


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 14-0415		

TO

DATE:
August 15, 2014

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 Bill 14-0415 introduced by Council President Young on behalf of the Administration (Department of Public Works).

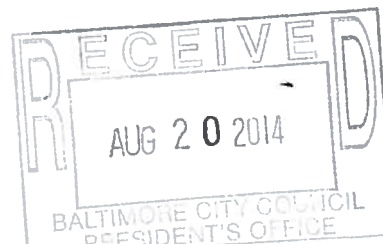
The purpose of this bill is to adopt a new Solid Waste Management Plan for Baltimore City; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to solid waste disposal systems, solid waste acceptance facilities, and the systematic collection and disposal of solid waste.

The Annotated Code of Maryland (Environment Article § 9-503) and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 26.03.03) require each county and Baltimore City to adopt, maintain, and periodically amend or revise a comprehensive solid waste plan that covers at least the succeeding ten year period. Baltimore last adopted a solid waste management plan through Resolution 03-41, effective June 12, 2003. City Council Bill 14-0415 is the vehicle to introduce a new solid waste management plan for Baltimore City to the public and to begin the adoption process.

Copies of the Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan were provided to each member of the City Council and are available for public review at the City's Legislative Reference Library in City Hall and at select public library locations. A copy of the entire document is also available on the City's website: (<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Bureaus/SolidWaste/DraftTenYearSolidWasteManagementPlan.aspx>). Comments may be provided by letter, email, or by attending the public hearings. The Plan will be presented at a public hearing before the Planning Commission and at a public hearing before the City Council Committee on Judiciary and Legislative Investigations.

The Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan is a State-mandated document that identifies the goals for managing the City's solid waste streams, summarizes the laws and regulations that govern solid waste management, describes the City government structure necessary to carry out the management, and provides a future management plan. Details are provided concerning population, zoning, and land use plans, in addition to statistical information on waste generation, the import and export of solid waste, solid waste collection, and disposal. The Plan assesses the existing solid waste collection and disposal systems, both public and private; disposal capacity needs now and in the future; the current and future use of the landfill, waste-to-energy plant, and transfer station; regional approaches to solid waste management and waste disposal; waste prevention, separation and reduction; and emergency response systems. The 'Plan of Action' section describes the ten year plan for the City to meet future anticipated solid waste management needs. It describes the future plans for solid waste disposal and facilities; the changing nature of solid waste generation and how it is to be managed; and the financing of the solid waste disposal system.

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Highlights of the Solid Waste Management Plan include the following:

- **The Baltimore Resource Energy Systems Company (BRESKO)** waste-to-energy Wheelabrator Plant is expected to operate at its current level or higher. The City recently renewed its contract to continue use of the plant through 2021. It is estimated that the use of BRESKO incineration services results in a reduction of approximately 90% of landfill space filled annually, in volume. The contract with BRESKO also allows the City to purchase energy generated at the plant at below-market rates. BRESKO will continue to play a significant role by saving valuable landfill space, providing cost-effective waste disposal, and creating a source of discounted energy.
- **The Quarantine Road Landfill (QRL)** continues to serve as the location for landfill disposal of non-recyclable, non-hazardous waste. The Bureau of Solid Waste established a new division to manage the landfill and the transfer station, in recognition of how important and unique these operations are. The landfill management and technology at QRL has been steadily improving over the past few years. The US Coast Guard paid for installation of a landfill gas collection (LFG) and control system at QRL and signed contract with the City in 2007 to utilize the landfill methane for its yard. Cell 6, the final cell available at QRL, is currently in use and is expected to reach capacity in 2026. In planning for the future, the City is looking at landfill expansion options and other technologies to increase capacity. The City has taken the step of purchasing Millennium Landfill, a closed industrial landfill adjacent to QRL, and is now developing a project which would combine the two landfills, expanding capacity through 2050 and possibly beyond. As part of the expanded landfill design process, the Bureau of Solid Waste is investigating the possibility of mining and selling red gypsum that was previously disposed of in the Millennium Landfill. If the material is marketable, this plan could generate revenue and increase the volume of the landfill's capacity. There is also potential to use a portion of the expanded landfill for a composting facility. The Bureau is researching additional strategies and technologies for extending landfill life and for converting landfill gas and solid waste into fuel.
- **The City's solid waste services** include curb-side trash and recycling collection, bulk trash collection, graffiti removal, rat eradication, alley cleaning, street sweeping, eviction chattel and fire debris collection, pro-active mowing of city-owned lots, cleaning of business districts, collection at special events and at neighborhood cleanup days, and marine debris collection. Services are expanding as the City continues its efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency. Mechanical street sweeping increased the number of routes served and now has the goal of cleaning at least 90% of the city's streets. Smaller sweepers are now being used for an alley sweeping pilot program. The City is also running a pilot program for municipal trash cans, providing households with assigned trash cans with attached lids as well as with recycling cans. In 2010, rat abatement services were transferred to the Bureau of Solid Waste, which is increasing proactive inspections and baiting and is developing a comprehensive approach to the issue. The City has been collaborating closely with residents when implementing programs and it is continuously working to educate all city residents about the responsibilities of property owners and the importance of proper trash disposal and recycling.

- **Waste reduction and recycling** will become even more important in the next ten years as the City strives to decrease dependence on the landfill and BRESKO. The City's One Plus One program and single-stream recycling have changed service to once-per-week recycling and trash collection. This change increased operational efficiency and improved recycling rates. In the past ten years, the City expanded recycling collection opportunities at schools and businesses and it will continue efforts to increase these rates. The Department provided all 205 public schools with 65-gallon recycling bins and offers educational presentations to the schools on recycling and other solid waste issues. Beginning October 1, 2014, all apartment buildings and condominiums of 10 or more dwellings must implement recycling plans, according to State law. The Department's Recycling Office will work with these buildings to help establish recycling programs where needed. The Recycling Office has also begun a 'Drive to 35' campaign to raise recycling awareness and increase the City's recycling rate to the State-mandated goal of 35% by December 31, 2015. This campaign uses promotional materials and events to educate citizens about recycling and uses Facebook, Twitter, and its annual calendar to disseminate information on its services. Increased recycling among businesses will also play an important role in increasing the City's recycling rate. The Department is investigating other strategies for waste reduction, such as composting of yard waste and leaves.

In summary, this plan demonstrates that the City has the system in place to fully meet its responsibilities for solid waste management over the next ten years. With the continued use of BRESKO, plans for expanding the landfill, and increased recycling, the City will have adequate capacity for its waste for years to come. The City will continue to improve its recycling rates and to work with businesses and residents on reducing the amount of waste generated. Improvements in operational efficiency and in new technology will allow the City to manage solid waste in a cost-effective and efficient manner, ensuring that the future needs are met for the city and its residents.

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works supports the passage of City Council Bill 14-0415.

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

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