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|-------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>FROM</b> | NAME & TITLE          | Alfred H. Foxx, Director   | CITY of<br><b>BALTIMORE</b><br><b>MEMO</b> |  |
|             | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Department of Public Works<br>600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building |  |   |
|             | SUBJECT               | <b>CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 12-0049R</b>                          |  |   |

**TO** The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 – City Hall

DATE:  
July 5, 2012

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 12-0049R introduced by Council Members Henry, Clarke, Middleton, Branch, Holton, Kraft, Spector, Reisinger, Curran, President Young, Council Members Scott, Mosby, and Welch.

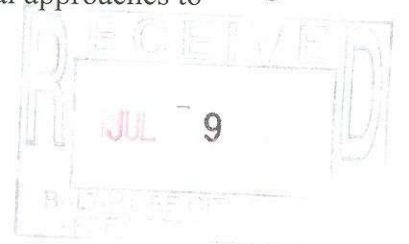
The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Director of Public Works and the Chief of the Bureau of Solid Waste to report to the Council on the Department’s progress toward creating a comprehensive Municipal Composting Program; to provide a fiscal impact statement of creating the program; and an estimated time line for citywide implementation of municipal composting.

Since the implementation of the One Plus One program and the conversion to once a week trash collection with volume limits of 96 gallons of mixed refuse per pickup, the City has seen an increase in the amount of recycling materials placed out for pickup each week. Yard waste continues to be collected separately from other collections and may be in unlimited quantity if contained or bundled separately from mixed refuse. Bagged leaves are collected curbside during the fall months and yard waste and bagged leaves may be brought to the drop off locations at no charge to residents. On occasion, severe storms such as the derecho that moved through Baltimore on Friday, June 29, 2012, results in large quantities of trees, tree limbs, branches, and leaves littering streets and private property. In addition to City crews helping to clear this debris, residents were allowed to use the City drop off locations as well.

The Bureau of Solid Waste estimates there may be as much as 10,000 tons of yard waste generated within the City in any one year. Solid Waste estimates its crews collect, on average, approximately 1,200 tons of bagged leaves each year. While a small percentage of this debris may be composted, the majority is taken to BRESCO and burned as part of the refuse-to-energy process.

Yard waste provides the City with the greatest opportunity for significant composting and the collection of much of this material is already a separate operation. The Bureau of Solid Waste and other City agencies have considered several potential approaches to compost in Baltimore:

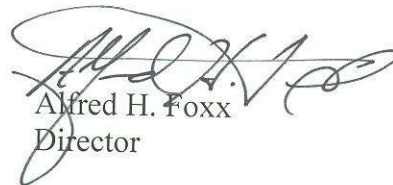
*Comments*



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- Solid Waste representatives have discussed with the Northeast Waste Disposal Authority the feasibility of a regional commercial composting facility that all Authority members could use to provide composting services at a reasonable cost;
- Solid Waste has partnered with the Office of Sustainability to determine what options may best support the local demand for quality compost;
- Solid Waste is cooperating with the Department of General Services to understand the scope and applicability of the General Services consultant study on the potential for a large scale composting operation using City-collected biomass (trees, leaves, manure); and
- Solid Waste staff are monitoring the progress of a Howard County composting pilot project in which 1,000 of 5,000 households invited to participate joined.

Representatives of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on this Resolution to assist in the discussion of composting and to help answer any questions the committee may have.



Alfred H. Foxx  
Director

AHF/MMC:ela

cc: Ms. Marcia Collins