



MDE Revises GHG Emissions Inventory for Landfills

The Maryland Department of the Environment will host a stakeholder meeting at 10 a.m. June 23, 2021, to solicit input on potential regulations to control methane emissions from municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. Methane is a potent climate pollutant and Maryland is the third state, behind California and Oregon, to propose regulations to minimize leaking methane from landfills. As part of this meeting, MDE will provide an update on revisions to the landfill sector of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory. More information on the June 23 meeting can be found [here](#).

MDE research and discussions with stakeholders, including input received subsequent to earlier stakeholder meetings, indicated that the state's GHG emissions inventory underestimated methane emissions from MSW landfills. The updated inventory reaffirms that reducing methane emissions from landfills is critical to the state's efforts to meet the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act (GGRA) of 2016.

MDE has been collaborating with researchers at the University of Maryland (UMD) to evaluate latest approaches in estimating statewide methane emissions. In addition to partnering with UMD, MDE also received valuable input from the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP). EIP has been very involved in the stakeholder process and has conducted an in-depth review of the landfill sector of the 2017 GHG emissions inventory. MDE concurs with EIP's findings and has revised the 2006, 2011, 2014, and 2017 GHG inventories and posted the revised inventories [here](#). MDE will use the updated information for the 2020 GHG inventory, which will be released later this year.

MDE has been working to reduce statewide methane emissions. These new findings, and updates to the GHG inventory reinforce the importance of reducing GHG emissions from landfills. We are also increasing our efforts in the Land and Materials Administration to implement widespread sustainable materials management, waste reduction, reuse and recycling to divert waste from landfills in the first place. MDE will establish a new office for recycling markets, implement new requirements for mandatory food scrap recycling at certain organizations, encourage increased electronics waste collection, and hold a food recovery summit before the end of 2021. We look forward to receiving additional input on preventing methane emissions from landfills during the upcoming stakeholder meeting.

Please contact Randy Mosier (Chief, Regulations Development Division) at randy.mosier@maryland.gov for more information on the June 23 meeting.