Feed the Green Bin:  
*Residential curbside collection in Howard County, MD*
Curbside Collections - Summary

- 86,000+ curbside customers
  - Single-family homes, townhomes and some condos
  - Fee on property tax bill
    - $225 w/yt, $210 no yt collection
- Trash, Recycling, Yard trim - weekly
  - 3 with foodscrap/yt collection
  - Scrap metal, bulk can be scheduled
  - 15 collection zones
  - Collections are contracted (5yrs)
3 collection routes (6,150+ homes signed up to date)
  - 1st route began September 2011 (20% of eligible)
  - September 2013 added 2nd route (32% of eligible)
  - October 2014 added ~2,600 (43% of eligible)
  - 9.8 lbs/hh per week avg
  - Est 416T in 2014, 750T in 2015 captured for composting

2 schools added 2014, plan to add 2 more in Jan. 2016
  - 74 lbs/day avg Elementary School
  - 50 lbs/day avg Middle School
Foodscrap Collection cont’d

- Opt-in program (mailings, website)
  - No additional cost
  - ‘All-in’ area
- Residents collect scraps in their kitchen
  - Use indoor container of choice
- Choice of outdoor cart size – 12, 35 or 65gal
  - Residents-provided containers didn’t work
- Picked up weekly – mix foodscrap and yard trim
- Collected year-round (added service)
  - No new collection vehicles added to roadways
- Hauled to compost facility at Alpha Ridge Landfill
What we collect:

Not accepted:
- Meat, fish, shellfish (including bones)
- Dairy products (cheese, butter, ice cream, etc.)
- Fats, oils, grease
- Facial tissues
- Styrofoam
- Pet waste
- Diapers
- Plastic bags

Accepted:
- Fruit and vegetable scraps (fresh or cooked)
- Bread, pasta, rice, grains, cereal, baked goods, etc.
- Nuts, beans, seeds (including shells/hulls)
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags (no foil or foil-backed products)
- Paper products (paper towels, napkins, paper plates)
- Pizza boxes
- Houseplants, cut flowers
- Chopsticks and popsicle sticks
- Grass, leaves, yard trim
What arrives with the cart?

- Goodie bag—
  - Do’s and don’ts, FAQ’s, tips
  - Sample box compostable bags
  - Fridge magnet
  - Pencil – contact info
- IML on cart
- ‘How-to’ videos available
Food Scrap Cart IML

Feed the Green Bin!

- Bread, grains, baked goods, etc.
- Paper Products (plates, napkins, paper towels)
- Fruits & Vegetables (fresh or cooked)
- Coffee Grounds, Filters, Tea Bags
- Yard Trim (grass, leaves, light brush, weeds)
- Pizza Boxes

No
- Meat, fish, bones
- Dairy products
- Fats, oils, grease
- Pet waste
- Diapers

410-313-6444
FeedTheGreenBin.org

Bureau of Environmental Services
Howard County, Maryland
Pilot compost facility at Alpha Ridge Landfill

- First loads accepted March 2013
- Covered, aerated windrow system – purchased from ECS
- Full scale in design – budget impact
  - Fall 2017 – capacity for half of the County
  - Technology out for bid now
  - Capacity for all routes by 2020
Lessons Learned - Education

- Mailings – postage-paid, pre-addressed
  - Send multiple
- Dedicated web address & online signup tool
  - FeedTheGreenBin.org
- Multiple ways to sign up
- Demo Carts
- Conversations (phone, email, events)
Resident
123 Main Street,
Columbia, MD 21046

Green Bin Collection
Coming October 2014
Do your part...

FeedTheGreenBin.org

123 Main Street, Columbia, MD 21046

Tri-fold brochure sent to residents to sign up
- Check a box
- Postage paid
Green Bin program participants... GREAT JOB!
You helped to make this.. Which helps make this!
Buy compost in bulk from the Alpha Ridge Landfill (2350 Marriottsville Road)

Feed The Green Bin!
Sign up now and join your neighbors!
12 gallon 35 gallon 65 gallon

Visit FeedTheGreenBin.org or call 410-313-6444 to sign-up.

Bureau of Environmental Services
Howard County, Maryland
• Deadline? What deadline? (plan accordingly)
• Peer pressure & neighborhood ‘norms’
• ‘Ick’ factor
• Allow yard trim & food scrap
• Provide curbside containers
• Plastic bags for leaves—phasing out
Questions?

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