Montgomery County Council

**Committee:** Directly to Council
**Committee Review:** N/A
**Staff:** Keith Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst
Aron Trombka, Senior Legislative Analyst, Office of Legislative Oversight
**Purpose:** Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #2
July 28, 2026
**Discussion**

## SUBJECT

Briefing/Discussion: Long-Term Disposal of Solid Waste Alternatives and Decision Process

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

- Jennifer Macedonia, Director, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Jeff Seltzer, Deputy Director, DEP
- Kaley Laleker, Chief, Zero Waste Programs, DEP
- Thoren Perego, Special Assistant to the Director, DEP

## BACKGROUND

- **Summary of FY27 Council Budget Actions in May 2026 and Follow-Up Required:** As part of his Recommended FY27 DEP-Recycling and Resource Management (RRM) Budget, the Executive recommended closing the County's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) by January 1, 2027 and transitioning to long-haul of waste by truck to out-of-county landfills. The Council President recommended the Council assume "current operations" (i.e. keeping the RRF open during FY27) for the FY27 DEP RRM Budget, pending a comprehensive Council review of the issue after budget. The Council ultimately voted in support of the Council President's recommendation.

  This July 28 briefing/discussion is intended to initiate the Council's follow-up process with worksessions expected to follow beginning this September.

- **Issue Background**

  - **Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force:** In April 2018 County Executive Leggett announced his intention to create a "Zero Waste Task Force." In June of 2018, the County's Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force with staff support from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and consultant support from HDR, Inc., began its work to provide advice and guidance on how best to maximize waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and sustainable management of all materials across the entire integrated waste management system.

    The Task Force's work also included studying what to do with "what's left;" (after maximizing reduction, reuse, and recycling strategies) including reviewing the condition of the County's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Dickerson and noting the capital work needed to continue operations at the RRF for the long-term versus other potential

disposal options such as the long-haul of waste to landfills. Upon beginning his first term in December 2018 County Executive Elrich announced his support for closing the RRF.

In May 2020, the Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force transmitted its recommendations to the County Executive and the County Council. The recommendations noted that significant additional analysis and operational changes were needed if the County were to seek to close the RRF.

- **Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan:** In October 2021, the Council adopted the 2020-2029 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (later approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)) which included language that the County Executive would provide to the County Council an analysis which compares the short and long-term costs, environmental and public health impacts, racial equity and social justice implications, facility impacts, operational concerns, and other major issues of keeping the RRF open versus transitioning to in-County or out-of-County landfilling.

  Similar language was included in the County's 2025-2034 Plan adopted by the Council in April 2025 and later approved by MDE.

- **RRF Contract and Short-Term Capital Work:** The RRF began operation in August 1995. For more details on the RRF and its history (please see the slides attached on ©7-9). The original contract (between the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) (which owns the RRF on behalf of Montgomery County) and Reworld (formerly Covanta) (which operates the facility) had an end date of April 2016 but was extended twice by five-years (at the County's initiative as allowed for under the contract), pushing the contract end date to April 2026.

  In April 2025, the County Executive supported an emergency procurement between NMWDA and Reworld to extend the operating contract end date by another five years (from April 2026 to April 2031), which took effect in April 2025. As with the original contract, this contract includes a "termination for convenience" clause which allows the County to opt out of the contract early with six months notice; subject to a settlement agreement with Reworld.

  The contract also includes a package of short-term capital work (paid for by the County) for the RRF (estimated at $64.5 million spread over several fiscal years) to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the facility through the end of the contract period (April 2031).

- **May 2025 Consultant Report:** In June 2025, the Council received a DEP-sponsored consultant report (Municipal Solid Waste Management System, Alternatives Analysis, May 2025 (by Arcadis)) detailing the costs and other impacts of a type of Advance Waste Processing (see below) called Materials Recovery and Biological Treatment (MRBT) coupled with long haul of waste out of the county, stand-alone long haul, and the continued long-term use of the RRF.

- **FY26 Budget:** For the FY26 Budget, the Council approved $35.5 million in expenditures (funded with increases in Solid Waste Service Charges) for the first phase of $64.5 million in recommended short-term capital work assumed in the RRF contract. The Council did not support the Executive's recommended MRBT capital project that would have initiated feasibility and design work for this new facility.

