House Bill 171 – Department of the Environment – Yard Waste, Food

House Bill 171 – Department of the Environment

Composting

Subgroup Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, August 23, 2018; 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

**Place:** Maryland Department of the Environment
Lobby Conference Rooms
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

9:30 Welcome and Introductions - All

9:40 Obstacles/Barriers to Composting in Maryland

1) Availability of affordable carbon sources.
2) Capital/financing options for new facilities.
3) Siting/location challenges.
4) Contamination in feedstock
5) Education and outreach including the uses of compost.

9:55 Recommendations discussed in previous HB 171 Workgroup meetings

1) Continue to identify obstacles regarding grading of compost.
2) Look into getting State Chemist approval to consider compost as a soil amendment.
3) The Department should work with MDA to improve outreach to equine industry.
4) Survey commercial composters and collect data
5) Develop online reporting.
6) Provide siting assistance.
7) Build small-scale composting infrastructure where larger facilities do not exist or are not economically feasible.
8) Consider whether the existing disposal ban on yard trimmings should be strengthened.
9) Integrate composting and AD into community economic development initiatives.
10) Encourage expanded composting capacity in underserved areas of the State.
11) Assist operators in upgrading existing yard trimmings composting facilities to process source separated food scraps.
12) Provide training and conduct outreach on benefits of composting.

(note – all recommendations listed above were discussed in previous Study Group Meetings and were reflected in meeting summaries)

10:15 Other recommendations
10:25 Wrap up and next steps - MDE

Please refer to the Department’s Organics Diversion and Composting page for information relating to the study group. www.mde.maryland.gov/composting

Additional questions? Please contact John Sullivan at john.sullivan1@maryland.gov or 410-537-3314