

CHAPTER V
PLAN OF ACTION

1. WASTE DISPOSAL CAPACITY

The following paragraphs discuss options available to the County to assure adequate waste disposal capacity is provided for County residents and businesses during the Plan period of 2016 through 2025 and beyond.

1.1 Increase Available Waste Disposal Capacity

As discussed in Chapter IV, the County has secured approval from MDE for the expansion of Central Landfill. The planned expansion will include the development of an additional 68 acres of permitted disposal area. This will bring the total permitted disposal area to 112 acres. The approved landfill expansion will add 8 additional disposal cells to the landfill and provide approximately 16.6 million cubic yards of additional landfill capacity. The expansion will extend the projected service life of the landfill to at least 2065.

~~Based on current planning schedules, d~~Design of the first disposal cell within the expansion (i.e., Cell 2) ~~has been completed~~~~is scheduled to begin in 2020~~ and construction ~~is scheduled for the Spring of 2024~~~~completed in 2022~~, Construction of Cell 2 is expected to be completed in January 2025 approximately ~~13~~ years ahead of the current projected date when the existing disposal area will reach permitted capacity in February 2026~~5~~. This will insure that adequate landfill capacity is available through the 2016 – 2025 planning period as well as provide buffer capacity in the unforeseen event of dramatic waste growth in the next ten years or the need for emergency disposal capacity, (i.e., in the event of a major storm event or other natural disaster).

1.2 Reduce Annual Consumption of Available Waste Disposal Capacity

Two alternatives will be pursued by the County to reduce the annual consumption of waste disposal capacity. The following paragraphs describe these alternatives.

1.2.1 Continued Resource Recovery Activities

The County will continue to participate in, evaluate and increase, as able, various resource recovery activities. These are described in greater detail in Section 2.

1.2.2 Continued Use of Alternate Daily Cover Materials at the Central Landfill

The County currently uses an alternative daily cover (ADC) material at the Central Landfill. Use of an ADC allows the landfill operation to use less soil for daily cover, thereby consuming less waste disposal capacity. The County will continue the use of ADC materials.

2. WASTE HANDLING

2.1 Facilities Owned and Operated by Cecil County

As discussed in Chapter IV, sufficient disposal capacity is available at Central Landfill for the next 10 years and the County’s two transfer stations are currently operating well under their permitted capacity. Based on this, Cecil County does not have any plans at this time to enhance the existing waste handling facilities (aside from the planned expansion of Central Landfill) or construct additional facilities in the next 10 years. The existing facilities currently meet the needs of the County and are anticipated to continue to do so during the 2016 – 2025 planning period.

2.2 Facilities Owned and Operated by Private Companies

2.2.1 Choice MedWaste, LLC

Choice MedWaste, LLC has submitted a Refuse Disposal Permit application to MDE for a proposed new special medical waste processing facility and transfer station to be located on Pintail Circle in Elkton Maryland. Choice MedWaste, LLC is proposing to construct and operate a facility to store, transfer and process waste classified as special medical waste. In addition to a Transfer Station that will receive and consolidate waste to be transferred to an appropriate disposal facility outside the County, the facility will also function as a Processing Facility that will treat or process special medical waste using an autoclave system. Construction of the proposed facility will be privately funded and is scheduled to start in the summer of 2024. The proposed facility is expected to start operation in the 2025/2026 time frame.

On July 17, 2023, Cecil County and Choice MedWaste, LLC executed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to conditions for operation of the facility.

3. RESOURCE RECOVERY

3.1 Source Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

The County will implement various programs to expand and enhance the already successful resource recovery programs currently in use. New programs may include, but not be limited to:

- Promote recycling of beverage containers with local pubs and taverns;
- Negotiate with waste collection companies to encourage single stream recycling, especially with local schools, to enhance overall public participation;

- Implement a “sharps” (medical syringe) disposal program;
- Promote and possibly provide, in conjunction with local businesses, biodegradable bags for yard waste;
- Establish a compost bin distribution program;
- Offer presentations and workshops to homeowners and community groups to educate and promote backyard composting (including food waste);
- Promote source reduction and recycling to local businesses;
- Promote source reduction, reuse, and recycling with local restaurants; and,
- Promote the use of reusable or biodegradable grocery bags as an alternative to plastic bags.

Other source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and initiatives may be implemented as needs and opportunities are identified, and as funding is provided.

3.2 Waste-to-Energy

3.2.1 Landfill Gas-to-Energy

The County continues to evaluate options for beneficial uses of landfill gas at the Central Landfill. Currently, the Central Landfill facility includes a landfill gas flare used for gas management. Beneficial uses for landfill gas could include, but not be limited to, [renewable](#) energy production ([i.e. electric or natural gas](#)) for sale to ~~at the~~ local ~~power~~-utility, [renewable](#) energy production for use at the landfill, [renewable](#) energy production to an offsite industrial or manufacturing facility, and fueling of the County vehicle fleet. [Cecil County is planning to issue a Request for Proposals to finance, design, permit, construct, operate and maintain a landfill gas beneficial use project at Cecil County Central Land fill in the Spring of 2024.](#)~~As project funding becomes available and energy markets improve, the County may implement a landfill gas beneficial use project.~~

4. FUNDING

The County solid waste management system operates as an enterprise fund. An enterprise fund establishes a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. Under enterprise accounting, the revenues and expenditures of the service are segregated into a separate fund with its own financial statements, rather than commingled with the revenues and expenses of all other governmental activities. Financial transactions are reported using standards similar to private sector accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when incurred, under a full accrual basis of accounting. An enterprise fund provides management and taxpayers with information to:

- Measure performance
- Analyze the impact of financial decisions

- Determine the cost of providing a service; and,
- Identify any subsidy from the general fund in providing a service.

Enterprise accounting allows a community to demonstrate to the public the portion of total costs of a service that is recovered through user fees and the portion that is subsidized by other available funds, if any. User fees are established based on planning, land acquisition, design, permitting, operating, maintenance, monitoring, and closure requirements for the various facilities and equipment in use. Operating surplus is retained in the fund. As various modifications, enhancements, changes, or expansions, etc., of any portion of the solid waste management program are identified, funding is evaluated and made available as approved by the County Government.

5. CHANGES IN PROGRAMS AND RELATED ITEMS

As the County solid waste management system adapts to the needs of the residents and businesses of Cecil County, various programs, planning documents, regulations, and/or operational procedures may require modification. Such modifications will be implemented on an ongoing basis, as needed. The County anticipates the most-likely modifications in the near future will be related to resource recovery activities and master planning of solid waste management activities and facilities, as described in this Plan.