

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group (MWG)

August 17, 2021 Meeting online

NOTES

1. Welcome and Introduction from MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles, chair (5 min)

There were 14 members present: Benn Hobbs, Bruce Ho, Elizabeth Bunn, Elliott Campbell, Gerald Jackson, Josh Kurtz, Louis Campion, Mike Powell, Mike Remsburg, Robert Wright, Tom Walz, Tom Weissinger, Virginia Burke, proxy for Steve Darcey

Speakers: Dr. Rachel Lamb (MDE), Kevin Antoszweski (MDA), Kaley Laleker (MDE)

Commission member Delegate Dana Stein was in attendance.

2. Growing MD's Natural Carbon Sinks MDE/DNR presentation by Dr. Rachel Lamb (20min) – see attached slides.

3. Update on the MD Healthy Soils Advisory Committee from MDA by Kevin Antoszewski (10 min) – see attached slides.

<https://farmland.org/project/the-carpe-tool/> Delegate Dana Stein asked if there are any potential funding sources. Kevin replied that there are small grants in the \$200K range.

There is a current pilot program.

4. Update on Blue Carbon work MDE/DNR (10 min) – see attached slides. Rachel Lamb said the focus is on soil carbon storage. Coastal/tidal wetlands, seagrasses (but no mangroves) are included.

5. Update on proposed regulations to minimize methane emissions from MDE (5 min)

6. Food waste recovery initiatives and climate attributes presentation by Kaley Laleker (15 min) – see attached slides.

Maryland Recycling Act of 1980 – we are at 40% statewide recycling rated today. It's difficult to maintain this level of progress for any state. There are challenges in recycling markets in recent years. Focus shifting on Food Recovery. Food waste is the second highest waste in waste stream (18%). Paper is highest (26%). There is ample opportunity for paper companies to commit to outreach efforts on recycling properly.

State Priorities:

- Recycling Markets Development Initiative
- Increasing food recycling capacity for large generators
- Enhanced reporting of commercial recycling
- Continue to coordinate with Depts of Commerce, Maryland Energy Administration, other state agencies on recycling business assistance (helpful with the anerobic digestion).
- Source Reduction and Food Donation – offer incentives to counties and businesses

MDE hosted food summits in 2016, 2018 and planning now for 2021. (Dec. 1).

MDE published an online Food Recovery Toolkit for Schools.

Four Maryland Counties offer food scrap collection: Anne Arundel, Howard, Prince Georges, Baltimore City. There are several private companies through the state who offer compost service for a subscription fee.

7. Discussion and proposed recommendations (40 min) – Co-chair Mike Powel said there is a lot going on that the MWG members have to distill in order to make sound recommendations for the MCCC annual report (due by Nov. 15).



With regard to carbon sinks, Rachel Lamb said a more targeted focus would help. There are a lot of different mechanisms to potentially support, for instance the Conservation Finance Act, which attempts to address big challenges in quantification and tracking.

Ben Grumbles said we need to be open to additional tools, opportunities (including RGGI) to continue to be a leader among states. The Conservation Act has some good elements in it that could strengthen the accounting of the carbon sinks.

8. Public Comment (15 min) - Paul Berman said we can minimize pain by achieving our climate change/greenhouse gas reduction goals. GHG and sustainability features must be included in taxpayer funded projects.

Please submit comments to Christopher.beck@maryland.gov.

