

## COE agenda 9-2-15

### Advisory Board Changes

-Was anybody able to determine the nature of the repeals made by the Commissioners?

### Non-recyclable plastics

-I still have to research the Montgomery County plastic bag fee program and determine whether Trex works with Materials Recovery Facilities to obtain plastic bags and film packaging.

### Facility Tours/CoE Field Trips!

-At the last meeting, we discussed touring a recycling facility, and after the meeting, Brad and Gordon sent me the following link:

<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Recycling/RecyclingFacilityTours.aspx>

These would be tours of the recycling plants at Capital Heights and Elkridge, noting that Baltimore's single stream material is processed at the Elkridge facility. George Erichsen mentioned a composting facility in Howard County, and upon researching this more, I found a link with more tours: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/toursandpresentations.htm>

We can discuss which facilities we would like to tour at the meeting.

### Green Team

-I will be meeting with college students in the near future to recruit members for the Sustainable MD Green Team. Once we have some more members, we will move forward with the certification process.

### Long Range Transportation Plan

-Is it too late to turn in the questionnaire? If not, where can I turn it in?

### Composting facility

-I have been corresponding with George Erichsen, Director of PW&T for St. Mary's County, and Brett Darcey, a VP for a local defense contractor. George identified the aforementioned Howard County facility at Alpha Ridge Landfill as a good model for our county. I was not aware of this facility, but it seems like exactly what we want to see here. They compost yard trimmings and food waste using aerated, covered static piles, similar to the facility in Vermont that originally peaked my interest.

I will be meeting with the student that plans to research the feasibility of having a composting facility in our area and producing a cost-benefit analysis. I plan to have her read the following reports that Brenda Platt sent me:

<http://www.ilsr.org/size-matters-report-shows-small-scale-community-based-composting/>

<http://www.ilsr.org/state-of-composting/>

<http://www.ilsr.org/paydirt/>

<http://www.ilsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Compost-Builds-Healthy-Soils-ILSR-5-08-13-2.pdf>

I will also have her research the Howard County facility and compare and contrast Howard and St. Mary's Counties.

Brett Darcey is on the BRAC committee and feels that having support from the Base could prove beneficial for our project as well as for the Base. He interned for John Bohanan and has remained close with him since. We will be meeting with Mr. Bohanan to discuss strategies for moving forward, but in the meantime, he recommended forming a task force to provide political coverage for the Commissioners and spread awareness to residents. I asked George Erichsen about the process, and he said that the CoE could act as the task force rather than having the Commissioners formalize one. I am not sure when I should announce this to the Commissioners, but will determine that soon.

### Wheelabrator Incinerator in Baltimore

-Gordon sent me this link: <http://www.wtienergy.com/plants/waste-to-energy/wheelabrator-baltimore/index.html>, which discusses the incinerator in Baltimore. While the fish-raising seems to be beneficial, I read up and found that the incinerator produces more mercury, lead, and Greenhouse gases than either of the 4 largest coal plants in the state.