  **FY27 Budget:** For the FY27 budget the Council approved another $17 million in short-term capital work based on the Council's decision to assume "current operations" for the RRF during FY27.

- **Request for Proposal – Long Haul of Solid Waste by Truck**: In July 2025, the Full Council received a briefing from DEP on the Executive's support for moving forward with a request for proposal (RFP) for the long-haul of County waste by truck and disposal at an out-of-County landfill. Council Staff noted at the time that the Council still needed to discuss the various pros and cons of keeping the RRF open for the long-term or transitioning to the landfilling of solid waste and that the RFP process would help provide additional information about the costs and feasibility of the long-haul by truck option. In October 2025, DEP issued a request for procurement (RFP). As noted earlier, the results of this RFP process informed the County Executive's FY27 budget recommendations.

- **Advanced Waste Processing:** DEP is also considering potential next steps in the development of an advanced waste processing (AWP) facility to further reduce the tons of waste to be long-hauled. AWP is a system that receives and sorts municipal solid waste to extract recyclables and organic materials, using a variety of sorting methods. Last week, DEP informed Council staff that, on July 14, the Executive issued a request for proposals for the design, construction, and operation of an AWP system. Responses to the RFP are due by September 14, 2026.

## DISCUSSION

- Council Staff has prepared the attached Slide Deck to summarize the threshold decision before the Council:
  - Support a new long-term contract to operate the RRF and a new comprehensive capital project to extend the operating life of the RRF for the long-term or,
  - Support the closure of the RRF in the short term and assume a transition to landfilling of the County's solid waste.
- The Slide Deck notes the many issues that Council Staff are analyzing (in coordination with DEP staff), the major options being reviewed by Council Staff, and the questions and information Council Staff has requested from the Executive Branch (as included in the Council President's June 11 letter to the County Executive).
- To date, the Council has not had an opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of the various disposal alternatives (such as the continued long-term operation of the RRF, long-haul to landfill alternatives, and the potential implementation of Advanced Waste Processing). Council Staff

will work with DEP to analyze the information provided to date and the additional information requested with a goal of assembling this information in time for Council worksessions this fall.

- As noted in prior briefings, the issue of the County's long-term approach to the disposal of its solid waste is a timely one. The RRF will need a new operating contract and a major capital project (far beyond the short-term capital work currently being done) to extend the life of the facility for the next 25 years. Alternatively, closing the RRF would be a major change, impacting many aspects of the County's solid waste operations. Further, the Executive's interest in moving to advanced waste processing to further increase the diversion of waste also raises many questions that could impact the Council's long-term decision.
- If after this fall's worksessions, the Council supports keeping the RRF open for the long term, then a capital project will need to be initiated with planning and design work beginning as soon as possible to map out this work.
- If the Council supports the closure of the RRF, the Council will need to work closely with DEP and the next County Executive to establish timelines related to future capital projects, contracts, and other activities needed to transition the County in this new direction. The County will also eventually need to amend the County's Ten-Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan to reflect this major change in its primary waste disposal strategy with final approval of the Plan resting with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

**This report contains:**


Briefing Slides from Council Staff Pages 1-19
June 11, 2026 Council President Letter to the County Executive Pages 20-26


**Links to Additional Information**

- March 2, 2026 Letter from the County Executive to the Council President
  - February 26, 2026 Aiming for Zero Waste Slide Deck from DEP
  - March 2024 Draft Final Organics Management Plan (prepared EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC)
  - Municipal Solid Waste System Alternatives Analysis May 2025 (by Arcadis U.S., Inc.)
- January 23, 2026 Letter from the Council President to the County Executive
- July 22, 2025 Council Staff Report: Briefing/Discussion: Department of Environmental Protection Strategy for Solid Waste Disposal
- January 28, 2025 Council Staff Report: Briefing/Discussion: Current and Future Plans for Zero Waste in the County
  - January 28, 2025 Council Staff Report Addendum: DEP Slide Deck
- December 7, 2020 T&E Committee Council Staff Report: Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force Recommendations
- DEP Aiming for Zero Waste Webpage

