

Baltimore Clean Air Act

NOT a Policy in a Vacuum

Introduction

The Baltimore Clean Air Act is the SEVENTH of a number of steps toward cleaner air and a zero waste economy – an economy that creates a minimum of 6-10 times as many jobs and minimizes carbon pollution. The first six steps occurred from 2017 to just last month with the passage of five resolutions and one law:

6/5/2017: Zero Waste resolution

6/19/2017: Climate Change resolution

10/16/2017: Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) resolution

3/12/2018: Polystyrene Ban

5/14/2018: Solid Waste Master Planning resolution

1/14/2019: Resolution supporting removal of states subsidies for trash incineration in MD Renewable Portfolio Standard

The Baltimore Clean Air Act sets more protective goals for Baltimore City to achieve cleaner waste management practices the alleviate pollution from waste incineration. The Department of Public Works' "Less Waste, Better Lives" Solid Waste Master Plan examines continuing incineration until 2040 and beyond.

Deadline 1 – August, 2020 – monitoring requirements and tighter standards for mercury and sulfur dioxides

Deadline 2 – January 1, 2022 – tighter standards for dioxins and nitrogen oxides

Should Wheelabrator choose to close instead of complying with the Clean Air Act standards, Baltimore City will have 18 to 42 months to establish and implement policies that help eliminate the dependency on waste incineration.

We do not, nor should anyone, expect Wheelabrator to shut down the day after the Baltimore Clean Air Act passes.

Next Step Policies

We have a collection of policies that will assist Baltimore in strengthening its recycling rate, provide job opportunities, and gain revenue from recovered materials.

1. Implement City-led pilot of Divert Baltimore in Westport/Mt. Winans/Lakeland and Cherry Hill

- Install our incentivized recycling program at a community-wide level, providing free, large recycling bins to all households, hiring residents to collect weight data, and providing educational workshops
- Determine the target recycling rate for the community by comparing the cost of providing free bins to all households against the tipping fee cost of incinerating a specific amount of trash
(Example: If bins for Westport cost \$32,000, how many tons are incinerated at Wheelabrator for \$32,000 in that year?)
- If community surpasses target rate, the city awards the tipping fee surplus to the community, overseen by its representative and community associations, for betterment projects

2. Reallocate Funding and/or Submit Proposal for Material Recovery Facility

- Shift funding out of Wheelabrator and landfill expansion budgets and/or submit a proposal to Closed Loop Partners; contract out construction of facility through RFP and set deadline for completion of facility

3. Mandate Commercial Recycling

- All businesses must contract with the city or a private hauler to transfer recyclables
- Restaurants must separate glass from other recyclables and individual colors, leading to greater resale value

4. Food Refuse Reduction and Employment Act

- Mandate all food-serving or food-providing entities within city limits to donate edible food to food pantries and homeless shelters, and separate their food waste from all other waste materials to be collected by public

and private haulers for composting – August 2020

5. Enforce Multi-Family Home Recycling

- Apartments, condominiums, et cetera must provide access to recycling

6. Pass the Zero Waste Economic Opportunities Act

- Mandates that workers at new facilities must a) live in the community, or b) must have been displaced by the closure of Commercial Solid Waste Incinerators regulated by the Baltimore Clean Air Act
- Once both criteria have been met, workers beyond these parameters may apply
- All waste diversion and management positions must have a living wage and ability to unionize

7. Implement Divert Baltimore Citywide

- Provide permanent full- or part-time jobs through waste data collection and monitoring what's going in recycling bins

8. Pass the Deconstruction for Reconstruction Act

- Mandate that all demolitions of buildings must occur under sustainability criteria, provide job opportunities for residents surrounding deconstruction project (2-3-mile radius), and increasing resale value of recovered materials (Ex: Deconstruction of Baltimore City Jail)

9. Set Citywide Recycling Rate Goals

- 65% by 2030
- 80% by 2040
- 90% by 2050

10. Implement Charm City SMART

- A pay-as-you-throw, pay-per-bag program to dispose of trash
- Will increase recycling rates further
- Does NOT increase illegal dumping
- Awards communities for low waste production, similar to Divert Baltimore

11. Pass Baltimore Extended Producer Responsibility Act (BEPR)

- Mandate all product producers in city limits utilize reusable components in their packaging by 2030, provide tax incentives for companies who reach 90% reusable packaging within two years

Cities with Zero Waste Plans – Years Adopted

San Francisco – 2002

Oakland – 2006

Seattle – 2007

Austin – 2009

Dallas – 2013

Los Angeles – 2014

Santa Monica – 2014

Minneapolis – 2015

New York City – 2015

San Diego – 2015

Baltimore should NOT be left out of the movement!