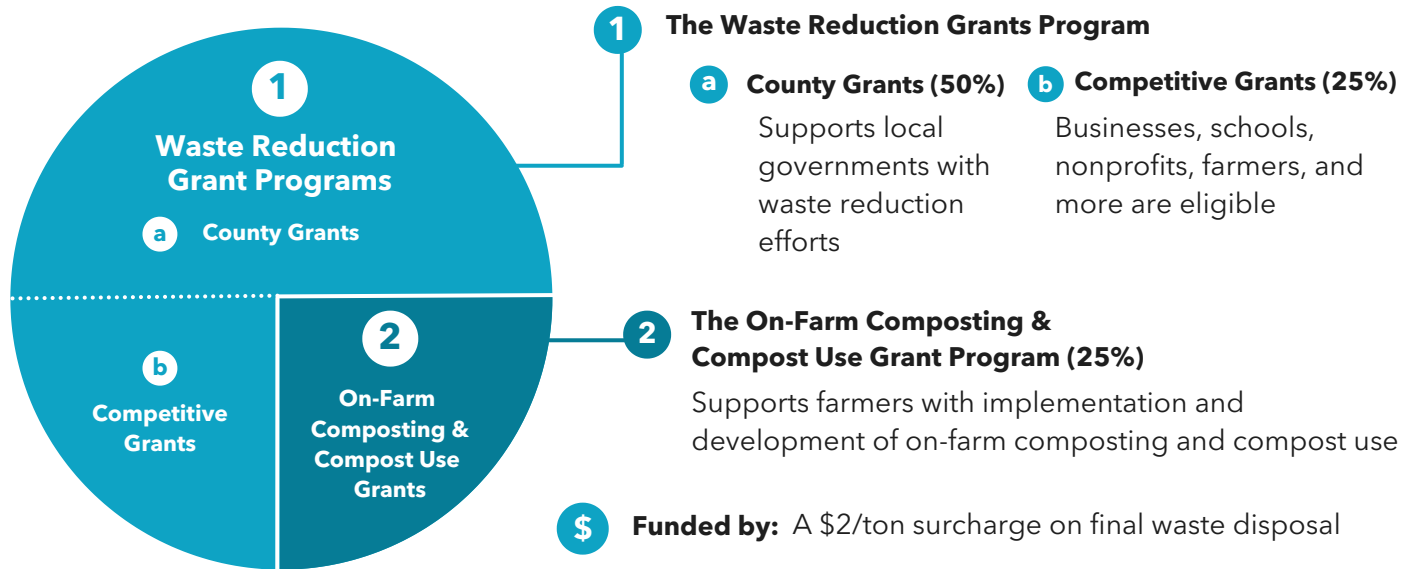


Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

This bill establishes funding for waste reduction projects including reuse, repair, composting, and recycling.

The Waste Reduction Grants Fund:



Why NOW?

- ▶ Maryland’s organic waste diversion mandate took effect on January 1, 2023 and will expand next year. This bill will support expansion of processing capacity required by the influx of diverted food waste.
- ▶ A 2021 report revealed that Maryland landfills are emitting four times more methane than previously estimated, underscoring the need to divert wasted food from landfills.¹
- ▶ Enormous amounts of U.S. resources are wasted due to food waste, with critical environmental implications.²
- ▶ A 2019 MDE study group report recommends the provision of statewide education and support for on-farm composting, to increase manure management efficiency and build agricultural soil health.³

How will the bill support small businesses and local communities?

- ▶ Grant funds will be accessible to small businesses (e.g., restaurants, multi-family housing properties, and haulers) interested in developing or expanding their waste reduction efforts.
- ▶ Priority funding will go to low-income, socially disadvantaged, female, and veteran farmers, business owners, and communities.
- ▶ Maryland composters are eager to expand and work with farmers, businesses, and communities.
- ▶ Helping farmers improve their composting systems means they can create a product that improves their soil health and farm profitability.

What's in it for Maryland Counties?

- ▶ The share of funds going directly to Counties for waste reduction activities is 50% (doubled from last year's bill).
- ▶ Increased recycling and overall waste diversion rates will extend the life of landfills.
- ▶ Counties may opt-out of the statewide surcharge and grants program if they set up their own disposal surcharge to fund waste reduction.

[1] https://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/MD-Landfill-Methane-Report-6.9.2021-unembargoed_with-Attachments.pdf

[2] <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/farm-kitchen-environmental-impacts-us-food-waste>

[3] <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RMP/Documents/HB%20171%20final%20report.pdf>