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# County Solid Waste Disposal Options

**Presentation to County Council**

**July 28, 2026**

# Background



# Background

- Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force (2018-2020)
- Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
- RRF History, Contract Extensions, Short-Term Capital Work
- Other Solid Waste Facilities
- May 2025 Consultant (Arcadis) Report
- Request for Procurement – Long-Haul by Truck (October 2025)
- FY27 Budget Actions




**Plan Objective:**

**"Develop a clear and realistic future vision of the County's solid waste and recycling program and operations with the goal of maximizing waste reduction, reuse/repair, recycling, and sustainable management of materials"**

**Aiming for Zero Waste Baseline Review and Current State Assessment**

**December 2018**



"Closing the Resource Recovery Facility by 2026, as proposed by the County Executive, poses a significant challenge for Montgomery County.

The County Council … will need additional analysis of the costs and benefits of changing the County's primary waste disposal…"

**Zero Waste and Strategic Plan Task Force**

**May 2020**




"The County plans to compare the short and long-term costs, environmental and public health impacts, racial equity and social justice implications, facility impacts, operational concerns, and other major issues of keeping the RRF open versus changing the County's primary waste disposal from the RRF to in-County or out-of-County landfilling, combined with other waste processing systems."

**Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan**

(Section 5.3.4)

**April 2025**



## Resource Recovery Facility



- Opened in 1995
- Receives waste via rail from Shady Grove Transfer Station
- Burns wastes to produce electricity
- Processes about 600,000 tons of waste per year (average about 1,500 tons per day)
- Produces ash as by-product of burning waste
- Ash transported by rail to landfill in Henrico County, VA




## Resource Recovery Facility



- Original contract (between the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority which owns RRF on behalf of the County) and Reworld (formerly Covanta which operates the facility) had end date of April 2016
- Contract was extended twice first to April 2021 and later to April 2026.
- April 2025: Emergency procurement to extend contract end date another five years (from April 2026 to April 2031) took effect.



## Resource Recovery Facility



- Contract includes a "termination for convenience" clause which allows County to opt out of contract early; subject to settlement agreement with Reworld.
- The contract extension assumes short-term capital work (paid for by the County) estimated at $64.5 million spread over several fiscal years to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the facility through the end of the contract period (April 2031).




# Other Solid Waste Facilities



# Other County Solid Waste Facilities

**Shady Grove Transfer Station**



**Recycling Center**



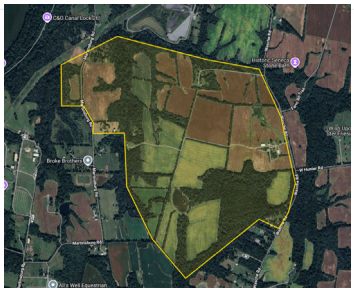
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# Other County Solid Waste Facilities

**Yard Trim Composting Facility**



**Site 2 Landfill Site**



**Old Dominion Landfill (RRF Ash) Henrico County, VA**



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## Arcadis Report (May 2025)

- DEP-sponsored consultant report details the costs, environmental, and RESJ impacts of Materials Recovery and Biological Treatment (MRBT) with residual MSW long hauled to out of county landfills (by truck or rail), stand-alone long haul to out of county landfills (by truck or rail), and the continued long-term use of the RRF.
- The report found the "MRBT represents a potential significant reduction in carbon footprint by removing and recycling materials from the waste stream … which would otherwise be combusted in the County's RRF."




## Request for Procurement (RFP) Long-Haul by Truck to Out of County Landfills

- July 2025 – DEP briefed the Council on Executive's support for moving forward with an RFP for long-haul of County waste by truck.
- Council Staff noted at the time that the Council still needed to discuss the various pros and cons of keeping the RRF open for the long-term or transitioning to landfilling of solid waste and that the RFP process would help provide additional information about the costs and feasibility of the long-haul by truck option.
- In October 2025, DEP issued RFP.



