

# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration • Resource Management Program  
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## Recycling Market Development Workshop

On Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 1-2:30pm, the Waste Diversion Division hosted a virtual, public workshop providing a venue to discuss recycling market development in and around Maryland. The goal was to understand complexities relative to emerging markets on recyclables, furthering business development for recycling and recyclable products, and encouraging opportunities for innovation related to recycled materials. The [Recycling Market Development](#) law has no regulatory oversight and is focused on expanding markets and business in Maryland and its surrounding regions.

The workshop began with a general presentation of the law and overview of the goals for each breakout room. Participants were then encouraged to move into one of the three breakout rooms to answer the same questions on how they related to their specific breakout room. The following are the breakout rooms and a description:

- Innovation & Business Development - this category is for the advancement and development of recycling products, businesses, programs and policy
- Business Identification & Marketing - this category is existing programs and businesses
- Education & Outreach - this category is for implementation of the recycling programs

The questions asked in each room were:

- What are specific materials or products Maryland should focus on building demand for? Where are the best opportunities to build demand?
- How can Maryland increase recycled content purchasing by private businesses and non-government entities?
- What other organizations should we partner with to build demand for recyclable content products?
- What program or policy models in other states, or countries, should we consider for Maryland?

The following is a summary of information discussed in the corresponding breakout rooms as well as a collection of the chat room responses.

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### Breakout Room Notes

#### Innovation & Business Development

- Donna Morrow, Clean Marina Program at DNR  
*MD DNR is currently running a pay as you throw operation for boat shrink wrap with Marine Trades. Recommend either EPR or state mandate requiring purchase shrink wrap containing x% recycled content*
- Phil Ash – High 5 Initiative  
*Concerned about the chain of command – what is really recycled content in products. Feels there is a disconnect with the buyer – generators and the manufacturer and limited options for purchasing recycled content materials.*

- Brandon Shank -Interstate Batteries in Washington County  
*Finding a solution requires interest in engaging with recycling activities without cost. MRFs aren't making the decision it's the materials that can be manufactured from cheaper virgin products. Much easier in Washington County to pitch into the trash than it is to recycle. Suggest the state invest in post market for economy of scale.*
- Richard Keller – Baltimore County  
*Buy Recycled Business Alliance – policy recommendations*
- Mark Goodman – Chesapeake Materials  
*Issue is the high volume needed, and weight – they collect a lot of plastic that costs a lot to transport for very little dollar value return. State should become a customer or require recycled content for sale within the state. This in turn stabilizes the market and materials so either become a customer or require the content.*
- Martha Ainsworth – Environmentalist  
*Question: Food grade plastic made from virgin material, how to promote recycled materials. What happens with the plastic bottles Mark Goodman explained about the fancifulness of the plastics today that have so many additives to them that they are difficult to recycle. Martha suggested encouraging the design of products to be more recyclable. Also asked what's the incentive to buy recycled, use recycled, etc.*
- Angie Webb – MES  
*Mattresses and tires – Maryland needs more infrastructure to support their recycling*

#### Business Identification & Marketing

The discussion began with participants discussing difficult-to-recycle materials such as glass, polystyrene, C&D, film plastics, mattresses, and scrap tires.

- TurboHaul  
*recycles mattresses, said they need specialized equipment to process the foam from mattresses, which is the main material that they recycle. The wood underframe and metal springs can be kept together and reupholstered for resale.*
- Scott Drummond from Arundel Recycling  
*one of the few businesses that recycle vinyl siding. He collects from Anne Arundel, Cecil, and Carroll counties, he hauls the material from the counties for free. The vinyl siding is cleaned, processed and ground into pellets to be sold to vinyl extruders for repurposing.*
- Shari Wilson from Trash Free MD  
*MDE should support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to stimulate recycling markets.*
- Emily Soontornsaratool MD DGS  
*The gaps in State procurement are to understand what we want to promote, then DGS can write the specs. DGS is currently working on the low hanging fruit, such as paper. Where do we want to develop markets? Then DGS can write the specs for that material.*
- Katie Peige MD Aviation  
*there needs to be transparency as to where the single stream recycling is going*
- Mariia Liubarskaia Calvert County  
*MDE should organize webinars with businesses & counties*
- General Comments  
*MDE should consider joining the following groups*

