

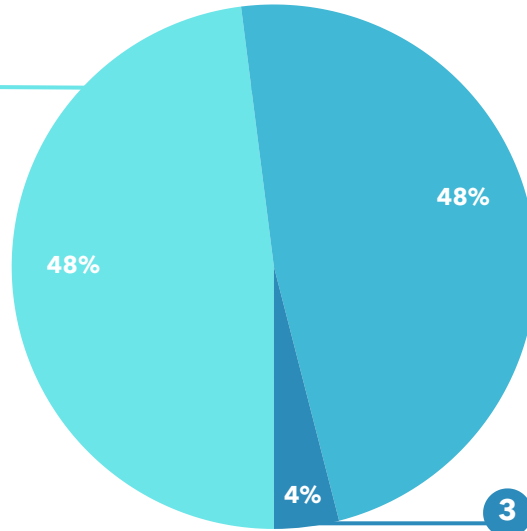
# Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion

This bill establishes funding for food waste reduction and diversion projects including food rescue, food waste prevention, organics recycling and compost use, and moving away from single-use food serviceware.

## Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund:

### 1 Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program

Supports projects, infrastructure, education, and technical assistance to reduce food waste, rescue edible food, compost or recycling food residuals, and transition away from single-use food service ware



### 2 On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program

Supports farmers with reduction of food waste and organics diversion via cold storage, food rescue, composting and compost use, and more

### 3 School Waste Reduction and Composting Program

An existing program for reducing food waste and composting food scraps in schools

**\$ Funded by:** A \$2/ton surcharge on final waste disposal

## Why is this bill needed?

- ▶ Maryland’s high landfill methane emissions, emissions reduction goals, 2021 food waste diversion mandate, and increasing demand for alternatives to food waste disposal underscore the need to prevent and divert wasted food by expanding organics processing capacity, and education.

## What types of projects may be funded?

- Local composting infrastructure
- Education and technical assistance
- Food rescue to feed people or animals
- On-farm cold storage for produce
- Reusable food service ware and dishwashers
- Labor and wages to make projects happen
- ...to name a few examples

## How will the bill support small businesses and local communities?

- ▶ Grant funds will be accessible to businesses (e.g., restaurants, multi-family housing units, and small haulers) interested in developing or expanding their waste diversion efforts within their local communities.
- ▶ Preventing and rescuing wasted food and recycling what's left will generate more jobs and local economic opportunities than continued landfilling and incineration.
- ▶ Priority funding will go to projects serving overburdened and underserved communities, including creating jobs within those communities.
- ▶ There are numerous opportunities for partnerships between nonprofits, schools, farmers, businesses, and local governments to advance this work.

## How does this bill support Maryland Counties and their landfills?

- ▶ Increased organics recycling and waste diversion rates will extend the life of existing landfills and delay expenditure on expansions.
- ▶ Counties may opt-out of the statewide program to set up their own surcharge and waste diversion program with greater flexibility.

## Does this mechanism exist elsewhere?

- ▶ Yes, at least eight other states and a handful of local governments collect a surcharge on waste disposal to fund waste diversion programs.