## FY27 Budget

- The Executive recommended closing the RRF by January 1, 2027, and transitioning to long-haul of waste by truck to out-of-county landfills.
- The Council President recommended the Council assume "current operations" (i.e. keeping the RRF open during FY27), pending a comprehensive Council review of the issue after budget.
- The Council ultimately voted in support of the Council President's recommendation to assume "current services." This action also included approving additional short-term capital work at the RRF.




# County Executive's Proposal



## County Executive's Proposal

- Close RRF as Soon as Possible
- Long-Haul of Waste by Truck to a Private Out-of-County Landfill(s)
- Add Organics Composting at Dickerson Yard Trim Facility
- Eventual Advanced Waste Processing (AWP) with Long-Haul of Residuals to a Out-of-County Landfill




## Advanced Waste Processing (AWP)

AWP: A system that receives and sorts municipal solid waste to extract recyclables and organic materials, using a variety of sorting methods. The remaining residual waste is then disposed.

On July 14, the Executive issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the design, construction, and operation of an AWP system. Responses to the RFP are due by September 14, 2026.

Under the Executive's proposal, AWP would not replace the current source-separated recycling and composting programs.



# Alternative Solid Waste Disposal Options



## Four Alternative Options

- **(CE Recommendation) Close RRF immediately with long-haul of waste to out-of-County landfill(s). Eventual AWP with long-haul of residual waste to out-of-County landfill(s).**
- **Close RRF immediately with long-haul of waste to out-of-County landfill(s).**
- **Continued interim use of RRF until AWP comes online with long-haul of residual waste to out-of-County landfill(s).**
- **Continued long-term operation of RRF.**

***Note: Multiple other options exist***

# Challenge of Comparing Environmental Impacts




## Comparing Environmental Impacts

| Burn | Bury |
| --- | --- |
| Air Emissions<br>- Facility<br>- Rail transport<br>- Ash landfill<br>Electricity Generation | Air Emissions<br>- Truck transport<br>- Landfill<br>Landfill Groundwater Concerns |



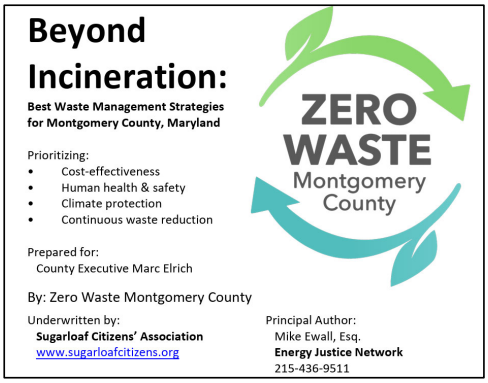
# Comparing Environmental Impacts

**Challenges:**

- **Differing approaches to measuring similar impacts (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions)**
- **Difficulty comparing dissimilar impacts (e.g. RRF heavy metals emissions vs. landfill groundwater risks)**
- **Different environmental controls at different facilities**
- **Different time frames for material disposition**
- **Environmental impacts of transporting waste/ash to disposal facility**
- **Consideration of how changes in waste stream might impact each option (e.g. diversion of food waste)**




# Beyond Incineration Report




**"Given the higher costs and pollution from continuing incineration or building a new landfill, and also considering the impacts on any landfill communities, it makes more sense to discontinue further use of the incinerator, and redirect funds that would repair the incinerator into Zero Waste programs to minimize landfill impacts. Trucking to existing landfills provides the cheapest and most flexible option …."**



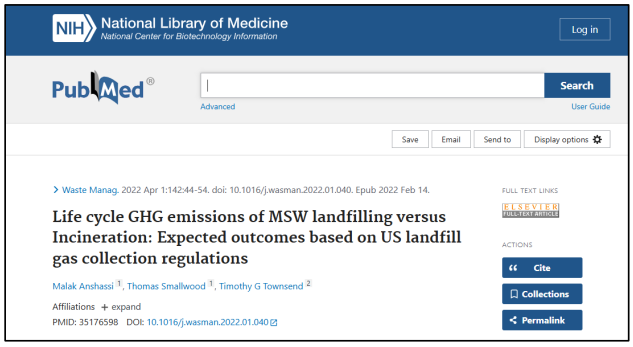
# USEPA Sustainable Materials Management Hierarchy




