

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 5

Resolution No. 19-21

Introduced by Mr. Pruski, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Lacey, and Ms. Pickard

By the County Council, March 1, 2021

1 RESOLUTION supporting the development of a statewide comprehensive plan to
2 divert food residuals from landfills

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4 WHEREAS, the term “food residuals” means material derived from the processing
5 or discarding of food, including pre-consumer and post-consumer vegetables,
6 fruits, grains, dairy products, and meats; and

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8 WHEREAS, the County’s Department of Public Works currently manages a
9 successful, but necessarily small, food scrap drop-off recycling program for
10 residents; and

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12 WHEREAS, food residuals generated within Anne Arundel County by residential
13 and commercial customers are frequently deposited in landfills across the region;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, food residuals deposited in landfills release methane, a greenhouse
17 gas that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated is at least
18 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide in its warming potential; and

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20 WHEREAS, a 2019 report entitled “Yard Waste, Food Residuals, and Other
21 Organic Materials Diversion and Infrastructure Study Group – Final Report”,
22 published by the Maryland Department of the Environment, found that food
23 residuals made up 18% of all municipal solid waste disposed of across the State of
24 Maryland; and

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26 WHEREAS, the same report estimates that only 17% of all food waste generated
27 in the State of Maryland is composted; and

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29 WHEREAS, the same report acknowledged that as of 2016, there were only five
30 facilities permitted across the State of Maryland to compost large quantities of food
31 residuals; and

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33 WHEREAS, these facilities have the capacity to treat less than 12% of food
34 residuals generated across the State of Maryland, with only 40% of that limited
35 capacity being used as of 2016; and

1 WHEREAS, the same report recommended that the State of Maryland explore
2 opportunities to site future food residual composting facilities on land owned by
3 the State; and

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5 WHEREAS, other states have passed laws prohibiting the disposal of food residuals
6 from commercial generators and have supported the creation of facilities to
7 compost food residuals separately from solid waste; and

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9 WHEREAS, without such prohibitions and opportunities for new facilities, Anne
10 Arundel County and the State of Maryland will likely lack adequate capacity to
11 compost food residuals and divert them from landfills; now, therefore, be it

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13 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That it supports
14 the development of a comprehensive, statewide plan to divert food residuals from landfills
15 within Anne Arundel County and across the State of Maryland; and be it further

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17 *Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be sent to County Executive Steuart Pittman;
18 and Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment.