

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grants

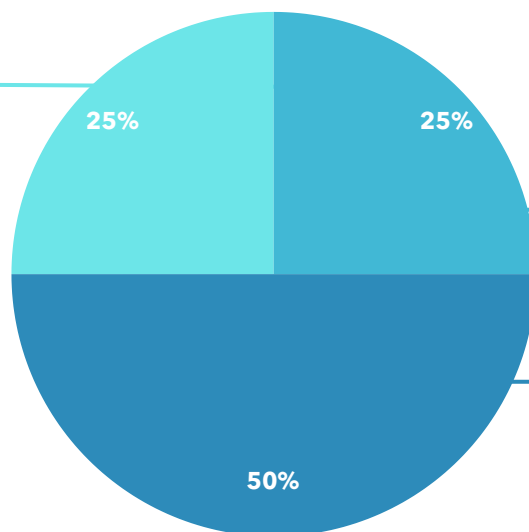
This bill will generate over \$14 million in funding for food waste reduction and diversion projects including food rescue, food waste prevention, organics recycling and compost use, and moving away from single-use food service ware.

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund:

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program

Funds projects, infrastructure, education, and technical assistance to reduce wasted food, rescue edible food, compost or recycle food residuals, and transition away from single-use food service ware

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On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program

Funds farmers for wasted food reduction and organics diversion via cold storage, food rescue, composting, compost use, and more

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County Wasted Food Reduction Block Grants

All Counties will receive funding in proportion to their population to reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food



Funded by: A \$2/ton surcharge on final waste disposal

Maryland needs this bill NOW

- ▶ Maryland's food waste diversion mandate, high landfill methane emissions, emissions reduction goals, and increasing demand for alternatives to food disposal require investment in infrastructure, capacity, and education.
- ▶ This bill prioritizes the economic growth and stability, environment, education, and health of Marylanders.

This bill funds many initiatives:

- Cold storage for produce
- Food rescue to feed people or animals
- Local composting infrastructure
- Education and technical assistance
- Reusable food service ware and dishwashers
- County and Municipal food scrap collection programs and staff
- ...to name a few examples

This bill addresses Maryland's budget deficit and saves Marylanders money

- ▶ Funded initiatives will help families avoid losses from uneaten food, averaging \$1,500/year for a family of four.
- ▶ Reliable annual funding will be available to support the longevity of wasted food reduction and diversion efforts in Maryland.
- ▶ This bill will raise new revenue that would help fight the state deficit while keeping Maryland regionally competitive and filling potential gaps in federal funding.
- ▶ Investment in alternative infrastructure to landfilling and burning trash will counter rising disposal costs and constant expansion of disposal facilities.

This bill supports small businesses and local communities

- ▶ Grant funds will be accessible to businesses, schools, nonprofits, local governments, and community groups to develop or expand community waste diversion efforts.
- ▶ Preventing and rescuing wasted food and recycling what's left will generate more jobs and local economic opportunities than landfilling and incineration.
- ▶ Priority funding will go to projects that serve overburdened and underserved communities, and produce minimally-contaminated soil amendments.

Many states have this system in place already. It is not novel.

- ▶ At least ten other states use a surcharge on disposal to fund waste diversion with major impact on the economy and the environment. 29 states have general landfill tipping fee surcharges.

Bill Sponsors:

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