings since October 2020](#). Our advocacy work includes reducing methane emissions which is 84 times more potent than CO₂ on a 20-year timescale accelerating climate change. "The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has concurred with recent research findings which shows that [MSW landfills in Maryland are the single largest source for the state's methane emissions](#). These emissions are approximately four times higher than previously thought." We urgently need to reduce methane emissions wherever possible if we want to have any chance at a liveable planet and meet our mandated targets set by the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

This bill, if enacted, will provide grants for wasted food reduction and diversion projects such as:

- Organics recycling
- Food waste prevention programs and food waste rescue programs
- Durable food service ware infrastructure
- Farmer and school programs

The grants will be funded by a \$2 surcharge at landfills and incinerators and the funding for grants will be distributed to counties proportional to their population.

We urge a **favorable vote on SB0134**.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

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