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# 2011

## AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT LETTER

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## ROBIN DAVIDOV RETIRES AS THE AUTHORITY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 1980, the Maryland General Assembly created the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority to develop and finance regional waste management projects that would address the region's growing waste disposal needs.

Robin Davidov joined the Authority as a public relations specialist in 1981. She quickly rose through the ranks from a project planner to a project manager, and eventually to Deputy Director. In 1996, the Authority Board promoted Robin to Executive Director, and since that time she has helped the Authority's Member Jurisdictions (Members) dramatically expand both residential and commercial recycling, develop renewable energy projects and develop composting projects. Now, after being with the Authority almost since its inception, and giving more than 30 years of service, Robin is retiring.

"Robin has guided the Authority through much change over many years," said Jim Harkins, Director of the Maryland Environmental Service's Board of Directors and a member of the Authority's board. "She has been a steady

hand at the Authority's tiller and we owe her a great deal of gratitude. The Authority has a strong relationship not only with its Members, but with other allied agencies."

As Executive Director, Robin focused on helping Members implement state-of-the-art projects and practices that reduced costs, increased efficiency, seized opportunities and increased revenue. Under her leadership, the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility was honored with a national Grand Prize in Excellence in Environmental Engineering from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers in 1998.

"Robin's positive attitude and willingness to work with everyone has made her an asset to the region," noted Jim Irvin, Chairman of the Authority's Board of Directors. "She understands the big picture and her knowledge and expertise have been invaluable to the Authority's Members and helped us advance professionally."

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# 2011

## ANNUAL REPORT LETTER

Throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (the Authority) continued to assist its Member Jurisdictions (Members) with waste management, recycling, energy generation projects, long-term service contracts, meeting environmental requirements and a vast assortment of other projects.

### Generating Green, Renewal Energy

We are pleased to report that our first solar project, located at the Montgomery County Transfer Station, became operational in March. The project is designed to provide the Transfer Station with 345 MWh of electricity in the first year of operation, equivalent to the electricity use of approximately 30 homes. Montgomery County will pay a fixed KW hour rate for this electricity for the 20 year life of the Power Purchase Agreement that the Authority negotiated with SunEdison. The County will also receive Solar Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) which will become part of the County's overall sustainability portfolio.

Our second solar project in Howard County at the New Cut Road Landfill has made significant progress and is on track to be completed in November, 2011. Once completed, the facility will supply approximately 90% of the electricity needed for the adjacent Worthington Elementary School. Authority staff will continue to provide contract management services on behalf of Howard County and the Howard County Public School System throughout the remaining construction and operations.

Both projects were partially funded by federal grants under the State's SunBurst Program which reduced the overall costs of the projects to the Members. The facilities were constructed with American made components.

### Recycling

Members can use the electronic waste (e-waste) recycling master contract procured by the Authority. The Authority is pleased that this procurement has resulted in Members being paid for their e-waste. In addition, the contractor provides transportation from each Member's collection area to the contractor's processing facility.

The Authority continued to assist Anne Arundel County with its 50/50 recycling campaign, a unique multi-media program that is increasing the rate of recycling in the County.

### Managing Waste as a Resource

Progress continues on the renewable waste-to-energy facility in Frederick County that will be able to supply 100% of the electricity needs of Frederick County and Carroll County governments. This facility will provide a long-term stable economic solution for the waste disposal and renewable energy needs of the residents and businesses in Frederick, Carroll and other Counties. The Authority has been working closely with the design, build, and operation vendor to ensure that all federal and state permit applications are accurate and that the permits are secured in a timely manner. The Authority continues to provide important information about the facility by attending civic meetings and permit related public meetings, and responding to citizen inquiries. The Authority's website provides all of the permit applications and notices of all public meetings and hearings.



In Anne Arundel County, the Authority entered into an agreement to design, build and operate the landfill gas-to-electricity facility at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility. This facility will generate approximately 3.2 megawatts of renewable “green” energy which will be exported to the electricity grid and generate electricity revenue for the County. The electricity revenue will include energy, capacity, and renewable energy credits.

Permitting began during FY 11 and construction will start in mid FY 12.

In addition to these new projects, the Authority continues to manage the operation and maintenance of other renewable energy facilities including the Frederick Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility in Frederick County, which began commercial operation in June 2010, and the Oaks and Gude Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facilities in Montgomery County which have been producing renewable energy since June 2009. These three facilities have produced a total of 57,901.24 MWh of green energy since operations began which equates to annually removing approximately 42,166 vehicles from the road.

Authority staff continues to be active in managing the operation and maintenance of the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility and the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility. Both facilities continue to meet of all their environmental permitting requirements while generating renewable energy.

The Authority continues oversight of the Baltimore City Composting Facility, where sewage sludge is processed into soil conditioner. This year, as in past years, the demand for the Orgro™ product far exceeds the supply.

## Managing Costs through Longer Service Contracts

As the costs of operating facilities and transporting waste continue to rise, the Authority has sought to obtain service

contracts for its Members that will stabilize future costs.

Baltimore City’s current contract with BRESKO ends 12-31-11. On behalf of the City, the Authority executed a 10 year contract with BRESKO for waste disposal and metals recovery. As part of the agreement, the City will purchase 10 MW of renewable electricity at below market prices.

