



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Food Summit 2024

Hosted by Maryland Department of the Environment
and Towson University



About MDE

Mission: To protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders.

Vision: Healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities and ecosystems in Maryland

Administrations: Air, Land, Water



Secretary Serena McIlwain and Governor Wes Moore at a climate change funding press conference on February 16, 2024.

Photo by Patrick Siebert



Tyler Abbott, Director

Land and Materials Administration





Maryland's Growth

- Maryland's population has increased from 5.77M to 6.18M in the past 10-year census data. There is an expected increase of 6.8M by 2040.
- According to MDE's Solid Waste Management & Diversion Report
 - 2013 (CY2012 data) MD generated 12.3M tons of waste
 - 14.5% food scraps = 1.78M tons
 - 2023 (CY2022 data) MD generated 15M tons of waste
 - 17.9% food scraps = 2.685 tons
 - At this rate, by 2040, MD could generate 19M tons of waste



Growth in the Permitted Compost

- According to MDE's Solid Waste Management & Diversion Report for 2023, 52,052 tons of food scraps were composted in state.
 - 6 Operating compost operations receiving Tier II materials
 - 2 Permitted, planned compost operations to receive Tier II materials
 - 1 Commercial Anaerobic digester receiving food residuals
- 12 Dedicated Food Scrap Recyclers
- 5 Solid Waste Management Companies providing food scraps recycling collections



Food Recovery

- Maryland has two area food banks – Maryland & Capital Area
- Maryland Food Council Collaborative identifies 6 existing local food councils and more emerging.

Towson University has recovered 21 tons of edible food since 2014