

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting  
Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD  
March 8, 2018  
7pm-9pm

### Attendees

Ann Strozyk	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Mark Southerland	ESB
Sonia He	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Christine Conn	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Ed Wilson	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Matthew Hoover	OCS
Mark DeLuca	DPW

### Minutes

7:09 PM – Mark Southerland asked the board members if they approved the Bikeway letter that was written for the County Council. Everyone from the board, in attendance, approved of the letter, except for Tom Paxton.

Mark advised that two hearings on the Maryland Bird-Safe Building Act of 2018 (SB 1009, HB 986) have been had and has not had any opposition.

7:18 PM – Mark DeLuca was introduced by Mark Southerland. Mark DeLuca is Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Services for Howard County. Everyone from around the room gave their name and affiliation.

7:23 PM – Mark DeLuca began his presentation on the Solid Waste Program in Howard County.

The Bureau of Environmental Services is made up of five divisions which are the Stormwater Management Division, the Collection Division, the Recycling Division, the Environmental Compliance Division and the Curbside Division.

The Solid Waste Division consist of Alpha Ridge Landfill. The Collection Division is in charge of the curbside trash collection in Howard County. The Recycling Division handles the recycling rules and regulations. They also manage the curbside collection of recyclable material. The Environmental

Compliance Division is responsible for site assessments, hazardous material testing and abatement, environmental safety training and plans, spill response, air quality/GHG monitoring and groundwater monitoring. The Stormwater Management Division inspects storm water management facilities, manages restoration projects in the county and manages stream and watershed studies.

He displayed various charts regarding Howard County's MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) Composition. For Howard County, it was 58% trash, 1% plastic, 5% glass, 1% cans, 24% paper, and 11% yard trim. If food scraps were used, it would be 44% trash, 14% food scraps and all the other categories would remain the same.

There is a pilot program conducted at the Alpha Ridge Landfill to produce quality compost from yard trim and food scraps in aerated, covered piles. They sell the compost, mulch and topsoil blend, which was created from the composting. The material for the project is collected from residents participating in "Feed the Green Bin." The "Feed the Green Bin" program has participants receive a special food scrap/yard trim cart that is emptied weekly. The Alpha Ridge Landfill also has a landfill gas to energy project where they convert the methane, created from the landfill, to make energy and sell it to BGE.

He spoke about a trip with the County Executive to a farm in Italy that is using anaerobic digestion. The farm produces 1.5 megawatts, it is self-contained and supplies energy to the farm.

Approval was given to create a food center in Jessup. It can count as recycling, represents an opportunity that can be used throughout the county, would be a diversion and could be put on a farm.

"Know Before You Throw" campaign is to make awareness of what you can and can't recycle. People have "Separation Anxiety" because they are not sure what to recycle, so they just throw everything in the trash. Four major items to correct are aerosol cans, Styrofoam, glass and tangles.

He spoke briefly about Road Salt. Howard County trucks have monitoring devices that no other county in Maryland have. The amount of salt used is based on what kind of storm is forecasted.

You can visit [here](#) for more information on the Bureau of Environmental Services.

8: 55 PM – Mark Southerland advised that the annual report is coming up and he is collecting data for it. There is an upcoming presentation that will be on Micro Plastics. Another presentation will be on the Strategic Plan from the Local Health Improvement Coalition, which will be presented by the Howard County Health Department. A possible fieldtrip for the board could happen in May. (Update: Fieldtrip will take place in June. Date, location and time TBD.) There will be no Environmental Sustainability Board meetings for July and August 2018.

9:05 PM – Meeting Adjourned