- [The Institute for Public Procurement](#)
- Institute of Facility Managers
- [Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council](#) (MD Department of General Services (DGS) is a member)

### Education & Outreach

Discussion on issues with recyclables. Some of the main difficulties cited for recycling were textiles, batteries and vape cartridges.

- Leana Houser Johns Hopkins University  
*What materials are we trying to find markets for? How are we getting the materials out of the stream? Where are the materials actually going?*
  - Melissa Filiaggi Maryland Environmental Services  
*We need cleaner feedstocks that go to the MRFs. Mattresses & tires are a big problem. PG & Montgomery Counties have done a lot of education & outreach & have good single stream recycling doing to the MRFs (residential recycling)*
  - James Ingram from Design Recycle, Inc.  
*his company processes many hard-to-recycle materials into new uses*
  - Alan Pultyniewicz from Montgomery County  
*mentioned that his county will be looking for funding from the EPA*
  - General Comments
    - *Funding for new programs was mentioned as a barrier to increased recycling*
    - *We need more businesses to have take-back programs.*
    - *People want to purchase recycled products but it is too expensive.*
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### **Chat**

- Australian Company, Great Wrap, offers bio-plastic shrink wrap that is compostable. they will be 100% petroleum free in the next year or so apparently they are getting interest from large American supermarket chains. They are supposed to be competitive in
- I would say that as a resident of Montgomery County, I'd like to see a market for non-wearable textiles, such as old clothes and rags. These would be things that cannot be donated because they are beyond repair
- E-cigarettes/vape cartridges are another concern and caused a fire at our paper processing facility.
- Link for Textile and Mattress recycling contracts that were just approved today for NMWDA jurisdictions: <https://www.nmwda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Authority-Meeting-Agenda-and-Action-Items-rev.-12-6-22.pdf>
- Has the State looked into funding a glass recycling processor like CAP Glass located in PA?
- Is there a comprehensive list of existing Recycling Markets in Maryland? Would that be helpful?
- Del. Hill is introducing a mattress stewardship program in the 2023 General Assembly that would increase demand for mattress recycling.
- should also add alkaline batteries and lithium batteries from scooters and cars
- Agricultural Plastics are also looking for a home
- What does the NoVAa make out of recycled film

- Can treks take the boat wrap too
- Farmers would appreciate more tire recycling
- What is the most valuable materials on the resale market
- Chemical recycling of plastic will help with hard to recycle plastics
- MOM's market takes hoes and holiday lights
- Price comparable and mandate change or make products that are as affordable and of the same quality or better
- <https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/>
- North Carolina- DEQ Recycling Program and Funding
- What is the name of the unit at MDE that writes specs state agency purchasing offices must use when purchasing products? David, Maryland DGS chairs the MD Green Purchasing Committee (MDE is a statutory member, along with 9 other agencies). See link above. More about MD Green Purchasing Committee. We have open meetings quarterly. Learn more: <https://dgs.maryland.gov/Pages/GreenPurchasing/index.aspx>
- Japan does a great job of requiring residents to separate their trash. <https://matcha-jp.com/en/10149#>
- Mattress Recycling. TurboHaul. Kevin Daly 301-604-8090 kevindaly@turbohaul.com
- Materials to focus on – Glass
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- No PCRC mandate exists for shrink-wrap that I know of but I do believe it can be used to manufacture new. State has pretty good regs for our purchasing of some products with recycled content.
- Bottle bills are a very effective policy measure too.

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## Contact

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