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.

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.

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

For more information contact Delegate Regina T. Boyce
regina.boyce@house.state.md.us