



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Prince George's County Government Department of the Environment



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County Government Agency

Member since April 2019

Management and Leadership



Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

The County conducts a number of environmental programs and services for the businesses and residents of Prince George's County:

Food Scrap Collection Pilot - *To test the curbside collection of food scraps, the County received a \$20,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The pilot period began in December 2017 and concluded in January 2019. Approximately 200 households from four communities across the County opted to participate. Objectives were to increase awareness on the need to remove food from the waste stream, change the perception of food scrap to view it as a commodity rather than as waste, and determine a weekly per household average for food waste disposal. Necessary tools were provided such as a 1.5-gallon interior bin, a 32-gallon cart and guide materials. Existing haulers collected food waste once per week, free of charge. Significant lessons were generated.*

Bigbelly trash bins placement – *DoE provided and DPW&T will install Bigbelly smart recycling and waste bins in strategic locations within the County to capture more recyclable materials and to reduce litter in high pedestrian foot traffic areas. The technology compacts materials and is cloud-connected and web-based to capture waste volumes in real time.*

Enhanced monitoring through CCTV - *The County has installed CCTV cameras in areas where illegal dumping is prominent. This will help authorities apprehend violators. Engagement with the courts and communities will be done to enforce anti-littering.*

Roadside Cleanup on Landfill Approach Roads – Landfill Approach Roads shall be maintained at least twice per month. A crew and truck collects about 10 tons of waste a year. The crew is also used to assist in roadside cleanups in other areas when not maintaining the landfill approach roads.

Road Cleanup by County Forces – Removal of trash and debris from County roadsides is conducted primarily by County employees of DPW&T and the Department of Corrections.

Non-Roadside Cleanup by County Forces – This program is tasked with removal of trash, debris, abandoned items, evictions debris from County properties and right-of-ways other than roadsides.

Limb Collection – Tree limbs are collected in the course of a roadside cleanup, after a storm.

PGCLitter TRAK – Smartphone-based application developed by the Department of the Environment to assist County residents, community organizations and businesses report trash and debris collected during individual and group clean-up events.

Daily Inmate Program – Five to seven inmates from the County Correctional Center and persons ordered by the court to serve community service perform roadside cleanups on weekdays. This work is overseen by a Corrections Officer, and supervised by DPW&T's Special Services Division of the Office of Highway Maintenance.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

A policy related to environmentally preferred purchasing is embedded in all County contracts as follows:

“Prince George’s County is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and reasonable cost that supports the County in meeting its sustainability goals. The County aims to improve work health, conserve natural resources, and prevent pollution through this activity. Environmental components to be considered include: recycled content and recyclability, energy efficiency, and the presence of undesirable materials in products, especially toxic chemicals, which are persistent and bio-accumulative. Environmental requirements related to sustainability and environmentally preferred purchasing goals will be embedded in County solicitations, where applicable, to services and goods being solicited for the County.”



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The County conducts the following programs in partnership with community groups:

Clean Sweep Program – *Designed to reduce litter in local County neighborhoods and waterways with focus on the Anacostia River Initiative. It enjoin residents to do volunteer work in cleanup activities. It is an inter-agency program consisting of the Prince George’s County Police Department, DOE, PDW&T, the Department of Corrections, DPIE, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).*

Adopt-A-Road Program – *This roadside cleanup program functions as a collaborative effort between DPW&T and local civic, business, or fraternal organizations. The volunteer organization coordinates roadside cleanup activities twice per year. DPW&T provides trash bags, safety equipment and collection of all bagged trash after the cleanup. Adopt-A-Road Team signs displaying the name of the volunteer group are erected along the adopted roadways.*

Adopt-the-Stream Program – *In-stream clean up in partnership with civic organizations and is held four times a year. The County has also invested in the Bandalong Litter Trap which captures trash before it goes downstream. They can be found along the Anacostia River.*

