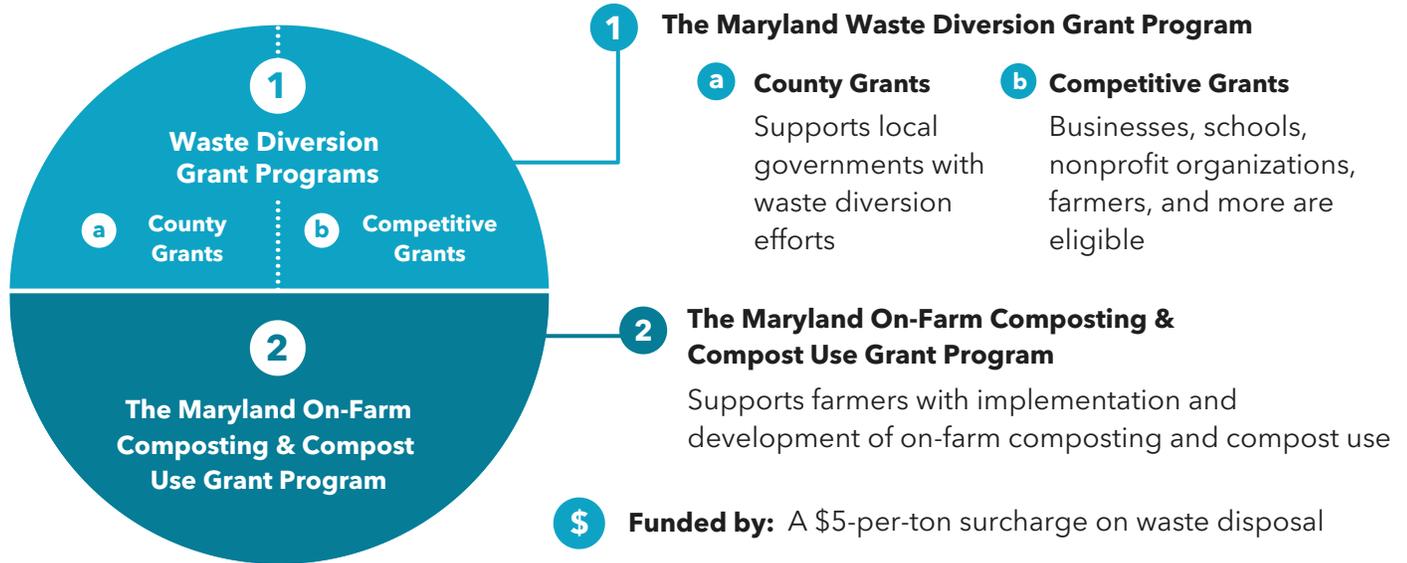


Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

This bill establishes funding for waste diversion projects including reduction, reuse, repair, composting, and recycling

The Environmental Stewardship Fund:



Why NOW?

- ▶ Maryland’s new law (2021 HB 264) mandates that Large Food Waste Generators divert wasted food from disposal. The influx of diverted food waste will require expanded processing capacity.
- ▶ A 2021 report revealed that Maryland landfills are emitting four times more methane than previously estimated, underscoring the need to divert wasted food from landfills.¹
- ▶ Enormous amounts of U.S. resources are wasted due to food waste, with critical environmental implications.²
- ▶ A 2019 MDE study group report recommends the provision of statewide education and support for on-farm composting, to increase manure management efficiency and build agricultural soil health.³

How will the bill support small businesses and local communities?

- ▶ Grant funds will be made accessible to small businesses (e.g., restaurants, multi-family housing properties, and small haulers) interested in developing or expanding their waste diversion efforts.
- ▶ Priority funding will go to low-income, socially disadvantaged, female, or veteran farmers, business owners, and communities.
- ▶ Maryland composters are eager to expand and work with farmers, businesses, and communities.
- ▶ Helping farmers improve their composting systems means they can create a product that improves their soil health and farm profitability.

How would the bill address illegal dumping?

- ▶ Projects addressing illegal dumping are eligible for grant funding (including but not limited to community and river clean-ups, support for small haulers, surveillance, drop-off recycling bins, and recycling centers that accept a wide range of materials).

How will the bill support county government-owned landfills?

- ▶ Increased recycling and overall waste diversion rates will extend the life of landfills.

A number of states have similar surcharge and grant programs:
Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin

[1] https://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/MD-Landfill-Methane-Report-6.9.2021-unembargoed_with-Attachments.pdf
 [2] <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/farm-kitchen-environmental-impacts-us-food-waste>
 [3] <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RMP/Documents/HB%20171%20final%20report.pdf>