

In this Issue...

Baltimore City Bureau of Solid Waste Receives CitiStat Maple Award

CitiStat, a program designed to encourage governmental efficiency selected the Bureau of Solid Waste for its first annual Maple Award.

Page 2

Constellation Energy Group Receives EPA Award

Baltimore's own Constellation Energy Group was one of 54 organizations chosen by the EPA's Waste-Wise program for its efforts to reduce waste. Page 5

eCycling Catches On

The Authority's Member Jurisdictions are leading the way in recycling used electronics. Page 4

The Truth About Waste-to-Energy

Maria Zannes, president of the Integrated Waste Services Association writes about the true benefits of waste-to-energy as a clean waste disposal method and energy generator. Page 5



Authority Purchases Harford W-T-E Facility

After 10 months of contract negotiations, the Authority has purchased the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility for \$10.5 million. Eleven million dollars in taxable bonds were issued by the Authority to finance the acquisition. The facility was purchased on behalf of Harford County. Repayment of the bonds will be completed by 2014.

The plant's former owner, Waste Energy Partners, LP (WEP), a subsidiary of Brambles USA, Inc., informed the Authority of its intention to sell the plant in August of last year. The Authority and Harford County pursued ownership of the facility in order to gain control of disposal capacity. By processing most of its solid waste through the facility (nearly 120,000 tons per year), the county will continue to reduce the volume of material going to its landfill by 90 percent.

The original Waste Supply Contract between the Authority and Harford County was

amended to accommodate the Authority's ownership and gives the county 100 percent of the facility's disposal capacity. Harford County Executive James M. Harkins signed the Amended and Restated Waste Supply Contract in June. The county will supply waste to the facility.

WEP will continue to operate the facility under the terms of a new Operating Agreement that will expire in 2016. WEP's fees for operating the facility are determined on a cost plus a management fee basis. The contract also specifies that WEP meet operating and environmental guarantees. In addition, incentives are offered for operating the facility safely and efficiently. WEP will retain all 43 of its current employees.

In the process of purchasing the facility, the Authority and Harford County also negotiated an extension of the steam sales contract with

(continued on page 6)

James M. Irvin Named Chairman of Authority Board

James M. Irvin, director of Public Works for Howard County, was recently named Chairman of the Authority's Board of Directors. Mr. Irvin began his career with Howard County in 1975 as an engineer in the Public Works Department. In 1980 he was promoted to Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Services. Seven years later he was promoted to Director of the Department of Public Works.



(continued on page 2) James M. Irvin



MRC Holds 14th Annual Conference and Exposition

The Community College of Baltimore County at Catonsville was the site of the 14th Annual Maryland Recyclers Coalition Conference and Exposition. Recycling: Mastering the Basics was this year's theme. Information sessions offered strategies for more efficient recycling of glass and paper and new ideas in electronics recycling. Special attention was given to recycling on college campuses and the future of recycling. 

Baltimore City Bureau of Solid Waste Receives Maple Award

Baltimore City's Department of Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste was awarded the first annual Maple Award from CitiStat. CitiStat is an accountability program designed to improve the efficiency of government agencies. Information from each agency is analyzed and acted upon quickly so that problems are solved in a timely manner.

In preparation for the bi-weekly accountability meetings, each agency and/or bureau submits data to the CitiStat team. Information submitted on behalf of the Bureau of Solid Waste would include items such as missed trash pick-up complaints and illegal dumping to employee sick leave and overtime hours. This information, which is entered into a computer and analyzed, is then prepared for presentation to the Mayor and other bureau heads at biweekly meetings. The process allows the CitiStat team to identify problems and track the delivery and performance of city programs and service initiatives.

Ronald E. Bowen Appointed To Authority Board


Ronald E. Bowen, Anne Arundel County Public Works Director, has been appointed to serve on the Authority's Board of Directors. Mr. Bowen oversees planning and operations for the county Bureaus of Highways, Utilities, Waste Management, Administration and Engineering.

Prior to becoming the Director of Public Works for Anne Arundel County, Mr. Bowen was the deputy director for the Bureau of Engineering. In this capacity he was responsible for the development and execution of approximately \$400 million of capital improvement projects for the



Ronald E. Bowen, Director of Public Works for Anne Arundel County

county. He directed projects in the storm water management facilities, water, wastewater and solid waste facilities; recreation and parks facilities; libraries; fire and police stations; office buildings, and the detention centers. Mr. Bowen also directed the recently completed renovation of the historic Anne Arundel County Courthouse, which included the construction of a larger facility.