**"Energy Recovery … is the conversion of non-recyclable waste materials into useable heat, electricity, or fuel … often called waste-to-energy."**

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# Univ. of Florida Dept. of Environmental Engineering Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study




**"From a GHG [greenhouse gas] perspective, most LCA [life cycle assessment] studies find incineration (MSWI) to be preferred over landfilling because of high energy recovery offsets. In some studies, however, landfilling results in less greenhouse gases emissions than MSWI..... Only landfills with high LFG [landfill gas] collection efficiencies (at least 81%) and recovery of methane for energy resulted in less GHG emissions compared to the management of the same waste stream in MSWI."**

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# Necessary Information




## Necessary Information

- Clarification of County Executive's Proposal
- Comparative Information for Assessment of Options
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Recycling and Composting Programs
  - Short- and Long-Term Costs
  - Local Community Impacts
  - Racial Equity Considerations



## County Executive's Proposal – AWP

- How could AWP reduce the types and amounts of waste landfilled?
- Is it feasible to locate AWP facility at the Transfer Station site?
  - If so, could Transfer Station and Recycling Center operations continue during AWP facility construction?
  - If not, where would the AWP facility be located?
- What is the earliest date an AWP facility could come online?




## Environmental Impacts

- What, if any, gas containment requirements would the County require for landfills receiving County waste?
- What standards regarding proximity to aquifers would the County apply for landfills receiving County waste?
- Could long-term capital improvements at the RRF reduce the environmental impact of the facility?
- Would landfilling waste at potentially multiple new sites increase the County's Superfund liability exposure?



## Recycling and Composting

- Would the County implement a curbside food scraps collection program even if AWP diverts food waste?
- Could Site 2 be utilized as a food waste composting facility?
- Has DEP evaluated other in-County sites for food waste composting? Has DEP explored partnering with other jurisdictions to site a regional composting facility?




## Short- and Long-Term Costs

- What would be the capital costs needed for the RRF to continue operating until an AWP comes online?
- What would be the capital costs needed for the RRF to continue operating for an additional 25+ years?
- How do the short- and long-term operating costs for alternative disposal options compare?



## Local Community Impacts – Dickerson

- What would happen to the RRF site if the facility were closed?
- How would materials be transported to Dickerson yard trim composting facility if it was used for food waste composting?
- Would there be a food waste tonnage limit at the facility?




## Local Community Impacts – Shady Grove

- How many long-haul trucks per day would depart and return to the Shady Grove Transfer Station?
- Would there be time of day restrictions on truck traffic?
- Where will transport trucks be parked overnight? Where will transport trucks receive maintenance?
- Does a future opportunity exist to move from truck long-haul to rail long-haul?



## Racial Equity Considerations

- What specific provisions would be included in a long-haul contract regarding the demographics of any landfill host community that may receive County waste?
- Could the racial equity impact of the RRF be reduced by landfilling ash at an alternative site?
- How does the racial equity analysis account for the differential impacts of landfilling relatively smaller amounts of RRF ash versus larger amounts of municipal waste?




# Long-Term Decisions



## Long-Term Decision

- **Close RRF and initiate long-term plan to transport waste by truck or rail to out-of-State, in-State, or in-County landfill(s)**

**OR**

- **Continue RRF Operations for at least 25 years**

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***AWP, if feasible, could later be joined to either long-term plan***




## Next Steps

- **DEP responds to Council President's and Councilmembers' information requests by first week in September**
- **Council worksessions beginning in September**
- **Goal of Council decision before Thanksgiving**



NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
Council President

100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

June 11, 2026

County Executive Elrich,

During the Council's recent review of the FY27 Operating Budget, the Council voted to support the continued operation of the County's Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) during FY27 pending further discussion this fall of long-term disposal options. A decision on this matter is of great significance to our residents and businesses and deserves greater attention than could have been given during the Council's budget review process. Moreover, the Council has not received all the information it needs regarding your recommendation to close the Resource Recovery Facility as well as alternative waste disposal options. In January, I sent you a letter requesting additional information about solid waste disposal options. While you provided a written response to this letter in early March, many of the information requests noted in the letter remain unanswered.

