



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# Maryland's Waste Diversion Programs

Maryland Climate Change Commission

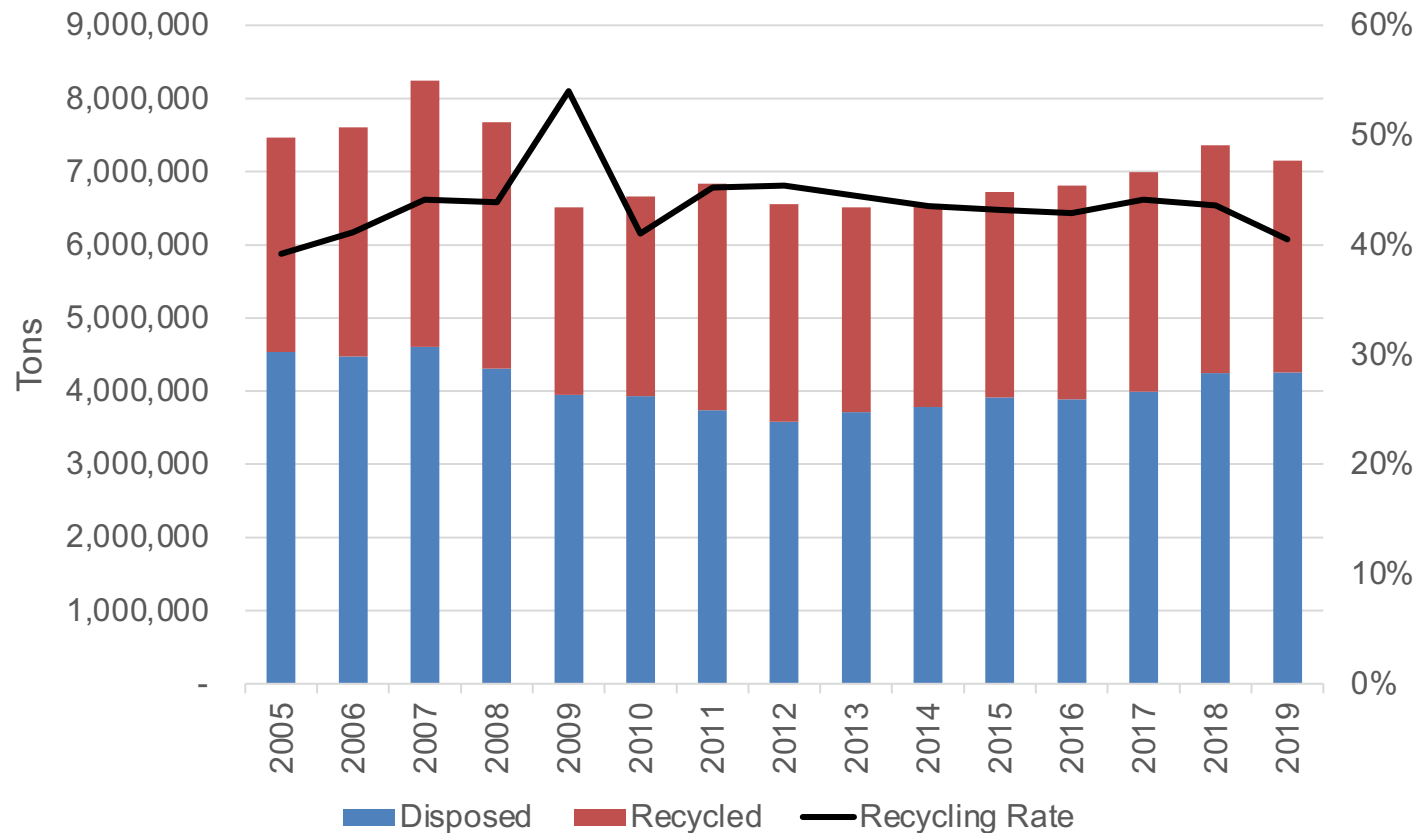
Mitigation Work Group

August 17, 2021



# Waste Diversion Trends

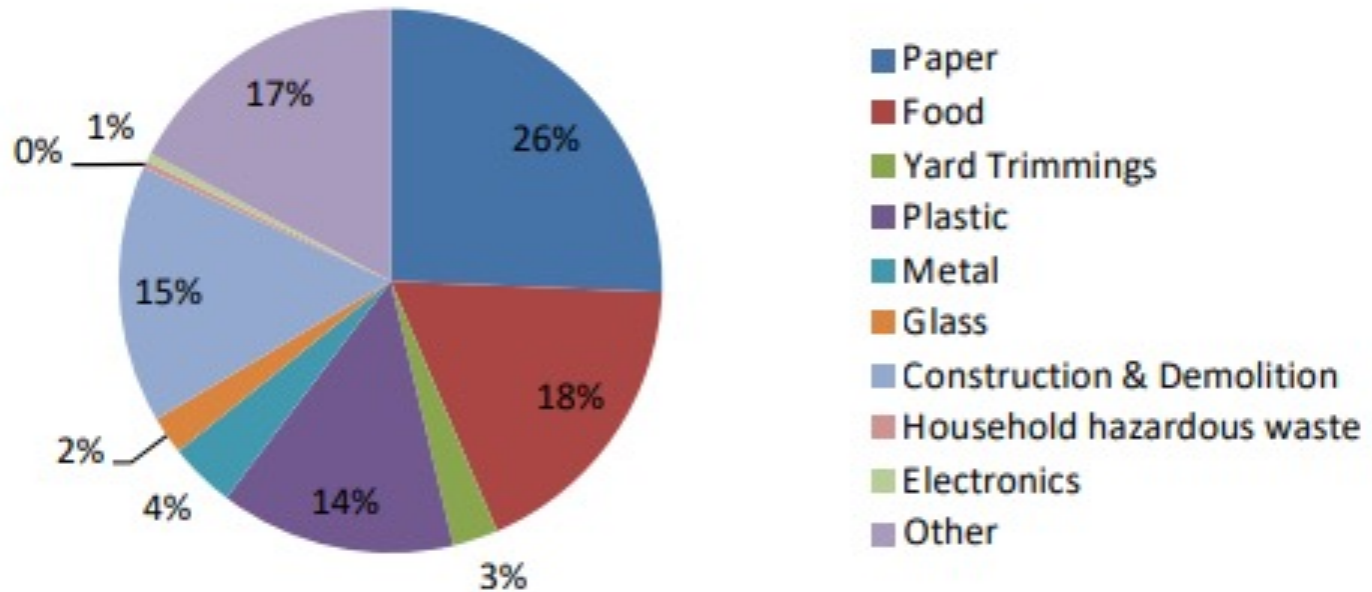
Waste Generation, Disposal, and Recycling 2005 - 2019





# Focus on Food Recovery

Composition of Disposed Waste Stream in Maryland, 2016





# Focus on Food Recovery

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- Composting workgroup (2013)
- Composting regulations and general permit (2015)
- Permitting guidance for anaerobic digestion facilities (2019)
- Organics recovery infrastructure study (2019)
  - Mapping of food generators and recyclers
  - Compilation of economic incentives
- Food recovery toolkit for schools (2020)
- Food recovery summits (2016, 2018, 2021)



# Focus on Food Recovery

- 6 operating and 1 planned food scrap composting facilities
- 4 counties offering food scrap collection
- Commercial scale anaerobic digester opening in Howard County
  - 125,000 tons of food accepted per year
  - Will produce biogas and a soil amendment





# Recycling Markets

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- Challenges in recent years
  - Changes in import policies and decreases in market prices for recycled commodities
  - Increased diversity of materials in the recycling stream
  - Contamination in the recycling stream
- Opportunities
  - Increased domestic capacity for recycled paper
  - Recycled content commitments
  - Increased outreach efforts on recycling correctly



# Priorities

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- Recycling Markets Development Initiative
  - Ch. 289, Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development
  - Identify key materials, availability of markets, businesses that use recycled materials
  - Outreach, resources, and coordination to increase use of recycled materials
- Increasing food recycling capacity for large generators
  - Ch. 264, Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
  - Updated mapping, guidance for businesses that generate food
  - Phased in recycling requirements for certain large generators (2023-2024)
- Enhanced reporting of commercial recycling
- Continue to coordinate with Commerce, MEA, and other agencies on recycling business assistance
- Source reduction and food donation



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QUESTIONS?

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