Mr. Bowen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and is a registered professional engineer. 


James M. Irvin Named Chairman of Authority Board *(continued from page 1)*

As Director of Public Works for Howard County, Mr. Irvin is responsible for the Bureaus of Highways, Utilities, Engineering, Facilities, and Environmental Services. The department employs 380 individuals and has a budget of \$70 million for fiscal year 2003. Additionally, the Public Works Department is accountable for the county's \$400 million capital budget.

Mr. Irvin is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He is the past president of the County Engineers Association, and a graduate of Leadership Howard County. He has a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a master's degree in Urban Planning. Mr. Irvin is licensed as

a Professional Engineer and a Certified Professional Planner.


During his six-year tenure as an Authority Board member, Mr. Irvin has participated in a number of solid waste, recycling, waste-to-energy and composting projects and financings. As Chairman of the Authority Board, Mr. Irvin will oversee the issuance of \$11 million in bonds to finance the Authority's purchase of the Harford County Waste-to-Energy facility.

Authority Executive Director Robin Davidov, and the Authority staff are pleased and honored to have James M. Irvin as their Chairman. 

CitiStat is founded on four tenets:

- Accurate and timely intelligence.
- Effective tactics and strategies.
- Rapid deployment of resources.
- Relentless follow-up and assessment.

The Bureau of Solid Waste was awarded the Maple Award based on its excellence in applying the CitiStat tenets. The bureau embraced the process and quickly adapted to new management practices. Utilizing information supplied by the CitiStat team has allowed the bureau to reorganize its collection systems, increase tonnage levels, fast-track illegal dumping complaints and save \$1.4 million a year in overtime.

Congratulations to the City of Baltimore's Bureau of Solid Waste! 

EPA Honors Constellation Energy Group

What does Constellation Energy Group have in common with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Walt Disney World, and Sandia National Laboratories?

They are among 54 organizations that were recognized at an awards ceremony in the Nation's Capital for their extraordinary accomplishments in reducing waste.


Constellation Energy Group is a partner in the EPA's WasteWise program, which unites more than 1,160 businesses, government agencies and institutions in an effort to reduce waste. This free, voluntary program fosters cooperation among people and groups working to find practical methods for reducing municipal solid waste and improving financial performance. Each year, EPA formally recognizes those partners who achieve significant waste reduction results at an awards ceremony. Constellation Energy Group received the EPA WasteWise Program's Partner of the Year award for large businesses at an awards ceremony that took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, on November 14.

Constellation Energy Group, located in Baltimore, sought out innovative and cost-effective new programs to prevent waste, increase recycling rates and increase spending on recycled-content products in 2001. The utility donated 31 tons of computers and electronic equipment for reuse through its computer donation program. Hard copies of numerous documents, including the employee handbook and an environmental standards publication, were eliminated and made available electronically on the corporate Intranet. The company also promoted waste prevention both to its employees and to other businesses

through its Businesses for the Bay mentoring program, participation in various events, and through articles in *Business Express*, the company's newsletter and *Quest*, the company's internal magazine.

Constellation Energy Group employs 6,500 people. The company recycled an impressive 27,250 tons of tree trimmings, 1,542 tons of non-ferrous metals, 226 tons of paper, 111 tons of mixed plastics, and 55 tons of corrugated boxes. In addition, the company recycled oil from its vehicle oil filters and 100 percent of the aerosol cans it collected. In 2000, the utility spent a total of \$721,369 on recycled-content products, including 1,043 retread tires, plastic piping, carpeting, remanufactured furniture, paper wipes, and bill envelopes.

Authority member jurisdictions all significantly increased the Maryland Recycling Act tonnages that they reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment for 2001 as a result of the recycling effort at Constellation Energy Group.

For further information about the November 14 Awards and Recognition Ceremony, contact the WasteWise Helpline at 800 EPA-WISE (372-9473) or Rose Maria Kendig, Constellation Media Relations at (410) 783-3056. For general program information, visit the WasteWise Web site at www.epa.gov/wastewise. 

Help Us Conserve Paper and Postage!

In an effort to conserve paper and reduce the costs of printing and mailing, the Authority is asking you to let us know if you want to keep receiving *WasteWatch* through the mail. A text version is available at www.nmwda.org, and we will notify you as soon as a new issue has been posted.

Please complete and return this form and let us know your preference or email us at authority@nmwda.org.

