


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 15-0202R</b>		

**TO**

DATE: March 2, 2015

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin  
Room 400 – City Hall

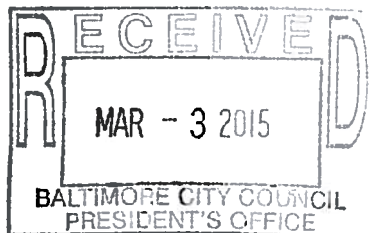
I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 15-0202R introduced by Council Members Henry, Branch, Costello, Kraft, Clarke, Reisinger, Middleton, Welch, Holton, Scott, Mosby, Curran, Stokes, Spector, and Young.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Director of Public Works, and the Chief, Bureau of Solid Waste to update the Council on the Department's progress toward creating a comprehensive Municipal Composting Program, to provide a fiscal impact statement on creating the program, and estimate a time line for citywide implementation of municipal composting.

The Bureau of Solid Waste has been investigating options for municipal composting of yard waste, as it is already collected separately and provides the greatest opportunity for composting. Crews collect, on average, an estimated 1,200 tons of bagged leaves each year. Curbside collection of bagged leaves and yard waste is offered during fall months and may be in unlimited quantities as long it is contained separately from mixed refuse. Residents may also bring bagged leaves to drop off locations at no cost.

Efforts to site a composting facility have been challenged by finding land areas of sufficient size located away from residences. In 2011 a study estimated the cost to construct a composting facility at Quarantine Road Landfill to be \$4 million, assuming enough acceptable land area could be provided. Efforts to establish a regional composting facility have not been successful. In addition, MDE has yet to issue permit or other conditions for composting facilities. The uncertainty of the regulations has been a barrier for existing facilities and potential new facilities. This atmosphere of uncertainty creates risk for the City if it develops the infrastructure to collect and direct materials to a facility that may not meet the environmental standards that MDE is contemplating and may be forced to close.

The Department of Public Works will be present at the upcoming hearing on City Council Resolution 15-0202R to discuss the options and challenges for creating a Municipal Composting Program.



Sincerely,

  
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director

RSC/KTO:ela

*F ul comm*