

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 14

Resolution No. 186 -2025

Introduced by: Christiana Rigby

SHORT TITLE: Amending - Solid Waste Management Plan

TITLE: A RESOLUTION amending the 2025-2034 Solid Waste Management Plan to add a statement endorsing the study of a Pay as You Throw (PAYT) program; and generally related to the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Introduced and read first time Oct 6, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on Oct 20, 2025.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on Nov 3, 2025.

Certified By

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive on Nov. 6, 2025

Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 9-503 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of
2 Maryland requires each Maryland county to have a solid waste management plan that covers at
3 least the 10-year period following adoption of the plan by the county governing body; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County 2025-2034 Solid Waste Management plan was recently
6 adopted by the County Council's approval of Council Resolution No. 143-2025 on September 2,
7 2025; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the adopted Solid Waste Management Plan was amended to strike language
10 that called for a study of the feasibility, benefits, and requirements for a Pay as You Throw
11 (PAYT) program;
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
14 Maryland this 3 day of November, 2025 that the following pages of the 2025-2034
15 Howard County Solid Waste Management Plan as attached to Council Resolution 143 – 2025 be
16 amended as shown in the attachment to this Resolution:
17

- 18 1. Page 105
- 19 2. Page 113
- 20 3. Appendix A, page 2

5.0 Action Plan

contract maximums.

Additionally, the County will undertake a comprehensive study to assess the feasibility, benefits, and requirements for a PAYT program in Howard County.

5.6.2 Non-Residential MSW

Private haulers independently engage with a processing or disposal facility or deliver waste directly to the ARL. The County will monitor deliveries of MSW by commercial haulers, and fees charged by private facilities, and adjust its tipping fee upward should private sector fees change enough to cause quantities of non-residential waste delivered to the ARL to significantly increase. It is projected that less than ten (10) percent of the non-residential waste generated in the County will be directly managed by the County.

5.6.3 Construction, Demolition, and Land Clearing Debris

The construction of a public C&D disposal facility is not anticipated during the planning period. Any C&D landfill constructed in the County will be required to include a recovery facility to maximize recycling of C&D debris. A proposed C&D landfill not incorporating a recovery facility will not be included in this Plan.

Since private companies control most C&D debris disposal capacity in Maryland, it is not known what additional disposal capacity will be provided in the long term. Privately operated landfills located in the mid-Atlantic region outside of Maryland are available to compensate for a reduction, if any, in C&D capacity within Maryland. As noted in Chapter 4, the cost to use such landfills is anticipated to be competitive with in-state lined C&D landfills, although haulers will incur additional costs for long-haul transportation.

If it is determined that inadequate private C&D disposal capacity will be available on a long-term basis, the County will work with MDE and other counties to identify and implement opportunities for regional in-state C&D debris recovery and disposal facilities. As a last resort, the County will consider a capital project with the objective of siting and implementing a C&D debris recovery and disposal facility in the County to receive C&D debris generated in the County.

5.6.4 Other Wastes

Adequate programs and facilities exist for the management of these wastes through publicly and privately operated activities. Capacity exists to manage the predicted quantity increases during future years. The management system for each waste type is anticipated to be maintained during the planning period.

5.6.4.1 Controlled Hazardous Substances

During the planning period the quantity of HHW handled through this collection program is projected to increase by around 15 percent due to the projected increase in population. The existing program is sufficient to adequately manage the quantities of HHW projected for collection during the planning period. The County anticipates continuing operation of the HHW facility during the planning period as currently configured with the possibility of extra collection days during the planning period.

5.6.4.2 Emergency Spill Management

The Howard County Fire and Rescue Department responds to all reported incidents of releases of hazardous substances and petroleum spills. The Department's capability is adequate for the County's needs. Staff regularly assesses equipment and training programs to confirm adequate emergency spill responses are maintained. The County intends to utilize its existing contractor to provide for materials disposal in the event of petroleum or hazardous waste spills. The designation of approved disposal sites is flexible, in that the contractor may propose new or replacement sites for County approval as conditions

Table 5-1 Summary of Solid Waste Management Action Steps

Action Step	Timeframe
Action Step 1 – Promote and Encourage Source Reduction and Reuse	
Conduct a source reduction outreach campaign directed at consumers	Short
Conduct a source reduction outreach campaign directed at businesses	Short
Provide compost bins and promote their use	Short
Continue operating paint, bike and textile reuse programs	Short
Explore establishing a swap shop/reuse center	Medium
Include more reuse options as markets develop	Short/Medium/Long
Action Step 2 – Increase Commercial Recycling Participation	
Support and enforce Apartment and Condo recycling law	Short
Encourage recycling in office buildings in response to state requirements	Short
Continue the Work Green Howard Certification Program and explore opportunities for program enhancement	Short
Increase business recycling reporting through voluntary or mandated actions	Short
Support school recycling programs and initiatives	Short
Action Step 3 – Increase Organics Diversion	
Expand food scraps collection in public schools	Short
Facilitate food donation programs	Short
Conduct an organics composting education and outreach campaign	Short
Revise planning and zoning text amendments allowing commercial food scraps anaerobic digestion, food scraps composting and on-farm composting	Short/Medium
Expand residential food scraps collection to more households with year-round collections	Short/Medium/Long
Study feasibility of a public/private partnership for anaerobic digestion of food scraps in Howard County	Medium
Action Step 4 – Expand List of Acceptable Recyclable Materials	
Expand mix of curbside recycling program materials if processing and marketing capabilities exist	Short/Medium/Long
Expand mix of recyclable materials accepted at the ARL if processing and marketing capabilities exist	Short/Medium/Long
Action Step 5 – Solid Waste Disposal	
Continue MSW waste export	Short/Medium/Long
Continue to assess the capacity of Alpha Ridge Transfer Station to handle daily tons as required	Short
Continue to assess the capacity of the current active landfill cell at ARL	Short
Assess the feasibility, benefits, and requirements for a PAYT program in Howard County.	Short
Action Step 6 – Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reductions	
Monitor greenhouse gas emissions from landfill and maintain or remediate to acceptable limits	Short
Prioritize, when practical, the use of renewable energy to meet the County's energy needs	Short
Evaluate alternative technology for energy	Long
Action Step 7 – Education and Outreach	
Conduct business waste audits and reduction/recycling education	Short/Medium/Long
Establish a business recycling recognition program	Short/Medium/Long
Continue education and outreach programs in schools	Short/Medium/Long

- LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
- MDE – Maryland Department of the Environment
- MDGS – Department of General Services
- MDOT – Maryland Department of Transportation
- MES – Maryland Environmental Service
- MRA – Maryland Recycling Act
- MRF – Material Recovery Facility
- MSW – Municipal Solid Waste
- NPL – National Priorities List
- OCC – Old Corrugated Containers
- PAYT – Pay As You Throw
- RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- SARA – Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
- The Authority – Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority
- TRZ – Trash and Recycling Zone(s)
- WTE – Waste-to-Energy
- USBEA – U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis