

**Howard County**  
*Internal Memorandum*

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Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Analysis Statement

**Council Resolution No. \_\_\_\_-2021** A RESOLUTION adopting the Office Building Recycling Plan as an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan, 2014-2024, in accordance with the procedure required by State Law.

**Council Bill No. \_\_\_\_-2021** AN ACT requiring certain recycling services for Office Buildings over a certain size; requiring compliance with the County's Solid Waste Management Plan; authorizing certain inspections; providing for certain penalties; and generally related to office building recycling in Howard County.

To: Lonnie R. Robbins,  
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Tom Meunier, Director  
Department of Public Works

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Date: December 16, 2020

Section 9-503 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "State Law") requires each Maryland County to have a solid waste management and recycling plan that covers at least the 10-year period following adoption of the plan by the county governing body.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 9-505(a)(18) of the State Law, each county plan must include a recycling plan, and each plan must contain the items set forth in Section 9-1703 of the State Law.

Howard County's previous Solid Waste Management Plan, 2014-2024, was adopted by passage of Council Resolution No. 40-2015.

During the 2019 General Assembly legislative session, Section 9-1714 of the State Law was amended by passage of Senate Bill 370 (SB370) and requires that a county address, in a recycling plan required to be submitted to the Secretary of the Environment, the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from buildings that are 150,000 gross square feet or greater of office space and to require each owner of an office building to provide recycling receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials and for the removal of certain materials. In addition, SB370 requires that office building recycling plans be adopted by October 1, 2021. Council Resolution No. \_\_\_\_-2021 proposes to adopt the Office Building Recycling Plan as required by SB370 for Office Buildings over 150,000 square feet.

Additionally, Council Bill No. \_\_\_\_-2021 is a companion piece of legislation and requires compliance with the Office Building Recycling Plan and authorizes inspections and establishes enforcement provisions such as civil penalties.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

There are currently eight buildings in the County covered by this legislation and the cost of an inspection program is expected to be absorbed by existing personnel. . There will be minimal costs of about \$1,000 associated with education and outreach to property owners and tenants regarding the implementation and enforcement of the plan. Most costs will be in supplies and materials, specifically printing and mailing costs, and will be paid out of the Environmental Services Fund.