# Maryland Universities Offer Food Scraps Composting Programs

 CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY MDE STAFF

Where, oh where does my food waste go? According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 waste generation data, food scraps account for 21.1 percent of the amount of trash thrown away on an annual basis. This is the largest percentage of a type of waste that is disposed and could be recycled. Recognizing this, Maryland's draft Zero Waste Plan includes aggressive long-term goals for the recycling of food scraps.

Taking a proactive approach and recognizing the importance of food

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Land Management Administration www.mde.maryland.gov/recycling A.Hussain Alhija,

Acting Program Manager Waste Diversion and Utilization Program Hussain.Alhija@maryland.gov

David Mrgich, Chief Waste Diversion Division Dave.Mrgich@maryland.gov

Christy Bujnovszky Recycling Unit Christy.Bujnovszky@maryland.gov



Picture 1

### Eighteen State Agencies Exceeded 20% Recycling Goal

CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
MDE STAFF

The 1988 Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) requires the development of a recycling plan that reduces the amount of solid waste disposed by State government by at least 20 percent or to an amount that is practical and economically feasible. In no case may the amount to be recycled be less than 10 percent. During the 2012 Maryland General Assembly session, legislation passed that increases the

amount of waste required to be recycled by State agencies to 30 percent in 2014, with a goal of 40 percent by 2015. As part of the implementation process, all State agency recycling plans must detail strategies to reach the 30 percent rate. The plans were developed by each agency and are on file with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

[See Recycling Goal, Page 2]

### All StAR's New Online Reporting System

CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
MDE STAFF

MDE instituted a new All StAR online reporting system for the 2013 recycling data. Instead of having to submit a paper copy of the report, all data was entered online and stored in a database. This has been a learning experience for all involved. Thank you for asking questions and taking the time to complete the reports online. We appreciate it!

The next All StAR News is scheduled for the Winter of 2015.

Have a story idea or specific questions on a topic? Send to <a href="mailto:Christy.Bujnovszky@maryland.gov">Christy.Bujnovszky@maryland.gov</a>





#### [Food Scraps, from Page 1]

scrap composting, several State universities already have food scrap composting programs in place. The following universities reported food scrap recycling in 2013: University of MD College Park (UMCP)-647 Salisbury tons: University (SU)-275 tons; Frostburg University (FU)-145 tons; Towson University-83.8 tons: University of MD **Baltimore** County (UMBC)-41.2 tons; Universities at Shady Grove (SG)-20.3 tons; and St. Mary's College (SM)-10 tons.

When comparing the Universities on a per capita basis, SU takes the lead, collecting 53.2 pounds per person. FU is on their heels with 52.9 pounds per person, followed by UMCP-30.1, SG- 9.5, SM-8.0, Towson-6.5, and UMBC-5.2 pounds per person. Way to go!!!

Salisbury University's secret to success is a program designed to collect 100 percent of the food scraps from food preparation and dining areas on campus. A unique aspect of SU's system involves food returned with dirty dishes and trays. These scraps are automatically captured from the dishwasher and are run through a shredder which shoots the food scraps into a (see Picture 1). collection bin. Food scraps are collected each day from the various collection points and transferred to a compactor on the loading dock. During the school year, the compactor is hauled away twice a week by Allied Waste. The food scraps are taken to Blue Hen Organics in Delaware, where it is turned into

compost. SU completes the loop and buys back this compost to use on it's school's campus.

For more information on SU's food scraps composting program, please contact Mr. Wayne Shelton, Sustainability & Safety Director at WXShelton@Salisbury.edu or 410-546-6485. For information on food composting, including help starting a program at any State facility, please contact Ms. Christy Bujnovszky at 410-537-4190.

### MDE Teams Up with MD Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (MD H2E)

CHRISTY BUJNOVSZKY
MDE STAFF

In the United States, hospitals annually produce more than 6 million tons of waste. This is the equivalent to 26,000 Statues of Recycling and waste Liberty. prevention are some of the ways for hospitals to reduce the amount of their waste disposed. MD H2E educates Maryland health care facilities about the significant environmental impacts of the healthcare industry. It works with health care facilities to provide the resources and technical support necessary to Maryland healthcare facilities in implementing recycling and source reduction programs. MDE will be working in conjunction with MD H2E and conducting site visits to State hospitals. If your facility is interested in participating in this program, please contact Ms. Christy Bujnovszky at

410-537-4190 to schedule a site visit.

