



**Sustainable Materials Management Maryland
Strategic Plan Outline
April 2019**

Vision:

Improve the environment and create economic development and job creation opportunities in the State of Maryland by identifying and executing creative and innovative sustainable materials management projects and activities, through public and private sector voluntary collaborations, including the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and other Maryland governmental entities.

Mission:

Identify and collaborate with a wide range of multi-sector companies and entities, along with their suppliers, and key public-sector leaders to design and implement materials management initiatives and projects for Maryland in a way that will foster the establishment of new materials management businesses in Maryland; conserve natural resources; meet State climate change goals for 2030 and beyond; and, embrace new and more effective measures of success.

Background:

On June 27, 2017, Governor Larry Hogan signed Executive Order 01.012017.13 that included a section devoted to the building of partnerships for sustainable materials management. In the Executive Order, the MDE is tasked with leading and working with other key State Agencies including the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and Transportation, and the Energy Administration to build partnerships and collaboration for sustainable materials management.

SM³ has been organized by private and public sector leaders, along with engagement and liaison from the key Maryland State Agencies identified and tasked with the implementation of the Executive Order, to identify and address key issues and activities that will support the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order.

From a series of Work Group efforts that addressed Metrics and Measures, Innovative Technologies, and Materials Marketplace considerations, and from a series of meetings and discussions of the full SM³ group, the SM³ and its supporters and liaison representatives from the State of Maryland have worked collaboratively to develop a strategic action outline to be pursued in 2019. This effort has resulted in a set of recommended actions that can be categorized in two areas. The first includes key issues that need to be addressed from a regulatory/legislative perspective to allow for the expansion of sustainable materials management opportunities in Maryland. The second includes the creation of a new Maryland's Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Innovation Center (MWR³ Innovation Center).

Regulatory and Legislative Issues:

Important issues that need to be addressed to allow both the public and private sector to create environmental and economic opportunities related to sustainable materials management include:

- Revisiting and revising, where necessary, Maryland regulations impacted by federal laws like RCRA, to ensure they meet their intent without inhibiting the state's ability to find more efficient ways to address materials that are now required to be treated as solid waste, especially where there may be more efficient and environmentally responsible uses for those materials.
- Updating key state regulatory definitions to be more effectively aligned with enhanced materials management programs, projects and technologies.
- Updating regulatory and legislative language, where appropriate, to more fully support effective state and local programs and projects directed at materials management objectives, as outlined by and within SM³.
- Refining metrics and measures continuously to maintain pace with new materials management opportunities and challenges.
- Developing a program/project designed to engage Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) in meeting Maryland's materials management goals and objectives.
- Identifying ways to support the creation of new technologies from start-up to scale-up that can address ways to turn "waste" into new materials or products.
- Developing a program/project focused on educating consumers to the new reality of sustainable materials management, what it means for them, their communities and Maryland's efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Maryland's Waste Reduction & Resource Recovery Innovation Center (MWR³ Innovation Center)

The MWR³ Innovation Center will be created on a 60-acre campus (TBD) located in Maryland. The Center will provide four areas of development focused on collecting and processing what historically has been called "wastes". It will also include a Research and Technology Center designed to attract and refine innovative technologies that can be used and applied to address new and creative ways to utilize various kinds of wastes.

The four areas of development that will collect and process "wastes" into materials include:

- Sediments
- Food waste
- Industrial plastics, including contaminated plastics
- Bio-Solids

The Research and Technology Center will provide available research, and incubator space for companies to more fully develop their new and innovative technologies and test their marketability.

In 2019, SM³ private and public sector participants, in collaboration with and support of the five Maryland Agencies identified in Governor Hogan's Executive Order, will develop a business model and management plan for the center.