

DEPARTMENT OF THE **ENVIRONMENT**

***FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING***



# Overview



- For more than 26 years, Prince George's County has owned and managed the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility – a 200+ acre site located in Upper Marlboro
- The facility is operated by the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), through an intergovernmental agreement
- MES turns yard trim, including grass clippings, leaves, brush, small branches into a trademarked product called **Leafgro**<sup>®</sup>. Christmas trees are shredded into mulch and given away to residents during a popular annual mulch-giveaway event
- **Leafgro GOLD**<sup>®</sup> includes food scraps and yard trim

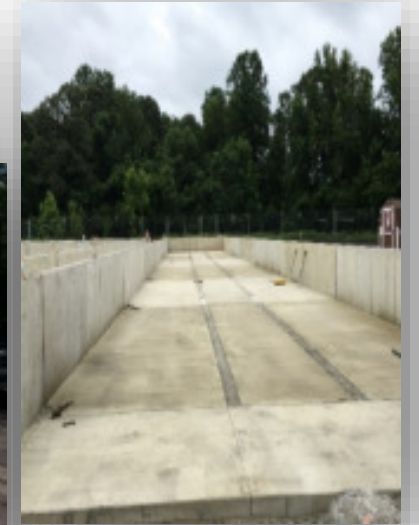


- Private and County contractors deliver yard trim and food scraps to the facility
- Approximately 172,000 households receive yard trim curbside collection by County contracted haulers
- Nearly 60,000 tons of yard trim is processed annually
- 9,785 tons of food scraps processed during fiscal year 2018



# FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

- May 2013 tested food scrap composting utilizing mobile Gore Cover Technology
  - 2 expansions GORE system since 2013 from 3 heaps to 4 and from 4 heaps to 8 heaps; with incremental food scrap increases of 1,509, 4,400 to 9,785 tons respectively
  - December 2018 the full scale 12 Mega Heap Bunker System with Gore Covers installation was completed; allowing for processing of an additional 32,000 tons of food scraps per year



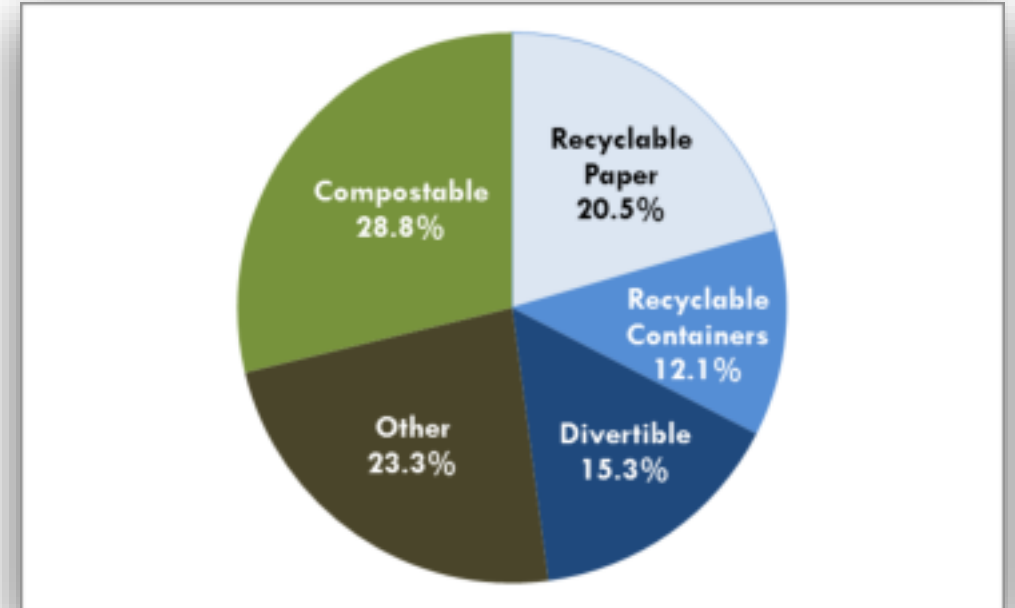


# FOOD SCRAP CUSTOMERS

- County's Department of the Environment
- University of Maryland – closed loop
- Private contractors/haulers
- Several County municipalities
- Federal entities such as the Smithsonian
- Washington Nationals Park
- Out-of-County entities
- County has voluntarily handled special event food scrap composting for the Maryland Department of the Environment among others



- Waste Characterization Study at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill revealed organics comprise nearly 50% of what is being thrown away as trash
  - December of 2017 the County implemented a one year EPA grant funded residential food scrap collection pilot
    - approximately 200 households
    - Pepper Mill/Carmody Hills, Wilburn, Ft. Washington/Tantallon & West Laurel



# FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING PILOT



## FY18 Pilot

- 1.5 gallon Kitchen bin & 35 gallon wheeled cart; “How To” Guide and other engagement materials
- 1 time supply of compostable liners
- Collected weekly on Monday, yard trim collection day
- 1st six months collected separate from yard trim
- 2<sup>nd</sup> six months combined with yard trim









# NEXT STEPS – RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

## FY20 Program

- Fall of 2019, in recognition of ARD
- Opt-in; target of 3,000 households; Expansion county wide within 3 years
- 1.5 gallon kitchen bin & 35 gallon wheeled cart; engagement materials
- Targeting Friday trash & recycling collection areas
- Collected combined with yard trim on Monday



# FUTURE PLANS

- Expand to other County agencies
- Promote/implement school composting programs
- Provide information to multifamily properties; encourage programs/pilots
- Promote/encourage Commercial food scrap composting
- Maximize our operation & GROW again





# CONTACT US

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