

FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building	
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 09-0132R	



TO

DATE: October 14, 2009

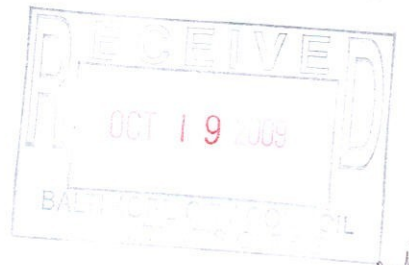
The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 09-0132R introduced by Council Members Clarke, Henry, D'Adamo, Curran, Young, Kraft, Branch, Middleton, Conaway, and Reisinger.

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Director of Public Works, the Bureau Head of Solid Waste, and Recycling Coordinator to report to the City Council on the feasibility of providing for the recycling of yard waste; the fiscal impact of removing yard waste from the solid waste stream; and the estimated time needed to convert to a new method of yard waste disposal throughout Baltimore City.

Baltimore City provides curbside collection of yard waste in unlimited quantity if contained or bundled separately from mixed refuse. The material is to be placed out on the citizen's mixed refuse collection day. Bagged leaves are collected curbside on the designated mixed refuse collection day, from October to January. Residents are encouraged to place no more than 10 bags out for collection at a time. Yard waste and leaves may be brought to one of five drop off locations at no charge to residents. Christmas trees are collected either curbside, or may be brought to a designated location for mulching. For the material brought to the BRESKO facility, it is estimated the City spends approximately \$165,000 per year to incinerate the plant matter.

The Sustainability Plan has as Resource Goal #3 to minimize the production of waste, and a Strategy E recommending expansion of Baltimore's opportunities for composting. The Department of Public Works is working with the Office of Sustainability to develop a study of composting options in FY 2011. The study will examine possible options for a Baltimore composting program, including: developing a contract with a private operation to accept yard waste; creating a composting facility at Quarantine Road Landfill; or utilizing the existing in-vessel composting facility at Quarantine Road Landfill, under a contractual partnership with the existing operator, a contractual partnership with a new operator, or as a City operated facility.



Comments

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The Department of Public Works will be present at the hearing to discuss City Council Resolution 09-0132R, with the understanding that estimating costs to provide a composting program are difficult to do without completing an in-depth study. For informational purposes, a simple summary of surrounding jurisdictions and their approaches to yard waste collection and disposal is attached to this response.



David E. Scott, P.E.
Director

DES/MMC:pat

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ATTACHMENT
City Council Resolution 09-0132R

- Anne Arundel County – The County provides curbside collection to approximately 149,000 households and the majority of the yard materials are processed through a regional composting project located in Carroll County, with Howard and Baltimore counties. A portion of the material is taken to a Prince Georges composting facility under an intergovernmental agreement. A portion of the County’s wood waste is ground into mulch and periodically made available to residents. Residents may take yard debris to any of the County’s solid waste acceptance facilities.
- Baltimore County – The County promotes grass-cycling and backyard composting and hosts compost bin sales generally each Spring. The County has a compost site located at its Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh. A portion of the yard waste is processed at the regional composting facility in Carroll County.
- Carroll County – The towns of Tanneytown, Westminster, Hampstead, Sykesville and Union Bridge offer curbside yard waste collection service. The collected materials are processed at the Northern Landfill. New Winsor collects yard waste twice a month during the Spring and Fall. Mt. Airy limits its collection to leaves and Christmas trees. Manchester has no yard debris collection program. County residents may take their yard waste to County landfills where it is mulched or composted and made available to the residents.
- Frederick – The County promotes backyard composting and grass-cycling, and collects Christmas trees for mulching. A mobile grinder operates at two County locations.
- Harford – A County ordinance mandates separate collection of yard debris. The County operates a composting facility, and residents may drop off yard debris or may have the material collected and delivered by private haulers. The County promotes backyard composting through workshops, how-to videos and brochures. Residents are entitled to three 30-gallon bags of mulch or compost, and may purchase larger quantities.
- Howard – The County provides weekly collection of yard waste to 60,400 households from April to January. Christmas trees are collected from these same households during the first three weeks of January. Yard waste is taken to the regional facility in Carroll County. Residents who promise to compost for at least two years are given free compost bins.
- Montgomery – The County prohibits disposal of yard waste with mixed refuse. The County provides curbside collection to 208,000 households and provides seasonal leaf vacuuming in some areas. Yard waste may be dropped off at the County transfer facility. Christmas trees are collected through the end of January and ground into mulch. The Maryland Environmental Service operates a grass and leaf composting facility for the County. Shredded and chipped brush is made available to residents at no charge. Grass-cycling and composting are promoted through County public education efforts and compost bins are provided to residents free of charge.