Prince George’s County Comprehensive Community Cleanup Program (Growing Green with Pride) – *The Comprehensive Community Cleanup Program, originally established in 1986 is designed to revitalize, enhance, and maintain unincorporated (non-Municipal) areas of the County. DoE works with organized civic and homeowners associations to provide a concentrated focus of County cleanups and maintenance services to their community over a two-week period. A total of (21) Comprehensive Community Cleanups are scheduled each year (16 Cleanups from February – June and 5 Cleanups from late September to October). During FY2016, FY2017 and FY2018, over 96 tons, 146 tons and 137 tons of litter respectively were picked-up and removed from the natural environment during the cleanup events.*

Currently, with over 90 active cleanup areas in DoE’s rotation, the County can schedule a community for this program approximately once every 4 years. The services provided include housing code enforcement, abandoned vehicle tagging and towing, bulky trash collection, roadside litter collection, tree trimming, storm drainage maintenance and storm drain water quality testing. DoE intends to continue providing comprehensive cleanup services to the community.

Watershed Cleanup Activities – *DoE works with local environmental organizations and civic groups to organize various volunteer stream cleanup events. The County provides volunteers with trash bags, gloves, roll-off containers, and disposal fee*

waivers for all trash, debris, and recyclables collected. These efforts help to promote environmental awareness.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

The County strives to promote zero waste policy in all public events. Recyclable, reusable and compostable food packaging materials are required to be used by food caterers. Prior to an event, food vendors are requested to provide a list of packaging materials that will be used. DoE's Recycling Section Inspectors are responsible for insuring acceptable compostable and recyclable items are utilized. In addition, recycling and compost bins are provided at events to ensure that waste materials are captured and processed accordingly.

Recycling

Prince George's County owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) which sits on a 65,000 square foot area and processes the County's single-stream recycling program. The facility handles about 70,000 tons/year of recyclable materials emanating from residential, commercial and some local government units. It is able to process about 500 tons of materials/day. The facility recovers paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, steel cans and metals from the waste stream. An example of a monthly transaction is shown below for the month of March 2019.

Materials recovered and sold	Tons sold	Revenues
Mixed paper		\$4,072
OCC	927.94	\$67,044
Mixed # 1-7 plastic	363.43	\$52,697
Mixed rigid plastic	80.73	
Aluminum	19.56	\$21,907
Glass	1,088.51	
Steel cans (baled)	80.73	\$16,146
Mixed scrap metal	23.33	\$1,565
Materials sold	3,444.26	\$156,901

In CY 2018, tonnage received from residential and commercial entities amounted to 70,334.05 tons which translated into a revenue of \$3,539,247.68. These figures represent significant savings for the County in terms of avoided transportation costs to the landfill, GHG emission reduction and prolongs the life of the landfill.



Composting

The Prince George’s County Organic Composting Facility (PGCOCF) is the largest municipal composting installation of its kind on the East Coast. It uses GORE cover technology to process materials such as leaves, grass, food scraps, brush and yard trim. Organics are delivered to the facility from a variety of entities, including institutional, residential, and commercial customers which deliver their compostables to the facility. In 2018, for example, a total of 55,216.56 tons was delivered and processed into a rich organic soil amendment known as Leafgro and Leafgro Gold. A typical monthly delivery is shown below for the month of March 2019:

Material	Tons
Leaves	1,583.4
Grass	88.0
Brush	649.0
Mixed material	398.0
Chipped yard trim	83.6
Disintegrate of paper	0.5
Food scraps	895.0
Delivery from Ann Arundel County	25.2
TOTAL	3,722.7

Food waste contributes to significant GHG emission when disposed of at the landfill. Hence, its diversion from the landfill reduces GHG and saves on transportation and landfilling costs. It also provides a valuable product to the public which can be used to enrich the soil for gardening and landscaping.



Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

In 2000, Prince George’s County established a permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site, located within the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill. County residents may deliver household hazardous waste, including lead paint, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents helium tanks, and gasoline for proper disposal in addition to unwanted electronics and televisions for recycling or reuse. The County collects fluorescent and compact fluorescent lights bulbs that contain mercury through a contracted vendor. Collected lights are shipped to a recycling facility for processing. It also provides a list of vendors to the public for proper disposal. For 2018, the County’s HHW facility received a total of 224.7 tons of waste from a total of 6,765 households.



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

