



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# **2021 House Bill 164**

## **Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development**

December 7, 2021

Agencies Meeting



# Recycling Markets – Why Are They Important?

- Many past government programs have focused on recycling collection (access, participation)
- Recycling is not new - low-hanging fruit has already been captured
- To further increase recycling, need viable markets for the collected material
- Full greenhouse gas and other environmental benefits of recycling are only realized if the material is returned to the market
- International market challenges and recent fluctuations have highlighted the need for strong domestic markets
- The waste stream has shifted and gotten more complex – need markets for constantly evolving material types





# HB 164 – MDE Responsibilities

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- Requires MDE's Office of Recycling to complete certain tasks to promote the development of recycling markets in Maryland.
- Research, evaluation, identification:
  - Evaluate the availability of local, national, and international markets for recycled materials and recycled products
  - Identify the recyclable materials representing the largest portion of the recycling waste stream
  - Identify the recyclable materials that are in need of recycling assistance
  - Identify the methods for collecting and processing, and marketing opportunities for, recyclable materials that are in need of recycling assistance
  - Identify businesses in the state that use recycled materials, including businesses that reuse, repair, and remanufacture recycled materials
  - Identify opportunities for businesses in the state to increase their use of recycled materials
  - Examine businesses that have closed in the state for the potential for reopening to use recycled materials
  - Examine opportunities for the co-location of businesses that use, reuse, repair, and remanufacture recycled materials
  - Examine existing funding mechanisms for recycling market development
  - Determine whether additional funding mechanisms are necessary to expand recycling markets in the state



# HB 164 – MDE Responsibilities

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- Actions/recommendations:
  - Promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the state
  - Make recommendations to improve markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the state, including measures for reducing contamination of recyclable materials
  - Provide resources to businesses to match sources of recycled materials with potential users
  - Establish and promote the “Maryland is Open for Recycling Business” campaign to attract new businesses to the state
  - Provide advisory and technical services to support the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the state.



## HB 164 – Agency Partners

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- MDE’s Office of Recycling shall coordinate activities conducted under this section with Commerce, DGS, MDOT, MES, the NMWDA, local governments, and private organizations
- DGS, Commerce, and MDOT shall assist the Office of Recycling in MDE in the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products
- MDE to seek input from all interested parties to develop a comprehensive understanding of the programs, tools, training guides, and technologies available to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the State



## HB 164 – Reports

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- On or before **July 1, 2022**, the Commerce, DGS, MDOT, and MES shall report to the Office of Recycling in MDE on:
  - Relevant programs, tools, training guides, campaigns, and technologies available for promoting the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the state
  - Including efforts in state government to increase the use, reuse, and remanufacturing of recycled materials and the use of recycled products.
- MDE to report annually to the General Assembly on the activities conducted under this section in the annual Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report required under § 9–204(n) of this title
  - MDE will request Information from partners due September 1 each year
  - Report due by December 31st each year



# Next Steps

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- October 1, 2021: bill became effective
- October 7, 2021: agency partners kick-off meeting
- October 15, 2021: local government and private stakeholders meeting
- More detailed timeline of MDE actions to follow
- Agencies to report to MDE by July 1, 2022
- MDE to report to General Assembly by the end of 2022 and annually thereafter



# Questions and Discussion

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- MDE points of contact
  - Dave Mrgich [dave.mrgich@maryland.gov](mailto:dave.mrgich@maryland.gov) 410-537-3314
  - Kaley Laleker [kaley.Laleker@maryland.gov](mailto:kaley.Laleker@maryland.gov) 410-537-3304