

Request for Information

Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Solid Waste

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) seeks information on how businesses and/or other entities may be interested in partnering with the City of Baltimore (City) to implement waste reduction activities citywide, consistent with the City's citywide planning documents related to waste reduction. DPW seeks responses to the questions listed in the "RESPONSES" section of this Request for Information (RFI). DPW may use the information collected through this RFI to plan for future waste diversion costs and draft a potential Request for Proposals (RFP).

BACKGROUND

Waste Reduction Goals

In August 2020, Baltimore City's Department of Public Works (DPW), Bureau of Solid Waste released the [Less Waste Better Baltimore](#) (LWBB) Plan, a long-term solid waste operating plan, which was the result of a multi-year planning process led by waste consultants, Geosyntec Consultants. LWBB aligns with the waste reduction goals outlined in the [2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan](#) (BSP) and the [Baltimore Food Waste and Recovery Strategy \(BFWRS\)](#). These plans represent a concerted effort to advance planning and implementation in support of waste flows focused on improving public health and environmental justice. Tangible progress on the goals and objectives outlined in LWBB and BSP requires robust public-private partnerships (PPP) to leverage the ingenuity of the private sector to implement programming that improves waste management and benefits Baltimore.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) management in Baltimore entails the collection, diversion and processing of recycling and refuse materials. Currently, DPW provides trash collection and recycling services to approximately 240,000 addresses in the City, the vast majority being residential. With the release of DPW's LWBB plan, the City is exploring options for smarter, more environmentally sustainable waste reduction strategies in five primary focus areas:

1. Organics waste reduction and diversion
 - a. Food waste reduction and diversion
 - b. Yard waste diversion
2. Improving and expanding single-stream recycling collection and processing
 - a. Multi-family dwelling
 - b. Small businesses
 - c. Options for glass recycling
3. Construction and demolition (C&D) reuse and diversion
4. Bulk waste recycling and reuse, including but not limited to:
 - a. Furniture
 - b. Mattresses
5. Updating residential drop-off centers

Table 1 below outlines the total amount of waste diversion potential in Baltimore based on 2017 waste collection data analyzed by Geosyntec. In an effort to increase waste diversion and save on operating

costs, Baltimore is most interested in technologies, projects and programs that can divert a minimum of 5% of any of the waste categories listed in Table 1 from the MSW stream in a 12-month period.

Table 1: Baltimore City Waste Diversion Potential		
Waste Category	Maximum Potential (Tons)	5% Minimum Target (Tons)
Food Waste Reduction	72,400	3,620
Residential Organics Diversion	42,800	2,140
Commercial Organics Diversion	35,500	1,775
Improved Recycling Collection	84,200	4,210
Expanded Recycling Collection	69,300	3,465
C&D Reuse and Reduction	28,400	1,420
C&D Diversion	200,100	10,005
Bulk Waste Diversion	4,100	205
Drop-Off Center Improvements	16,100	805
Total	552,900	27,645

Based on the potential diversion detailed in Table 1, DPW is requesting information on the best diversion and processing options for industries, businesses, organizations, non-profits, engineering firms, solid waste associations, and others willing to work with the City to implement waste reduction programming and projects. In alignment with the LWBB report, DPW has an interest in processes and operations for diverting organic and C&D waste and exploring options for recycling and/or processing items such as glass, metal, cardboard and other materials listed in Table 1.

City's Contribution

The City understands that it will likely need to support business models related to solid waste diversion. One goal of this RFI is to better understand how to budget for improved waste diversion. The City envisions a few possible scenarios for contributing:

- Providing limited operating support to an entity that can divert waste. This is likely only viable if the diversion method can demonstrably reduce waste collection costs.
- Guaranteeing waste streams in contracts.
- Providing incentives such as a long-term capital or operating lease, to an entity to build a facility to process waste, if the facility aids with diverting waste from landfilling or incineration. Examples may include a capital contribution towards a composting or anaerobic digestion facility or a capital contribution towards a transfer station (particularly if the capital upgrade is usable by City solid waste services).
- Providing land and/or vacant, City-owned industrial buildings on which to site a waste diversion or processing facility.
- Providing outreach including but not limited to promotion through the City's social media accounts, including Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, etc., as well as the City websites.

RESPONSES

This RFI seeks responses to the questions from businesses, organizations, non-profit entities, engineering firms, solid waste and recycling associations, and other members of the public on evidence-based solutions to implement waste reduction activities citywide. The feedback from this RFI may be used to develop future Requests for Proposals and to implement waste diversion strategies and practices, if it is in the best interest of the City. Responses are not limited to the below list of questions and the City is open to other ideas not detailed within this RFI.

Guidelines for Submission

RFI respondents should provide a general overview of the solution(s) they would provide, including land requirements, technology and logistics considerations. RFI respondents should, at a minimum, answer the following questions:

1. Which of the five focus areas listed above will this approach address?
2. How much waste (in tons) can be reduced/diverted in any of these focus areas per year?
3. What is the anticipated source of materials and/or how many collection locations would be served?
4. What are the cost savings to the City or to individual households/businesses, if any?
5. What do you anticipate would be your costs/revenue? Respondents are strongly encouraged to submit a pro forma for the operation.
6. Are there any challenges that you predict could impact the implementation of your recommendations?
7. What support would be needed from the City, either up front or on an ongoing basis?
8. What permitting requirements are anticipated (including compliance with local and state zoning and other applicable ordinances) and what is your ability to meet them?
9. Are there environmental and equity benefits that can be quantified (i.e. air quality improvements related to reduced incineration, fuel savings, living wage jobs, local hiring, workforce training, community benefits, organizational diversity, equity and inclusion policies etc.)?
10. What is the marketability of the resulting material (for proposals such as composting which seek to turn diverted material into a new product)?
11. How many and what types of equipment/vehicles would be used for this solution?
12. What are your solutions for minimizing contamination?
13. Would the project/program start with a pilot or a subset/subgroup and build over time?
14. What is your proposed timeline for implementation of your proposed solution?
15. What is your experience with implementing the proposed solution?

Special Note to Respondents

Whenever possible, respondents are asked to draw their responses from objective, empirical, and actionable evidence and to cite this evidence within their responses.

Due Date for Responses

March 5, 2021

DISCLAIMER

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes; it does not constitute a Request for Proposals, applications, proposal abstracts, or quotations. This RFI does not commit the City of Baltimore to contract for any supplies or services. Further, DPW is not seeking proposals through this RFI and will not accept unsolicited proposals. DPW is not obligated to enter any financial or legally binding relationships with respondents. Responders are advised that DPW will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future procurement, if conducted. It is the responsibility of the potential responders to monitor this RFI announcement for additional information pertaining to this requirement. Responses to the RFI will be public information and as such, any information gathered through the RFI process will be considered public information and the respondent should not include any information which they deem confidential.