



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
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TO	Chairwoman Porter, Public Health & Environment Committee
FROM	Matthew Garbark, Director, Department of Public Works
DATE	April 8, 2026
SUBJECT	LO25-0017 Investigative Hearing – Zero Waste Committee Request #8
REQUEST TOPIC	Provide a list and/or breakdown of at least the top 10 materials that will/would fit the “market” desires. And what capacity do we have to recover the same from our waste stream?”

Background

At the second convening of the Zero Waste hearings, Councilman Conway requested a breakdown of materials that fit into the market desires.

Response

Less Waste Better Baltimore assumes markets will remain fairly consistent with the exception of Construction & Demolition Waste (C&D). Priority markets identified were lumber and clay bricks. C&D diversion interventions will occur primarily in the commercial sector, which generates 98% of C&D waste.

**Expected Maximum Diversion Potential and Performance Timeframes
for Task 5 Diversion/Recycling Options**

Diversion/Recycling Option (Details provided in Task 5 Report)	Maximum Diversion Potential (tons)	Expected Performance Timeframe (years)
Food Waste Reduction	72,400	20
Residential Organics Diversion	42,800	20
Commercial Organics Diversion	35,500	20
Improved Recycling Collection	84,200	10
Expanded Recycling Collection	69,300	10
C&D Reuse and Reduction	28,400	10
C&D Diversion	200,100	20
Bulk Waste Diversion	4,100	10
Drop-Off Center Improvements	16,100	5
TOTAL	552,900	-



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Summary of Disposed Waste Composition in Baltimore in 2017 (tons)

Category	Sub-Category	Residential Waste	Commercial Waste	Total
Organics (163,200)	Food Waste	65,450	44,050	109,500
	Yard Waste	36,250	15,150	51,400
	Mixed Organics	0	2,300	2,300
Traditional Recyclables (240,700)	Cardboard	24,600	32,350	56,950
	Mixed Paper	18,700	17,600	36,300
	HDPE/PET	12,700	7,550	20,250
	Mixed Plastic	55,150	29,800	84,950
	Aluminum Cans	4,000	2,500	6,500
	Steel Cans	7,650	9,000	16,650
	Mixed Metals	250	300	550
	Glass	9,350	9,200	18,550
C&D (288,700)	Lumber	2,400	22,000	24,400
	Clay Bricks	0	6,350	6,350
	Concrete	2,050	199,300	201,350
	Asphalt Concrete	0	40,200	40,200
	Asphalt Shingles	0	7,150	7,150
	Soil	150	150	300
	Drywall	900	8,050	8,950
Non-Traditional Recyclables (5,600)	Bulk Waste	2,500	2,500	5,000
	Textiles/Carpet	250	250	500
	Other	50	50	100
Unclassified (117,900)	-	77,050	40,850	117,900
TOTAL	-	319,450	496,650	816,100