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.