



Uniting community members to transform our neighborhoods is at the heart of what we do.

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Environmental Interest Group at Victoria Falls

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

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Please visit our web site at:

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

Contact Us At:

CultivatingCommunityConnections@gmail.com

One of our local communities has an interest group that is working on educating community members about things all of us can do to help the environment. Every month this interest group brings in experts to provide information about how to implement environmentally sound practices in our daily lives.

A recent session was organized by Victoria Falls residents, one of whom is CCC's web master, Carol Relitz. The session featured CCC's own Barbara Sollner-Webb, a retired professor of molecular biology, who currently is vice-chair on Prince George's County's Solid Waste Advisory Commission. Also featured was Melissa Filiaggi, the Division Chief of Operations for Maryland Environmental Services.

This session explained why different municipalities may have different rules for what can and cannot be composted, recycled in bins, or recycled only at specific locations. Basically, the type of equipment/machinery the receiving facility has dictates their ability to sort, process, and repurpose waste materials. So, for example, Prince George's County has Single-Stream Recycling, which has all recyclables going together to be routed by machines, backed by hand-sorting at the facility. Other municipalities might have residents use multiple bins to sort more accurately, then the items proceed to specialized facilities for processing.

Here are a few key take-aways from the session:

- Reducing the amount of organic wastes taken to landfills will reduce methane emissions that come from their decomposition there. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.
- Composting of organic wastes generates virtually no methane gas. Prince George's County has a world-class composting facility that turns food waste into quality compost, not adding to global warming.
- Reducing organics in what is taken to our landfills will reduce methane emissions. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, and is created when organics decompose when covered in a landfill.
- Composting of organics (i.e., foodstuffs, yard waste, etc.) produces no methane gas (for the decomposition occurs in a controlled manner in the presence of oxygen). Prince George's County has a world-class composting facility that turns food waste into quality compost, which does not add to global warming, instead generates a valuable soil amenity, and is much cheaper than using the landfill.
- Reducing our production of waste material should be our main goal. The oft-stated approach should be "Reduce, reuse, repurpose, and only then recycle. avoiding trashing items as much as possible".

(Continued on page 2)



What Do You Think?

Cultivating Community Connections would like to know about the people in your community that are making a difference. Tell us who they are and what they are doing. Email us at:

CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com

Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

In memory of Melissa Daston-
Movers and Shakers past president

Carol Relitz- web administrator

Thank you for supporting CCC's efforts to strengthen communities.

- As consumers, we can strive to buy used items. If buying new items look for products made with recycled materials and that have a long life-span.
- Check your local agency's information for what to put in the recycling bins.
- Take electronics, plastic bags, and other items not listed as compostable or recyclable, to retail outlets that have specialize bins.

Things that your community can do to educate residents:

- Schedule a community meeting. Have residents bring an item that they have a question about.
- Have an in-home party where guests take part in sorting waste products into compostable, recycling, and trash.
- Hold a community yard sale to encourage reuse of unwanted items.

Want to see your community educate residents? Check out this link to Baltimore County's complete guide for where to recycle items that don't belong in your recycle bin:

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/files/Documents/Public_Works/solidwastemanagement/reusedirectory.pdf

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RECYCLE RIGHT

EMPTY AEROSOL CANS

ALUMINUM • ALUMINUM FOIL BIMETAL • STEEL FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

GAL TOP BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

GLASS FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

TELEPHONE BOOKS • CATALOGS • BOOKS • NEWSPAPER • MAGAZINES

ALL PAPER • BROWN KRAFT PAPER • WRAPPING PAPER

MIXED PAPER/CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

- * Catalogs and phone books
- * Cardboard boxes (flattened down/flattened)
- * Frozen food packaging
- * Hard & soft-covered books
- * Magazines
- * Milk & Juice Cartons
- * Newspapers with inserts
- * Paper - ALL
- * Paper bags & wrapping paper
- * Paper board (cereal & cracker boxes)

PLASTIC - Resin ID #s 1,2,3,5,7 - NO #4 & #6

- * Drinking cups
- * Flower pots
- * Narrow-neck containers
- * Wide-mouth containers (peanut butter, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, margarine/butter tubs and prescription bottles)

EXTRA! *Pizza Boxes - yes recycle!*

Kenig Cups - 100% of K-Cup® Pods are Recyclable

NO PLASTIC BAGS!

E-Waste (batteries & more!) - Staples.com [Recycling Services at Staples](#)

Styrofoam - goes to Crofton (1298 Crofton Blvd) - UPS for Bubble Wrap, Peanuts, & Plastic Air Pockets

Donate furniture etc - Habitat for Humanity - <https://www.habitat.org/> & LARS - www.laureladvocacy.org

METALS

- * Aluminum Foil
- * Empty Aerosol cans
- * Metal food and beverage containers

NOTE: No large metal pieces!

