



WASTE NOT! EXPO

**Reduce, Reuse, then
Recycle and Compost**

Frederick Citizens Propose Alternative to Incinerator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frederick, MD. April 8, 2009 — Growing opposition to the \$527–\$600 million incinerator proposed for Frederick County has raised the question of what to do with our waste if the plant is not built. A group of citizens has developed an alternative plan that has been presented to elected officials for comment. *(Please see attached.)*

“The incinerator is possibly the most expensive way to deal with our solid waste.” said Caroline Eader, who drafted the alternative. “We propose proven technology which will replace the outdated ‘bury or burn’ approach to solid waste.”

The alternative plan aims to reach a 70% diversion rate within the next 5–7 years. Waste reduction, composting and increased recycling are key elements. The new single-stream recycling is expected to vastly increase Frederick County’s recycling rate when fully implemented. (Frederick’s current recycling rate is approximately 44%.)

In addition to costing considerably less than incineration, the Alternative Plan will be much more beneficial to the environment. “The incinerator, while very expensive, represents the ‘easy way out’ of the problem of solid waste,” commented Karin Tome, who also signed the Plan.

In a cover letter elected officials are encouraged to support the Alternative Plan or offer an explanation if they do not support it.

For more information:

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or Caroline Eader (carolineeader@msn.com)



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April 6, 2009

Greetings, current elected officials, and those of you who have announced your campaigns for various political positions which affect laws and policies that impact Frederick County residents:

Following the successful and positive educational experience of the WasteNot! Expo on March 28th, the organizers of the Expo want to build on the important information provided by our three expert speakers, and the many innovative vendors who presented their ideas and their products at the Expo.

We were honored to have a number of elected county leaders in attendance at the Expo, including BOCC members Jan Gardner, David Gray, and Kai Hagen. We have heard from several of the elected officials who attended that they found the Expo a very positive and useful learning experience. We've appreciated this feedback.

We want to encourage our municipal leadership at all levels to move in a positive direction with regard to solid waste/resource recovery in our county. Accordingly, we've prepared an answer to the important question of what our county should do as an alternative to building an incinerator. This answer is largely based on what was presented by the various experts at the Expo.

We would like each of you to please let us know if you support our county evaluating and pursuing this solution. We believe the best results will be had by a community working together, and we respectfully ask each of you to join in that goal.

If you do not support moving forward with this process, we would be interested in knowing specifically why you do not.

Thank you for your time,

Caroline Eader
Ellis Burress
Sally Sorbello
Karin Tome
Patrice Gallagher
Michael Elmaleh
Ken Eidel
Chris Judd
Jim Racheff
on behalf of many other tireless committee members



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If Frederick County, Maryland Does Not Proceed with an Incinerator, What is the Alternative?

An alternative plan to a trash incinerator for Frederick County is to reach a 70% diversion rate within the next 5–7 years. (Frederick’s current recycling rate is approximately 44%.) In addition to this goal we propose immediate steps be taken to divert construction and demolition waste, all electronic waste and any and all items which can be reused rather than dumped. These goals may be reached through working within the current County programs and/or by private industry’s participation.

Frederick County’s waste stream is approximately 40% paper, and another 30% is compostables. These two parts of our waste can be recovered. The Frederick County School system has implemented minimal recycling, and business recycling is not widely available. There should be exploration of how to incorporate these two sectors into the diversion and recycling plan and goals.

To further the goal of adding composting to the waste collection process, the infrastructure for composting facilities needs to be identified and built. With Frederick County’s high commitment to maintaining its rural characteristics, and long agricultural history, this is desirable as well as achievable within 5 years.

Since not all county households have received their recycling carts, the full benefits of the recent conversion to single-stream recycling in Frederick County should first be fully implemented, and quantified. When composting is added (known as a 3-cart system), within approximately a year, a community typically sees an increase in their recycling rate by 10–15%.

Looking at the hierarchy of resource recovery as recommended by the EPA, landfilling and incineration are the lowest ranked choices in resource management. The Frederick County Solid Waste Management Plan 1998–2017 also excludes incineration as a means of waste disposal. Therefore, we believe a 5-year moratorium on any further procurement of an incinerator is justified and proper in order to plan, implement and maximize the above identified goals.

We can look at example communities such as Fresno and San Francisco, CA, and Toronto, Canada for sample policies and programs which are successful in such communities, in order to identify specific steps Frederick County should take. We anticipate the need for a Zero Waste consultant of the caliber of the guest speakers at the Waste Not! Expo in Frederick on March 28, 2009 in order to help design and plan specific steps to reach the maximum waste diversion and resource recovery.

With an incinerator, there is nonprocessable waste and residual ash which must be landfilled. By focusing on maximum diversion and reaching the goals above, Frederick County would achieve the equivalent waste (or even less) to landfill. This would cost a fraction of Frederick’s portion of the \$526,000,00.00– \$600,000,000.00 price tag of the proposed incinerator.

To better understand “Zero Waste” please see
http://www.grrn.org/zerowaste/zerowaste_faq.html