



Food is a precious resource, and it's time we start treating it as such.

Did you know that wasting food also means wasting water, energy, labor, pesticides, fertilizers, and land used to grow and transport it? It's time to make a change, and Maryland is leading the way.

In December of 2022, the **MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY** adopted new regulations under **HOUSE BILL 264/SENATE BILL 483** which require certain entities that generate food residuals to separate food waste and ensure its not ending up in landfills. The law follows the traditional food recovery hierarchy - prevent waste before it occurs, feed people, feed animals, and recycle non-edible food residuals. The focus is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted from landfills; provide edible food to people at a free or lower cost; and improve Maryland's soils.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW*

Why is it important to reduce food waste?

- » In 2020 in Maryland, approximately 774,400 tons of food waste was disposed of in landfills and incinerators. Only 167,200 tons were recycled at organic recycling facilities such as composters and anaerobic digesters;
- » Food waste takes up a lot of space in landfills; if burned it contributes to air pollution;
- » Decomposition of food waste in a landfill leads to the generation of greenhouse gases, such as methane. Methane is one of the chief gases contributing to climate change.
- » By choosing an organics recycling facility or composting your food waste, you are directly helping the environment.

Who is affected by the food residuals diversion law?

- » Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has prepared a document called "[Determination of Applicability of the Food Residuals Diversion Requirement.](#)"
- » You can estimate food residuals quantities with a document prepared by MDE, "[Maryland Food Residual Generation Factor Estimates by Industry Sector](#)"
- » To maintain compliance with this law, you must provide documentation at your facility where food residuals are generated.

*Information taken from the Maryland Department of the Environment, "[Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals](#)"

How we can help

Anaerobic digestion breaks down organic materials, such as food scraps, manure, and sewage sludge.

Our **MARYLAND BIOENERGY CENTER** is located on the Maryland Food Center campus in Jessup, MD. The facility is capable of recycling 110,000 tons of organics annually to produce approximately 312,000 MMBtu of renewable natural gas for energy and 16,575 tons of rich, fertile soil amendment for agricultural and other land use.

The resulting greenhouse gases prevented from being released into the atmosphere has the equivalent environmental impact of 69,061 acres of US Forests in one year, or 82 times the size of Central Park.