



HB0042: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs

Hearing Date: January 29, 2025

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Boyce

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Submitting: Crystal Konny for Less Plastic Please

Position: Favorable

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We are also a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate. Our primary focus is advocating for reducing plastic use as well as for zero waste policies.

We urge you to **vote favorably on HB0042** which establishes needed funds and grant programs to reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food from disposal in Maryland. The funding will prioritize projects that directly benefit local communities, particularly overburdened and underserved communities, and that produce high-quality soil amendments to support Maryland soil and water health.

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

HB0042 establishes a nominal \$2/ton surcharge at landfills and incinerators to provide over \$14 million per year for development of infrastructure, programs, and education for wasted food diversion in Maryland. More than 10 states (including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Arizona, and Tennessee) already have in place disposal surcharges that fund waste diversion, recycling, and composting.

We are currently working to introduce composting in schools in Howard County. We were in contact with one school, Reservoir High School, and they were excited to reintroduce composting this year, but we could not find donations to cover pickup costs, so we could not set up composting at that school. We really need grants to help establish school system composting. We could make a huge difference in

the amount of school system waste that goes into landfills if we could access grant money to help pay for needed supplies and service.

We support HB0042 and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Submitted by Crystal Konny

[Less Plastic Please](#)

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