I have asked Council Staff to brief the Council on July 28th on the issue and plan to hold Council worksessions this fall to review your recommendations as well as alternatives. To facilitate that review, I request that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provide the Council with detailed and neutral data and analysis of different waste disposal options. While you have been clear in your preference to close the Resource Recovery Facility as soon as possible; your administration has not submitted to the Council nor provided the public with a complete and disinterested analysis of all options.

For the Council to approve the closure of the RRF, we must be convinced that this action is preferable to alternative waste disposal options based on a thorough assessment of environmental, fiscal, operational, racial equity, and community impact considerations. As such, I have asked Council staff to identify a set of options that span the range of waste disposal possibilities. Council staff developed the following four options:

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
Council President

100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Option 1** | • Close RRF As Soon as Possible<br>• Long-Haul of Waste by Truck to Out-of-County Landfills<br>• Eventual Advanced Waste Processing with Long-Haul of Remaining Waste |
| **Option 2** | • Close RRF As Soon as Possible<br>• Long-Term Landfilling of Waste |
| **Option 3** | • Continued Interim Use of RRF<br>• Transition to Advanced Waste Processing with Long-Haul of Remaining Waste and Closure of the RRF |
| **Option 4** | • Continued Long-Term Use of RRF |

While variations on these options certainly exist, this finite set of four waste disposal options provides a framework to weigh the relative advantages and disadvantages of different solid waste system designs. Further, the Council and the community should have the opportunity to evaluate how these options interact with other elements of the County's solid waste management system including waste reduction, recycling, composting, waste collection, and system financing.

I have further directed Council staff to identify specific data points, estimates, and assumptions needed to fully evaluate each solid waste disposal option. Council staff will forward a template for DEP to project future year waste generation and composition as well as waste disposition tonnages, estimated system operational and capital costs, and projected fees and charges for each of the four options. In addition, Council staff has compiled the attached list of questions to clarify aspects of your recommendation to close the RRF. The Council cannot make an informed decision about the future structure of the County's solid waste system without responses to these questions.

Whatever outcome the Council supports, that decision will ultimately require an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) adopted by the Council and subject to final approval by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). While MDE has informed Council Staff that the County could precede with the County Executive's recommendation (closing the RRF and transitioning to long-haul of waste out of the County) prior to amending the SWMP, the Department has informed staff that "MDE recommends that the county submit a draft amendment or plan to MDE for review and comments before adopting the plan." I believe a SWMP amendment process will support a coordinated approach that recognizes the relationship between waste disposal and other elements of the solid waste system including waste reduction, recycling and composting. This will also provide an opportunity to receive comments and potential concerns from MDE earlier in the process which the Council can incorporate into its final decisions. Finally, and most importantly, the SWMP process assures that members of the public have an opportunity to review and comment on the future of this critical government service.

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
Council President

100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)

Please provide the requested data and responses by no later than the first week of September so that the Council can begin work on this matter in the fall.

Sincerely,



Natali Fani-González
Council President

# SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL REVIEW

**Option 1 (Executive Recommended) – Close RRF As Soon as Possible – Long-Haul of Waste by Truck with Eventual AWP**

- Close RRF As Soon As Possible
- Long-Haul of Waste by Truck to Out-of-State Landfill
- Eventual Advanced Waste Processing – With Long-Haul of Remaining Waste

**Option 2 – Close RRF As Soon as Possible – Long-Term Landfilling**

- Close RRF As Soon as Possible
- Long-Term Landfilling of Waste

**Option 3 – Close RRF When AWP Comes Online**

- Continued Interim Use of RRF
- Transition to Advanced Waste Processing – With Long-Haul of Remaining Waste and Closure of the RRF

**Option 4 – Long-Term Use of RRF**

- Continued Long-Term Use of RRF

**Questions for Option 1 – Clarification of Executive's Recommendation**

Long Haul:

1. What is the estimated number of waste transport trucks that would depart and arrive daily to and from the Transfer Station under long-haul prior to implementation of Advanced Waste Processing (AWP) and after AWP begins?