[Recycling Goal, from Page 1]

In 2013, eighteen State Agencies recycled at least 20 percent of their waste and Maryland State Government, as a whole, exceeded the minimum rate and recycled 31.6 percent of the waste it generated.

Details are available on the Maryland State Agencies' 2013 Recycling Rates Table included on Page 3 of this newsletter. Further details are available in the annual Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report available on MDE's webpage at

http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/ Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Publications/Pages/Programs/LandPrograms/Recycling/publications/index.aspx.

### **Helpful Resources**

For information on Statewide recycling services contracts, access the Maryland Department of General Service's (DGS) webpage at: <a href="https://www.dgs.maryland.gov/Procurement/StatewideContracts/commodities.html">www.dgs.maryland.gov/Procurement/StatewideContracts/commodities.html</a>

For information on Maryland green purchasing, access DGS' Buy Green webpage:

www.dgs.maryland.gov/Procurement/Green/index.html

For additional information and resources on State Agency recycling, please visit MDE's State Agency recycling webpage at: www.mde.maryland.gov/recycling.





## Maryland State Agencies' 2013 Recycling Rates

Compiled by the Maryland Department of the Environment from Reports Submitted for Calendar Year 2013

Agency Name	No. of Sites	No. of Sites Reporting	No. of People	Total MRA Recycling 2013 (tons)	2013 MRA Recycling Rate (%)*
Baltimore City Community College	1	1	8,796	35.54	3.98
Comptroller of the Treasury	1	1	800	131.48	82.03
Department of Agriculture	2	2	216	30.54	12.94
Department of Assessments and Taxation	15	13	339	21.50	32.28
Department of Budget and Management	1	1	185	25.50	69.67
Department of Education	29	29	1,415	110.44	26.36
Department of General Services	23	23	7,803	860.06	31.05
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	18	15	4,682	1,474.46	13.68
Department of Human Resources	33	9	1,510	139.74	15.00
Department of Juvenile Services	15	15	2,891	484.90	16.89
Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation	13	13	1,366	235.63	28.43
Department of Natural Resources	7	7	517	41.16	15.73
Department of the Environment	5	5	973	145.82	65.51
Department of Transportation	88	88	26,218	12,273.89	47.39
Department of Veterans Affairs	15	1	800	197.73	24.46
Dept. of Housing and Community Development	3	3	431	43.38	10.73
Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services	31	19	12,969	2,090.82	19.13
Gov's Office Crime Control Prevention	1	1	800	2.31	10.69
Judiciary of Maryland	1	0	NR	NR	NR
Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund	1	1	250	85.48	48.27
Maryland Department of Disabilities	1	1	24	3.96	45.83
Maryland Department of Planning	1	1	40	9.56	7.89
Maryland Energy Administration	1	0	NR	NR	NR
Maryland Environmental Service	4	4	253	16.70	62.38
Maryland Food Center Authority	1	1	1,325	470.86	8.68
Maryland General Assembly	1	0	NR	NR	NR
Maryland Insurance Administration	1	1	1,207	26.72	52.68
Maryland Military Department	1	0	NR	NR	NR
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission	1	1	200	49.95	19.13
Maryland School for the Deaf	2	2	669	101.18	28.49
Maryland Stadium Authority	1	1	1,000	599.12	24.50
Maryland State Archives	1	1	86	1.79	7.92
Maryland State Police	29	29	1,683	301.24	21.11
MD Emergency Management Agency	1	1	79	0.51	1.21
Morgan State University	1	1	9,241	90.79	14.14
St. Mary's College of Maryland	1	1	2,558	315.40	22.26
Subsequent Injury Fund	1	0	NR	NR	NR
University of Maryland System	17	17	80,843	9764.10	40.13
TOTAL	369	309	172,169.00	30,182.26	31.64

NR = No Report \*(Total MRA Recycling ÷ Total solid waste generated) x 100



