



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



1801 McCormick Drive Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/179/Environment

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 Composting Program – *Due to the positive impact on the Prince George's County waste stream and increased residential interest generated from the Food Scrap Collection Pilot Program (2017), the County looks to broaden its reach to 3000 households this fiscal year. The Food Scrap Collection Program will target communities within the County that receive weekly trash and recycling collection services on Friday. Organics collection which includes yard trim will be conducted on Monday. Waste studies show that 50% of what is disposed as trash includes organic materials. By placing food scraps and other compostable materials in their Organics cart, participants should realize a substantial reduction in regular trash volume by exercising simple yet environmentally friendly measures. As a result of this effort the County moves closer to achieving its zero waste goals utilizing best management practices for food scraps, waste diversion and environmental stewardship.*

Bigbelly trash bins placement – *DoE provided and DPW&T has installed 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 Closed Circuit TV (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.

Community Service Program - Department of Corrections staff and Correctional Officers oversee court ordered participants to carry out community service while performing roadside cleanups Tuesdays through Saturdays.



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 enjoins residents to do volunteer work in cleanup activities. It is an inter-agency program consisting of the Prince George’s County Police Department, DOE, DPW&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 **four times** 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 – *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, FY2018, **FY2019 and FY2020 (in FY2020 only 8 out of 21 communities were serviced due to COVID-19) over 96 tons, 146, 137 tons, 81 tons and 46 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 approximately 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. The chart below lists the annual commodities sales for FY 20.

Materials recovered and sold	Tons sold	Revenues
Mixed paper	20,676	(83,580)
OCC	13,388	\$654,966
Mixed # 1-7 plastic	3,932	\$131,024
Mixed rigid plastic	401	\$14,641
Aluminum	362	\$353,864
Glass	13,401	-
Steel cans (baled)	1,307	\$161,365
Mixed scrap metal	225	\$15,118
Materials sold	53,693	\$1,246,399

In FY 2020, the total tonnage received from residential and commercial entities amounted to 69,537 tons which translated into a revenue of \$2,818,448 which includes tipping fees. 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.

In addition, several projects have been initiated throughout the county in order to increase recycling efforts by educating the residents on how to recycle properly resulting in the reduction of contamination levels. The T&G 590 Project has proven to be successful, resulting in a significant decrease in contamination.

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. As shown in the chart below, in 2020, 61,102.52 tons were received at the facility to produce a total of 20,615.4 tons of compost.

County of Origin ¹	Feedstock ²	Weight (tons) ³ (for Tier 1 and 2 facilities)	Volume (cubic yards) ⁴ (for Tier 2 facilities)
Prince George’s County	Leaves	16937.50	55899.34
Prince George’s County	Grass	18155.56	58566.32
Prince George’s County	Food Scraps	8280.11	16396.26
Prince George’s County	Brush / Wood Waste	6821.49	10526.99
Prince George’s County	Chipped yard trim	374.11	1591.96
Alexandria Virginia	Leaves	524.07	1729.60
Alexandria Virginia	Grass	795.00	2564.52
Alexandria Virginia	Brush / Wood Waste	35.00	54.01
Anne Arundel County	Food Scraps	1134.99	2247.50
Anne Arundel County	Grass	1220.82	3938.13

Anne Arundel County	Leaves	933.87	3082.08
Anne Arundel County	Brush / Wood Waste	344.18	531.14
Washington D.C.	Food Scraps	3202.77	6342.12
Montgomery County	Food Scraps	1591.42	3151.33
Baltimore County	Food Scraps	790.31	1564.97
TOTAL:		61,102.52	168,184.27

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 facilitates the creation of an organic soil conditioner known as Leafgro GOLD® which can be used to treat erosion and for gardening and landscaping.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Prince Georgians are informed on the necessity to practice source reduction. Residents are encouraged to purchase only what they need for projects, repurpose or donate items that are still useful before considering disposal. In addition, benefits of proper disposal are emphasized through engagement activities including, distribution of literature, special events and regularly updated information on the County’s social media platforms. Waste Diversion and Source Reduction are integral to the County’s number one status in the state for Recycling and Waste Diversion.

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 2019, the County’s HHW facility received a total of 155.13 tons of waste from a total of 66,232 households.

Profile Updated April 2021

