



All-Star News

All State Agencies Recycle

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Why is it Important to Reduce the Amount of Food Waste?

In 2021, approximately 1,063,000 tons of food waste was recycled at organic recycling facilities such as composters, mulchers and anaerobic digesters. It takes a lot of money, water, and energy to produce our nation's food supply, and by disposing of wasted food into landfills and incinerators, all that money, water and energy is lost. Decomposition of food waste in a landfill leads to the generation of greenhouse gases, such as methane. Methane is one of the chief gases contributing to climate change. In addition, food waste takes up a large amount of space in a landfill, resulting in the filling and closing of landfills at a faster pace.

Much of the food that is discarded into the waste stream is perfectly fine and edible. This food would best be used to help feed people in need through donations to food rescue organizations or community groups. Excess edible food may also be used for animal feed on farms or in pet food. Other food waste can be sent to an organics recycling facility for composting or anaerobic digestion.

During the 2021 legislative session [HB264](#), was passed. The bill requires certain food waste generators that produce 2 tons of food residuals a week and within 30 miles of a composting facility to either reduce, divert to food rescue organizations, farms for animal feed operations, or compost or anaerobically digest the residuals.

MDE has also developed a [mapping tool](#) to assist food generators in locating permitted food waste organic recycling facilities around the state.

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Eleven State Agencies Reach 30 Percent Recycling Rate in 2021

State government, as a whole, is required to recycle 30 percent of its waste. In 2021, eleven State agencies recycled at least 30 percent of their waste and five agencies recycled more than 40 percent. State government, as a whole, recycled 27.1 percent of the waste it generated. The following State agencies reached a recycling rate of at least 30 percent in 2020:

- Comptroller of Maryland;
- Dept. Of Environment;
- Dept. of Transportation;
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs;
- Maryland Environmental Service;
- Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission;
- Maryland School for the Deaf;
- Maryland State Archives;
- Maryland State Police;
- Subsequent Injury Fund;
- University System of Maryland.

Results for all State Agencies are available on the Maryland State Agencies 2021 Recycling Rates Table.

Maryland State Agencies 2021 Recycling Rates

Agency Name	No. of Sites	No. of Sites Reporting	No. of People	Total MRA Recycling 2021 (tons)	2021 MRA Recycling Rate (%)
Baltimore City Community College	1	1	324	9.69	7.16
Comptroller of the Treasury	1	1	186	67.07	90.92
Department of Agriculture	2	0	0	0	0
Department of Assessments and Taxation	14	13	176	11.33	15.43
Department of Budget and Management	1	1	185	3.66	5.50
Department of Education	27	27	1,986	90.14	26.30
Department of General Services	26	26	8,598	140.01	8.59
Department of Health	18	17	6,730	470.31	10.06
Department of Human Resources	32	29	6,404	237.81	18.07
Department of Juvenile Services	12	12	2,736	377.39	18.95
Department of Labor	13	13	1,264	135.62	21.91
Department of Natural Resources	6	0	0	0	0
Department of the Environment	5	5	963	25.61	35.58
Department of Transportation	85	85	27,377	7822.51	40.34
Department of Veterans Affairs	7	7	929	836.64	47.88
Dept. of Housing and Community Development	3	3	366	57.78	25.05
Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services	36	7	7,970	452.88	4.64
Judiciary of Maryland	2	2	291	4.75	9.48
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund	1	1	32	7.35	11.67
Maryland Department of Disabilities	1	1	33	0.11	3.06
Maryland Department of Planning	1	1	185	14.05	21.21
Maryland Environmental Service	3	2	245	6.05	50.97
Maryland Food Center Authority	1	1	1,026	236.94	6.14
Maryland General Assembly	1	1	852	71.40	23.28
Maryland Insurance Administration	1	1	802	8.06	29.57
Maryland Military Department	24	24	555	70.43	6.16
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission	1	1	140	74.50	33.01
Maryland School for the Deaf	2	2	1,005	85.94	32.15
Maryland Stadium Authority	2	2	1,000	283.48	26.49
Maryland State Archives	1	1	73	3.65	31.88
Maryland State Police	32	20	2,313	562.99	35.90
Morgan State University	1	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's College of Maryland	1	1	1,929	239.80	19.32
Subsequent Injury Fund	1	1	16	3.95	60.96
University System of Maryland	18	18	146,183	6878.93	35.77
TOTAL	383	327	222,874	19,290.83	27.1