



*a vision for a better quality of life, sound land use planning, land preservation and water protection*

August 3, 2007

Jan Gardner, President  
David Gray, Vice-President  
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Frederick MD 21701

Dear Board of Frederick County Commissioners,

Friends of Frederick County (FoFC) has heard (spirited) supporter concern over the actions Frederick County had taken – during the past commission administration - to resolve the county’s waste issue. We recognize that there has been little time for you to fully explore the options for resource management<sup>1</sup> in our county, therefore we send you this letter of ideas, suggestions and information that might provide useful to your analyses; please find them bulleted below.

- FoFC supporters have expressed their concern that the October 2005 R.W. Beck report prepared for Frederick County focuses almost exclusively on incineration, with only minor mention of recycling. Resource recycling and composting are effective landfill diversion measures -that cost less than incineration.

In response we suggest that Frederick County support a study of “resource management” that includes comprehensive recycling and composting similar to the Delaware’s Resource Management (DRM) Report prepared by The Institute for Local Self Reliance (copy enclosed). The DRM Report details the contents of Delaware’s waste stream, the value of their recyclable materials, savings by recycling (versus land-filling), energy savings and pollution reduction. A similar report for our county would cost about \$15,000. FoFC suggests three resource management consultants who have performed such analyses in the past and could be considered to prepare a Frederick County Resource Management Report:

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<sup>1</sup> Resource management is the term recommended to replace waste management, since according to San Francisco's recycling office (2006) 75% of the typical waste stream is useful resource material. San Francisco is currently recycling at a 69% rate: [http://sfgov.org/site/mayor\\_page.asp?id=59337](http://sfgov.org/site/mayor_page.asp?id=59337), and plans to reach 75% by 2010.

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Richard Anthony, Gary Liss, and Jeffrey Morris<sup>2</sup>. In the future, should a new landfill be necessary in Frederick County, Richard Anthony would be able to site and design a landfill/resource recovery park that would help maximize recycling and composting efforts.

- Should county officials and staff wish to learn about effective recycling and composting programs, FoFC suggests King County (Washington State), San Francisco (California) and select counties in Vermont and New Jersey. Recommended sites to learn about progress being made in composting are:
  - 1) Blessing Farm, Milford, DE-- a good example of yard debris and manure composting. Blessing Farm also composts dead chickens for the poultry industry to divert this waste from landfill (blessingscompost@yahoo.com)
  - 2) San Francisco City & County Recycling, CA (tel: (415) 554-4333)-- demonstration of a model food -composting program (Jack Macy, Commercial Zero Waste Coordinator, City of San Francisco email: [jack.macy@sfgov.org](mailto:jack.macy@sfgov.org) tel: (415) 355-3751
  - 3) Solid Waste Department, Burlington, NJ-- yard debris and grass composting program; link to recycling/composting services:  
[http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/departments/resource\\_conservation/recycling/index.htm](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/departments/resource_conservation/recycling/index.htm)
  
- Some US counties show that hiring a waste reduction specialist to assist solid waste staff saves them money<sup>3</sup>. Qualifications elsewhere for this position, that pays between \$45,000 and \$50,000 /year plus benefits, are a bachelor's degree plus one to two years related experience and/or training, and a valid Class C drivers license. Some of the tasks associated with this position elsewhere that seem appropriate for our County are:
  - 1) to increase recycling and organic waste diversion by analysis of customer discard and recommendation for more appropriate collection services;
  - 2) to coordinate operations to establish or modify customer's refuse, recycling, and organics collection services;
  - 3) to audit refuse, recycling and organics collection routes for accuracy, compliance, and potential new waste diversion; and
  - 4) to educate the public about how to recycle and compost through customer outreach and training, emphasizing material identification and increased utilization of appropriate collection services with the goal of increasing waste diversion.

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<sup>2</sup> Richard Anthony Associates ([www.richardanthonyassociates.com](http://www.richardanthonyassociates.com), email: [ricanthony@aol.com](mailto:ricanthony@aol.com), tel: 858-272-290), Gary Liss (Gary Liss & Associates, [www.garyliss.com](http://www.garyliss.com), email: [gary@garyliss.com](mailto:gary@garyliss.com), tel: 916-652-7850), Jeffrey Morris (PhD-Economics, Sound Resource Management, [www.zerowaste.com](http://www.zerowaste.com), email: [jeff.morris@zerowaste.com](mailto:jeff.morris@zerowaste.com), tel: 360-867-1033/ 360-319-2391)

<sup>3</sup> A Scenario for Resource Management in the State of Delaware, May 2007 provides examples of places where a Waste Reduction Specialist was hired.

- Communities around the USA are setting up *Pay As You Throw* programs, as they effectively increase recycling participation by rewarding residents who recycle. More information about PAYT can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/payt/intro.htm>.
- Continue to educate the community and the Maryland Delegation – with support from the Northeast MD Waste Disposal Authority and local haulers– to:
  - develop a solid waste franchising system that streamlines trash truck routes and makes recycling opportunities available to the entire county;
  - support a bottle bill in the state of Maryland; and
  - support mandatory recycling in Frederick County.
- Recycling is a declining cost industry, and although initial investment is required to fund the transition to a new system, these costs decrease year after year as the collection programs and new reprocessing capacity become established. The more that is recycled, the less money is wasted paying for disposal<sup>4</sup>.
- Communities around the U.S. have gone bankrupt investing taxpayer money in waste incineration<sup>5</sup>. It is not a cheap source of electricity. In the short term, incineration may appear a cheaper option than recycling but over a longer span of time it is a much more capital-intensive and costly approach<sup>6</sup>. In Montgomery County, for example, over 40 million dollars is budgeted per year for its incinerator. After the 20- year debt service has been paid, the cost to taxpayers will be close to \$800,000,000. Updated pollution controls may become necessary which will add significant cost to the project<sup>7</sup>.
- In Frederick County the Sierra Club Catocin Group is becoming increasingly involved in this issue; representatives and supporters Chris Hodge ([mdhiker2@yahoo.com](mailto:mdhiker2@yahoo.com)), Kim Stenley ([kstenley@earthtones.com](mailto:kstenley@earthtones.com)) or Sally Sorbello (301- 694 3613) would be pleased to provide more information. The group will be hosting Dr. Paul Connett on August 28<sup>th</sup> to speak on incineration. Please find a flyer enclosed.

In summary, Friends of Frederick County advocates creating the most effective resource

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<sup>4</sup> Cutting the Waste Stream in Half: Community Record-Setters Show How; <http://www.ilsr.org/pubs/cuttingwaste.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ecology Center News: <http://www.ecocenter.org/200203/incinerator.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> Solid Waste Action Team Newsletter: <http://www.lexingtonma.org/swat/Jun2698N.htm>

<sup>7</sup> pers. Comm. Sally Sorbello, July 2007.

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management plan for our County. The information we have received to date indicates that the plan would call for implementation of waste recycling policies to create a closed loop system where materials are used over and over again...a long term sustainable solution for Frederick County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Wiles  
Executive Director

FoFC Board Members:  
Jim Jamieson, Chair  
Jack Lynch, Vice-Chair  
Amy Farber, Secretary  
Ellen Kreis, Treasurer  
Richard Wiles  
Douglas Pierce  
Janice Wiles

Cc: Friends of Frederick County supporters

Enclosures

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