RINSE = CLEAN Use a bottle brush - **ALL** food & beverage containers to remove residue = **CLEAN!**

PLASTIC NARROW NECKED CONTAINERS CURED 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7 - PLASTIC WIDE MOUTH CONTAINERS - PLASTIC CUPS

FLATTENED CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BOXES - FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING - PAPER BOARD CONTAINERS

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS - EMPTY PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES



Recycling by K. K. B. EcoRecycle



Did you know?

- * 350 tons to MD landfill daily
- * Without recycling, it will get worse

See p.4 for a full page, printable version of "Recycle Right".

Check CCC Web Site Environment

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

For more helpful planet-friendly tips.

Questions From Victoria Falls and Answers From Barbara Sollner-Webb

- **Q:** What are Prince George's County's waste facilities?
- **A:** (1) the landfill, (2) the materials recycling center (MRF), and (3) the organics composting facility. There are also many private facilities for construction and demolition wastes and other specialized kinds of wastes.
- **Q:** Where is Prince George's County's Recycling Facility?
- **A:** In Upper Marlboro (front entrance = 11611 Whitehouse Rd, back entrance = 3501 Brown Station Road) <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/staff-directory/environment/resource-recovery-division/brown-station-road-convenience-center>
- **Q:** How are waste facilities financed?
- **A:** Paid by your taxes, supplemented by tipping fees from private haulers; and for the recycling and composting centers, supplemented by revenue from selling the finished product.
- **Q:** If recycled items are contaminated when arriving at Recycling facility, then is there another cost hauling that to trash?
- **A:** Yup- both for sorting them out and for hauling them to the landfill.
- **Q:** Is anything ever used from a landfill e.g. to fill up potholes, since it takes forever to disintegrate?
- **A:** No, because there is a safety worry; rather there is a big desire to divert salvageable items BEFORE they go into the landfill!
- **Q:** Are there better bags that decompose in landfill rather than present ones?
- **A:** I believe the current compostable bags work OK.
- **Q:** Is landfill overflowing and if so, where is additional waste going to go?
- **A:** Prince George's current landfill isn't overflowing. In fact; it was recently expanded.
- **Q:** Are any landfills near water? Are they contaminating nearby areas?
- **A:** There are numerous smaller, now-closed landfills at various stages of environmental problems, but the county's Brown Station Sanitary Landfill is actually run impressively well. The site is monitored regularly for loads of things, and do correct any issues that may be found.
- **Q:** I understand glass is shattered and then sent to landfill - to keep animals from digging in?
- **A:** Yes, glass that is sent to the Prince George's MRF, along with small things that also fall out in the recycling sorting process, like bottle caps, are used more to keep stuff from blowing away and to help hold down odor.
- **Q:** There are several types of landfills in the United States – which ones are in PG County?
1) municipal solid waste? **A:** county's Brown Station Sanitary Landfill, 2) hazardous waste, industrial waste, coal combustion residuals, polychlorinated biphenyls? **I believe none of those 4 in this County,** 3) and construction and demolition debris? **Yes, there is a private one near to Brown Station landfill. I have taken a tour there and seems to be very well-run.**
- **Q:** Is there an odor from the landfill?
- **A:** In my many tours there, including standing on top of active parts of the landfill, I have never detected any odor. In earlier decades, neighbors had complained but procedures were improved; and the more composting that folks do, the less odor will be generated by decomposition in the landfill.
- **Q:** How far away from homes is the landfill?
- **A:** Looking on GoogleMaps – some within 1000 feet, but I have been told that ALL the nearby homes were built and bought AFTER the landfill was already functioning there!
- **Q:** What is done with liquid waste?
- **A:** Liquid waste is collected in leachate ponds and treated at the nearby WSSC facility. The site is 800 AC but that includes buffers, buildings, etc.

Please check our web site for future newsletters and other updates:

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EXTRA.. Pizza Boxes - yes recycle!

Keurig Cups - 100% of K-Cup® Pods are Recyclable

Drop off at grocery store!

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TELEPHONE BOOKS • CATALOGS • BOOKS •
NEWSPAPER • MAGAZINES



ALL PAPER • BROWN KRAFT PAPER •
WRAPPING PAPER



2/24/25 by CR for EIG/Recycle



PLASTIC NARROW NECK CONTAINERS CORDED 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 -
PLASTIC WIDE MOUTH CONTAINERS - PLASTIC CUPS



FLATTENED CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BOXES • FLATTEN
FROZEN FOOD PACKAGING • METAL BEANS CONTAINER



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EMPTY PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES