

House Bill 171 Study Points

Tentative Study Order (subject to change – dates TBD)

The following is the tentative order the study topics for HB 171 will be addressed by the Study Group. Refer to future meeting agendas and the *House Bill 171 Study Group* section of the Maryland Department of the Environment's *Organics Diversion and Composting* web page (www.mde.maryland.gov/composting) for date details.

1. (1) study the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials from refuse disposal facilities in the State, including any State laws or regulations governing the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, or other organic materials;
2. (2) study the laws and regulations of other states, including the laws and regulations of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, California, and Rhode Island, governing the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, or other organic materials;
3. (3) review the status of infrastructure for the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials in the State and other states, including the availability of infrastructure in relation to:
 - (i) large generators of food waste, identified by type, quantity of food waste generated by entity, and geographic distribution; and
 - (ii) organizations that use surplus food, identified by type and geographic distribution;
4. (5) identify the infrastructure needs and challenges related to yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials composting and diversion that are unique to the different geographic regions of the State;
5. (8) identify the current process for permitting anaerobic digestion facilities and recommend improvements that should be made to the anaerobic digestion permitting process;
6. (7) identify any applicable sanitary and public health concerns related to yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials composting and diversion;
7. (6) identify means to encourage investment in infrastructure and provide economic incentives to expand capacity for yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials diversion in the State, including:
 - (i) the development of, in consultation with local governments, model guidelines and best practices for the local identification of properties or development zones where diversion infrastructure may be developed; and
 - (ii) the identification of any tax, grant, or other incentives that already exist to encourage and support infrastructure and economic development;

8. (4) explore ways to promote composting of yard waste and food residuals and other methods of organic waste reduction and diversion, including ways to encourage:
 - (i) a decentralized and diverse infrastructure; and
 - (ii) the prevention of organic waste generation;
9. (10) subject to the approval of the affected local governments, recommend a pilot program for the region in which Elkridge and Jessup are located to prioritize infrastructure development and food waste recovery from large food waste generators; and
10. (9) recommend measures to promote the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials in the State, including any necessary programmatic, legislative, or regulatory changes.