FAX to: 410-333-2721

MAIL to: Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority
25 South Charles Street
Suite 2105
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3330

- YES, I'd like to continue receiving *WasteWatch* by mail.
- Notify me by email when a text version of a new issue is available. My email address is listed below. (This information is kept confidential.)
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Please list your name and address as shown on the mailing label or return with a copy of your mailing label. Note corrections.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email address: _____

Corrections or comments: _____

eCycling:

Catches On In Member Jurisdictions

Baltimore County's first eCycling event, held in April, yielded more than 36,000 pounds of unwanted electronics. County residents cleaned out basements and garages to find nearly 450 computer monitors, more than 300 computer towers, 190 televisions, and nearly 200 VCR's and stereos. The Baltimore County Bureau of Solid Waste Management conducted the event in partnership with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

In an effort to encourage home composting of yard waste, the bureau also held a compost bin sale in June. County residents purchased 1,386 home composting bins for \$25 each. Since beginning the event seven years ago, the county has sold more than 6,500 compost bins to residents.


Last year, the county collected 35 million pounds of yard waste, which was composted and mulched. Home composting reduces collection and processing costs while providing a beneficial product.

Harford County's Office of Recycling also helped promote the composting event (For news on Harford County's eCycling event, see Winter 2002 issue of

WasteWatch). For more information on backyard composting or on the county's compost bin offer, call Clyde Trombetti at 410-887-3188.

In June, Anne Arundel County also held its first eCycling event and collected nearly 37,500 pounds of electronic equipment. More than 650 county residents participated in the event. All materials collected will be recycled, reused or refurbished and donated to a local charity.

"More than 150 million personal computers will be buried in landfills in the United States by 2005. CRTs (computer monitors) contain lead and mercury and could pose a threat to our environment. By diverting potentially harmful materials from the landfill, we reduce the amount of toxins entering the waste stream and preserve our natural resources. I was pleased to have so many residents respond to the importance of keeping electronics out of our waste stream," said James Pittman, deputy director of Waste Management Services for Anne Arundel County.

For more information on Anne Arundel County's programs visit www.aadpw.org. 



Composting Catches On:

Last Year, Baltimore County collected 35 million pounds of yard waste, which was composted and mulched

Successful eCycling Events!

Congratulations to Harford, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties for collecting more used electronic equipment than any other county in the state at eCycling events! Here's the tally:

- ▶ Harford County collected a total of 40,489 pounds of electronics from 1000 residents in two eCycling events
- ▶ Anne Arundel County collected a total of 37,440 pounds of electronics from more than 650 residents in one eCycling event.
- ▶ Baltimore County collected a total of 36,324 pounds of electronics from 450 residents in one eCycling event.



Anne Arundel County residents drop off unwanted electronics at the county's first eCycling event.

It is a measure of success, a friend once told me, when half-truths and lies become your opponent's weapon against you. It is a sign that the truth is in your favor.

The waste-to-energy (WTE) industry is a case in point. In recent months, opponents of the technology have renewed their fight against WTE. Why? WTE's ability to safely dispose of garbage and generate clean power is getting noticed. Congress is debating an energy policy and many lawmakers support WTE as clean, renewable power. Similarly, state legislatures are looking at ways to encourage WTE.


So why fight it? Competition. When there is a crisis, it is easier to sell a solution. And some, but not all, supporters of recycling or land filling don't want WTE to be any solution at all. Better the trash to pile up and the answer to be theirs alone. These opponents' claims can be effective. Trash is toxic and emissions are high, they say. WTE plants gobble up garbage, they warn, and community-recycling programs are being tossed aside like so much garbage. Horrible things, if only they were true. But they are not.

The fact is, each day more than 100 WTE facilities nationwide convert nearly 100,000 tons of trash into 2,800 megawatts of electricity – enough to keep the lights shining in 2.5 million homes. US plants annually remove for recycling nearly 800,000 tons of ferrous metals on-site. And WTE facilities recycle more than 900,000 tons of glass, metal, plastics, batteries, ash and yard waste each year. More than 300,000 tons of ash is being used annually as an aggregate in material for roads and as landfill cover.

WTE also supports recycling. Communities served by WTE facilities have a recycling rate of

33 percent, as compared with the national average of 28 percent. These power plants are cleaner, more efficient and safer than ever before. New Clean Air Act standards require the most advanced pollution control equipment on all existing facilities. Because WTE uses trash to generate electricity and displaces landfill disposal, the technology prevents the release of 11 million tons of greenhouse gases per year into the atmosphere, the Environmental Protection Agency recently reported. WTE power as an alternative to coal last year prevented the release of 24,000 tons of nitrogen oxides and 2.6 million tons of volatile organic compounds, according to the Energy Department.

