

COE agenda 4-6-16

Grant money for electronic collection and recycling and for public education

-The MDE announced an electronic collection and recycling grant program for Maryland counties and municipalities, with a maximum of \$15k for counties and \$5k for municipalities. Applications are due 4-29-16. There was also grant money announced for education to residents of the county. I forwarded the information to George Erichsen and Nick Zurkan to see if it is something that we might want to apply for in our county. George replied, stating that they are applying for the electronics collection and recycling grant.

Wednesday Webinars

-Sue sent out an email that Bill received from Sustainable Maryland regarding upcoming Wednesday Webinars. I have registered for one taking place from 2pm-3pm tomorrow (Wednesday) regarding grants for backyard composting. The grant would invest \$1 for every \$2 that a household invests, with the municipality also putting \$1 toward the household. The outcome is expected to save municipalities \$14.75 for every \$1 that it invests, with the prediction that 500 pounds of organic waste per household will not enter landfills, saving the municipality money on tipping fees.

Earth Day

-We have submitted our request for a table for Earth Day on the Square, which will be April 17th this year, starting at 12:30pm and ending around 4pm, but we can begin setting up our table around 11 if my memory serves me correctly from last year. A number of people have expressed interest in manning the table, so at the meeting, we can try to come up with a general schedule so that it is properly represented throughout the day. We have some material from last year, and I will be putting together a composting display for this year. Sue sent out some examples of PSA's, which I think is a great idea. I would recommend announcements regarding plastic bag and film reuse as well as composting, along with the aforementioned example PSA's. I also like the top 10 list she sent regarding the Bay, and think we should print that out and display that at our table. Are there any other ideas for important topics relating to our area?

Composting

-I have been researching some different projects going on nearby. Compost Cab is a company that handles the Baltimore area, charging around \$32 per month per household with weekly pickup. They also offer up to 50 pounds of finished compost/year/household to those that have been a part of the program for at least 6 months. I will be reaching out to them to discuss their successes/failures, and overall approach, as their website does not specify the type of composting they practice. There is also the Veteran's Compost company that we discussed briefly at the last meeting. Upon further investigation, it seems that they have two composting facilities, one in Aberdeen, MD and the other in Fairfax, VA, and they claim to pick-up regularly and provide special event containers for the DC-metro area. I will be reaching out to them to see how far the DC-metro area extends for their services. They use a combination of passive windrows and a large vermi-compost operation located in an old barn.

Annual Report

-I have yet to finish the annual report, but plan to have it completed before the next meeting, so that we can vote upon it at the meeting and submit it if it is approved.