

Pathway to Zero Waste

2020 Legislative Package Fact Sheet

Convened by Delegate Robbyn Lewis

COMPOSTING

Grant Matching Bill – *Delegate Jazz Lewis*

- To create a matching grant fund to support local municipalities interested in building out their composting infrastructure.

Tax Credit – *Delegate Emily Shetty*

- To provide a tax credit to incentivize the adoption of composting. This could be used to purchase composting supplies for at-home composting, or to contract with a company to pick up compost.

Green Business Certification Program – *Delegate Emily Shetty*

- To establish a state-wide Green Business Certification Program to incentivize businesses to adopt “green” practices. This is modeled after Montgomery County's Green Business Certification Program.

Organic Waste Ban – *Delegate Lorig Charkoudian*

- To phase in requirements for businesses that dispose a certain amount of food waste per week, generated within 30 miles of a composting facility or an anaerobic digestion facility to separate food waste from other solid waste and ensure that they are disposed of at one of these facilities that has the capacity, and is willing, to accept the waste. The bill will divert valuable organic materials to beneficial use and help the state achieve its waste reduction and recycling goals. This bill creates economic incentive for private/public investment in composting infrastructure.

PLASTICS

Plastic Bag Elimination Bill – *Delegate Brooke Lierman and Senator Malcolm Augustine*

- To call for a ban on plastic bags issued at the point of sale and require a minimum charge of 10¢ for paper bags. Additionally, this bill will create a workgroup of scientists, industry representatives, environmentalists, and Marylanders to come up with a more holistic plan for stemming the use of single-use containers and plastics in Maryland.

RECYCLING

Recycling Transparency Bill – *Delegate Stephanie Smith*

- There is currently a lack of transparency and understanding about what is being recycled at the municipal level. This bill will increase recycling reporting transparency by local jurisdictions.

INCINERATION

Incinerated Ash Bill – *Delegate Lorig Charkoudian*

- To remove incineration ash from being considered a recyclable material towards a counties recycling goal and report to the Maryland Department of the Environment under the Maryland Recycling Act. It will also remove the 5% waste reduction credit received by counties using an incinerator built before 1988. This bill will help achieve a more accurate accounting of waste reduction and recycling.

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – *Delegate Nick Mosby*

- To remove the ability of waste-to-energy and refuse-derived-fuel sources, such as incinerators, from receiving tax subsidies for qualifying as a Renewable Energy Source under the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.