WTE is the most efficient method of recovering energy from trash, generating enough power to replace 3 million barrels of oil each year. The plants generate power within a local service area, without the difficulties many sources face in transmission across a state or across state lines. And with availability at greater than 95 percent of rated capacity, America's WTE facilities generate some of the most reliable power in the country. That sounds pretty good, and you may wonder why opponents keep up the attack. I am reminded of another saying my friend often repeated: It is easier to throw grenades than to catch them. This is the reason opponents are effective with their claims. It's hard to see with smoke in your eyes.

Under attack, it might be easy for me to throw a grenade or two. But I wouldn't be truthful if I did. Recycling offers a vital environmental benefit and modern landfills provide safe, reliable essential disposal. We are lucky to have all three options – recycling, waste-to-energy and landfills – at our disposal. And that's no lie. 

A Few Full- Truths About WTE

Reprinted with permission by the article's author Maria Zannes, President of Integrated Waste Services Association (IWSA)


Waste To Energy
W T E

Authority Purchases Harford W-T-E Facility

(continued from page 1)

the United States Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The original steam purchase contract was to expire in 2008 and did not guarantee steam revenues after expiration. Negotiations were successfully concluded in June and an extension to the steam sales contract was signed. The contract, which now extends to 2016, provided for a reduction in the steam price between October 1, 2002 and the original termination date of the contract (2008).

The Army will pay an annual fee for the 450-500 million pounds of steam it utilizes each year and will continue to dispose its waste at the WTE facility. Provisions were made for cost sharing between the Army and the Authority for an upcoming air pollution control retrofit, if construction costs exceed \$5 million. This contract modification benefits the Authority, Harford County and the Army by providing stability in revenues and expenses and allowing for long-term planning.

The Offering Statement, which gives more details of the financing and summary of the various contracts, is posted on the Authority's website www.nmwda.org. 

EPA Study Finds Waste-To-Energy Clean

The EPA recently completed a study that confirms nationwide compliance with Clean Air Act standards has achieved a greater than 90 percent reduction in organic, metal and acid gas emissions from waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities. Industry-wide retrofits are responsible for significant reductions in dioxin, lead, mercury, particulate matter, hydrogen chloride, cadmium, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions.

The EPA's report demonstrates that through the employment of modern pollution controls, electricity generating WTE

plants are one of the cleanest power sources in the country. That is good news for the more than 30 million people who supply waste and consume energy derived from the 66 WTE facilities in the US. The study will appear in Air & Waste Management magazine this summer. A copy of the EPA report also can be obtained from the federal docket, number A-90-45, items VIII-B-11; VIII-B-7; VIII-B-3; VIII-B-8.

For more information on the benefits of WTE read "A Few Full-Truths About WTE" by Maria Zannes, President of Integrated Waste Services Association on page 5.

Waste Converters Scores Excellent Productivity Record

On April 24, 2002 Waste Converters, Inc. of Joppa achieved 365 consecutive workdays, over 80,000 work hours, without a lost time injury.

Waste Converters, Inc. operates the Harford Waste-to-Energy facility. The facility processes more than 120 thousand tons of municipal solid waste generated each year within the county.

Energy is recovered from the waste through a combustion process and is transformed into high-pressure steam. The steam is delivered to the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground and replaces the need to burn millions of gallons of fuel oil each year.

The Waste Converters staff of 43 employees includes 33 Harford County residents.

Waste Converters attributes the success of its safety program to all employees working together as a team and sharing the philosophy that the key to any successful safety program is active participation of all employees.



Northeast
Maryland
Waste
Disposal
Authority

WASTEWATCH

25 S. Charles Street, Suite 2105
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3330
(410) 333-2730 / FAX: (410) 333-2721
E-mail: authority@nmwda.org
Website: www.nmwda.org

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, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Robin B. Davidov

James M. Irvin
Chairman
Howard County

Frederick J. Homan
Treasurer
Baltimore County

MEMBERS Ronald E. Bowen Anne Arundel County

George L. Winfield
Baltimore City

Gary L. Horst
Carroll County

Jerald R. Wheeler
Harford County

Robert C. Merryman
Montgomery County

James W. Peck
Maryland Environmental Service