



Notes from Next Steps Discussion
Composting Conference
August 2018

1. What were your big learning moments today? In other words, what were your “Ah-Ha” moments during the presentations?

Themes in Individual Responses

- There are more opportunities available than we realized.
 - There are more technology options – both high and low – than we knew.
 - Livingston (in Spotsylvania County) is a regional opportunity.
 - Yard waste, yard waste, yard waste! This is an area we need to address.
 - There is potential for use to develop food waste programs locally.
 - Cost issues – we need to be sure to consider cost avoidance when determining if this is a good investment. The return on investment could be better than we thought.
 - This is an area where a private/public partnership might be a real opportunity.
2. What should be our next steps as a region? (These are the result of conversations at individual tables, that were shared with the larger group. They are in no order of importance).
 - a. Survey the public. Get a better understanding of what we are currently putting into a landfill that could potentially be composted centrally.
 - b. Spot audit trash. Have current collectors spot audit curbside trash to determine the makeup of what they are collecting.
 - c. Establish a common, region-wide goal for composting and waste.
 - i. As a part of this, we will need to educate the public.
 - ii. Education, like we received today, can help with creating the political will to start regional composting.
 - iii. Policy leaders can set the goal and turn to the experts to make it happen.
 - iv. Need to determine who needs to be at the table.
 - d. The biggest cost is transportation – we need to figure out how to make the math work.
 - e. Determine if local jurisdictions can pass an ordinance to ban yard waste. This is a Dillon’s Rule question.
 - f. Understand more about what our waste problem is. Examine what we are taking into our landfills.

- g. We need a vision/plan for this in the City of Fredericksburg.
- h. Explore how we might use private equity to address the capital costs associated with composting.
- i. Start a pilot project, sooner rather than later.
- j. Get information from the private sector as to what they would need to see from the jurisdictions to consider investing.