

Recycling Rate Calculation in Maryland

- Data comprised from 4 sources
 - Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Surveys
 - Permitted Solid Waste Facility Annual Surveys
 - Recycling Processors
 - Business in County



Gathering Data

- All of the forms are available on MDE's web page at www.mde.state.md.us/recycling
- MDE sends a letter asking processors of recyclables to complete recycling survey and send to County where the material is collected (Voluntary)
- Permitted solid waste acceptance facilities are required to report on the amount of waste accepted and how it is managed.
- Counties request businesses report on their recycling activities. (Voluntary except for certain Counties)



What's Counted

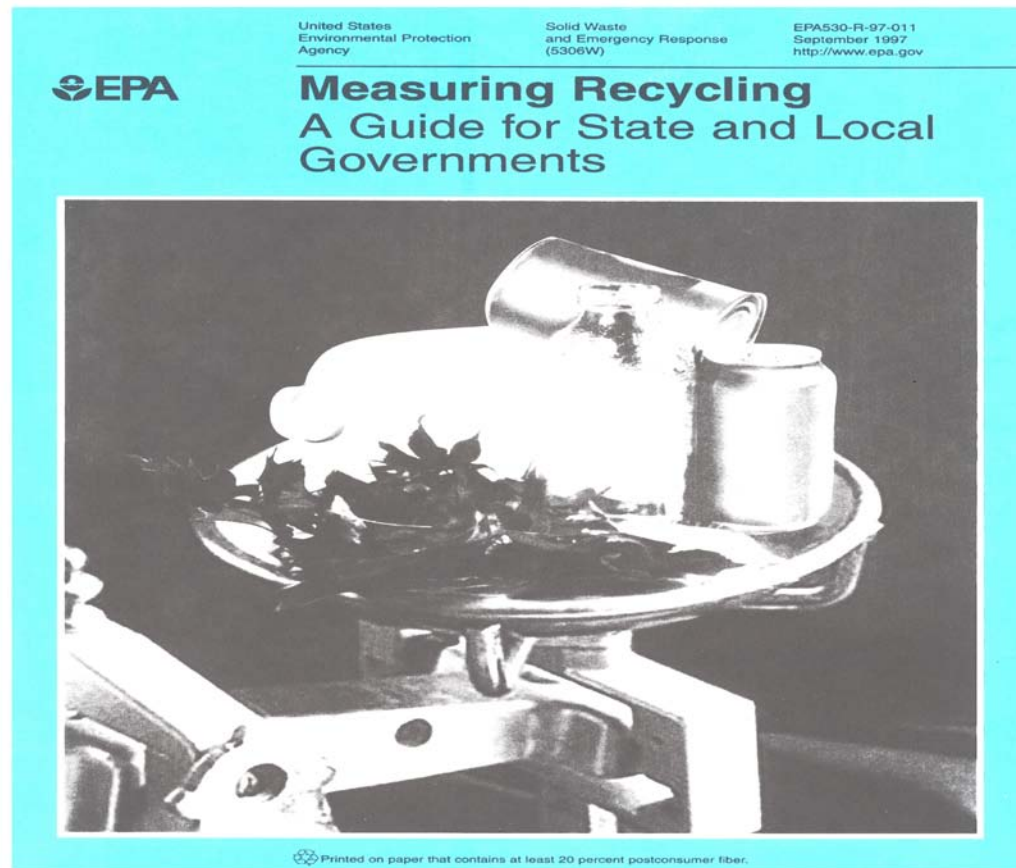
- As defined in 9-1701,
- (p) Solid waste stream. --
 - (1) "Solid waste stream" means garbage or refuse that would, unless recycled, be disposed of in a refuse disposal system located in this State.
 - (2) "Solid waste stream" does not include:
 - (i) Hospital waste;
 - (ii) Rubble;
 - (iii) Scrap material;
 - (iv) Land clearing debris;
 - (v) Sewage sludge; or
 - (vi) Waste generated by a single individual or business and disposed of in a facility dedicated solely for that entity's waste.

What's Counted

Metal (MRA): Acceptable MRA metals are limited to specific types of material, other than scrap material, that would ordinarily be disposed in a refuse disposal system. Only the following metals count towards the MRA rate:

1. Aluminum beverage and food containers;
 2. Aluminum foil and food tray containers;
 3. Bi-metal, tin, and steel food or beverage containers;
 4. White goods (e.g., refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, air conditioners, etc.);
 5. Lead Acid Batteries (e.g., automobile batteries)
 6. Ferrous or non-ferrous materials pulled from the waste stream at a municipal solid waste disposal facility via front-end recycling;
 7. Ferrous and non-ferrous metal pulled post incineration; and
 8. Any other metals deemed acceptable by the Department.
- Complete list of materials included in the MRA Tonnage Reporting Survey Guidelines.

What's Counted



Solid Waste Totals

- Data obtained from Permitted Solid Waste Facility Surveys that are required to be filed with MDE annually.
- Broken down into:
 - Waste Accepted (sorted by County and facility)
 - Waste Destination (was it managed on or off-site)
 - Waste On-Site Management Report (was waste disposed or recycled)
 - Waste Off-Site Management Report (was waste disposed or recycled at final destination)
 - Ash Generated Table

The Future

- Requiring a county recycling plan to address the collection, processing, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials from county public schools; requiring a county to submit a revised recycling plan to MDE by October 1, 2010 (2009).
- Requiring a county recycling plan to address the collection and recycling of fluorescent and compact fluorescent lights that contain mercury; requiring a county to submit a revised recycling plan to MDE by October 1, 2011 (2010).
- Requiring each property owner or manager of an apartment building or a council of unit owners of a condominium with 10 or more units to provide recycling for the residents of the dwelling units by October 1, 2014 (2012).

The Future

- Modifying a county's required recycling rate to 35 percent (population greater than 150,000) and 20 percent (population less than 150,000) by December 31, 2015. State agencies must implement a recycling plan with a revised 30 percent recycling rate mandate (2012).
- 2013 Legislative session includes a bill to change the MRA to include language to allow composting regulations in order to clarify composting requirements.
- Current Waste Diversion Goals
2015 50/54% 2020 60/65% 2030 greater than 70%???

Possible Zero Waste Strategies

- Procurement
- Landfill alternatives
- Engage in regional collaboration
- Seek funding for grants, education, and market development
- General population behavior modifications
- Measure (and increase) business recycling in Maryland
- Encourage food recycling
- Implement multifamily recycling
- Update regulatory requirements for composting facilities
- Collection strategies
- Expand product stewardship and extended producer responsibility (EPR)
- Increase mandatory county recycling rates and State government recycling rates
- Landfill bans
- Adopt universal recycling and composting, which would apply to commercial, institutional, and residential generators of waste

Questions

David Mrgich
Chief, Waste Diversion Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 610
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719
410-537-4142
dmrgich@mde.state.md.us