Since 1996, the Authority has provided waste disposal services to Anne Arundel County through a contract with a privately owned transfer station in the County. The waste collected there is transported by train to a landfill in King George County, Virginia.

Through a collaborative effort with the Anne Arundel County Waste Management Services Division of the Department of Public Works, the Authority managed the procurement of a ten year contract for waste disposal service. The contract was awarded in June of 2011, and will begin upon expiration of the current contract in April, 2013. By procuring and signing a contract in advance of the effective date, the County can budget for its waste disposal costs.


## Improving the Environment

One of the Authority’s most important roles is to assist our Members in complying with environmental regulations and reporting requirements. This year, we assisted with the design and development of a landfill gas collection system at the John Owings Landfill in Carroll County; provided Frederick County with assistance for groundwater sampling and Title V and Tier 2 testing requirements at the Reich’s Ford Landfill; continued assisting Montgomery County with the development of a remediation plan for the Gude Landfill; and provided groundwater and landfill gas monitoring services at the Harford County landfills.

Our ongoing responsibilities of monitoring compliance at various facilities and reviewing monthly plant performance reports helps ensure that renewable energy

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Our Board Members  
and staff have been  
instrumental in the  
Authority’s numerous  
achievements  
this year.

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generation, resource recovery and waste disposal in these jurisdictions are all done according to environmentally sound, integrated waste management practices and keep our air, ground and water safe for Marylanders.

## Other Accomplishments

The Authority continues to market Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on behalf of our Members as well as Prince Georges County. Since 2007, we have sold \$3.5 million of renewable energy credits.

We participated in the Governor's Sustainability Forum where we had the chance to speak about the challenges and opportunities facing waste management. We assisted our Members in preparing draft regulations for the management of Class A biosolids in Maryland. Additionally, we continued to be active in encouraging legislative bodies, both here in Maryland and also on a federal level, to include a renewable or clean energy standard in

future energy legislation to encourage more production of renewable energy.

We have continued the professional development of our Members and staff through participation in meetings and training programs sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, the Maryland Recycling Network, and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Attending these programs keeps our Members and staff up-to-date on industry news and developments and best operating practices.

These are just some highlights of this year's activities. Our Board Members and staff have been instrumental in the Authority's numerous achievements this year. Their comprehensive knowledge of waste management practices, experience and expertise keep us and our Members at the forefront of waste management and energy generation. Because of their hard work and exceptional dedication, we are able to use innovative ideas to move from simply waste management to resource management to produce clean energy, recover valuable resources and improve our environment.



# ROBIN DAVIDOV RETIRES AS THE AUTHORITY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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"Robin has been instrumental in helping us with major projects and solving problems in the County. She really has a "Can Do" attitude," notes Dan Locke, Division Chief of Solid Waste Services in Montgomery County and Authority Board member. "Some of the problems we face in solid waste management can be daunting, but Robin is always sure we can solve whatever problems come our way."

In 2000, Robin predicted that "as world energy prices increase and demand for electricity increases, waste will become more important as a renewable fuel.... I predict that 20 years from now, landfill gas will be extracted as a fuel source." This foresight led to the development of three landfill gas-to-energy projects which have generated nearly 60,000 Megawatt Hours (MWh) of renewable energy to date. With a fourth planned project expected to come on line in 2012, it is estimated that the four projects will generate over 400,000 MWh of renewable energy before 2020.

By the time the Authority celebrated its Silver Anniversary in 2005, it had doubled the number of participating jurisdictions

from the original four to eight without increasing the size of its staff. Robin showed her appreciation of this staff by writing in her annual report letter that year "...we are fortunate to have a dedicated and highly specialized staff of professionals who continually seek out creative solutions to all of the Authority's challenges..."



In turn, Robin's management skills earned her the appreciation of the Members and staff.

According to Ron Bowen, Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works and Treasurer of the Authority, "Robin has a thorough attention to detail. She has an exceptional ability to spot potential problems and keep things from going off track." In addition to the landfill gas-to-energy projects, Robin leaves the Authority with a number of renewable energy projects, including a completed solar project in Montgomery County and a second solar project in Howard County that is on track to be completed in November of 2011. Robin was also instrumental in the development of a renewable waste-to-energy project in Frederick

County, which is currently in its permitting phase.

"Robin has been diligent on all the projects the Authority has worked on over the years. We could always count on her and her staff," remarked Jim Pittman, Deputy Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works who has worked with Robin since 1978. "She is the glue that holds everything together. Her professionalism and presence will be sorely missed."

Best of luck, Robin! Through your diligent and creative work you have left a significant environmental legacy, and have made a difference in the lives of all Marylanders.

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"She is the glue that holds everything together. Her professionalism and presence will be sorely missed."  
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Robin with William Donald Schaefer (former Comptroller and Governor of the State of Maryland and Mayor of Baltimore City).

# Robin

**Congratulations  
on your Retirement!  
You will be truly  
missed!!**



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR JANUARY 17TH – 19TH**

**EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Programs (LMOP)  
15th Annual Conference and Expo in Baltimore**

For more information go to:  
[www.epa.gov/lmop/workshops/15th.html](http://www.epa.gov/lmop/workshops/15th.html)



# WASTEWATCH

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WasteWatch is published quarterly by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent agency of the State of Maryland governed by its Member jurisdictions – Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

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