2. Does the recently issued RFP allow waste collection vehicles to bypass the Transfer Station and deliver waste directly to one of the contractor's facilities? If so, does the RFP include a provision to recover tip fees from these vehicles?

3. Does the recently issued RFP for long-haul set any conditions regarding the presence of aquifers in the vicinity of a landfill? The aquifer concern was raised in the context of considering the use of Site 2. Is this concern taken into account in the RFP for out-of-county landfilling?

4. Does the recently issued RFP require that waste be disposed in a dedicated landfill cell or include any other protections against Superfund liability?

5. Please explain how non-processible waste is disposed of currently and how this waste would be disposed of under the Executive recommendation.

Advanced Waste Processing:

6. What is the concept plan for the AWP facility? What would be the facility's capabilities and when does the Executive anticipate that the facility would be operational? Please identify an existing AWP facility currently operating that has similar capabilities and similar tonnage throughput as the proposed County AWP facility.

7. Has the DEP affirmed that an Advanced Waste Processing Facility is feasible to locate at the County's Transfer Station? If DEP has determined that the Transfer Station site could accommodate the proposed AWP facility, would the County be able to continue Transfer Station and Recycling Center operations during construction of the AWP facility? If DEP has determined that the Transfer Station site could not accommodate the proposed AWP facility, where would the facility be located? Would DEP consider out-of-County locations?

8. Would the AWP facility supplant the need to operate the Recycling Facility?

Composting:

9. How many additional tons of compostables could feasibly be diverted from the single-family, multi-family, and non-residentials sectors? Please describe the proposed methods and timeline for collecting these compostables.

Site 2 and RRF:

10. What would be the planned use of Site 2 during the initial long-haul phase and once Advanced Waste Processing is implemented? Would Site 2 remain available as a backup landfill site in the event out-of-County landfilling becomes unavailable or becomes too costly?

11. What are the post-closure plans for the RRF facility and site?

Environmental Impacts:

12. Please explain and detail the methodology used by DEP to evaluate the environmental impacts of:

    - out-of-County landfilling including trucking air emissions, landfill GHG and VOC emissions, potential soil and groundwater contamination, and other environmental effects.

    - continued operation of the RRF including GHG emissions and emissions of dioxins, PFAs, heavy metals, acid gases, nitrogen oxides, and other environmental effects.

13. Please explain and detail the methodology DEP used to evaluate the environmental benefits of:

    - advanced waste processing, including increased diversion of compostables and recyclables.

    - waste to energy including increased non-fossil fuel energy production and reduced tons sent to landfill.

14. Please reconcile out-of-County landfilling as the primary waste disposal option with the U.S. EPA's Sustainable Waste Management Hierarchy that considers waste-to-energy more environmentally preferred than landfilling.

Racial Equity and Social Justice:

15. Please explain the and detail the methodology used by DEP to evaluate the racial equity and social justice impact of MSW disposal options including landfilling municipal solid waste, landfilling RRF ash, transporting waste by truck, and transporting waste by rail.

16. Given the RESJ concerns with the County's current ash disposal, has DEP investigated disposing of ash at Site 2, the Fairfax County ash monofill, or another landfill in a less impacted community?

**Questions about Options 2, 3, and 4 Assumptions**

17. Does the recently issued RFP include an option for landfilling of waste at an out-of-County landfill beyond ten years?

18. Under Option 2, would it be possible to transition from truck haul to rail haul of waste in future years?

19. What remaining short-term capital improvements would be needed to the RRF to continue operation until AWP comes online (Option 3)?

20. What long-term capital improvements would be needed to the RRF to continue operation for the next 25-30 years (Option 4)? During the renovation/upgrade of the RRF required under Option 4, would some or all waste need to disposed elsewhere for a period of time? Would these upgrades also reduce the environmental impact of the RRF?

21. Could Site 2 be utilized as a composting facility for food waste (Options 3 and 4)? Has DEP evaluated in-County sites other than the Yard Waste Composing Facility for a food waste composting facility? Has DEP explored the prospects of partnering with other jurisdictions to site a regional composting facility?

22. What would be the estimated costs and timeframe required to open Site 2 as a County landfill?