

In this Issue...

Waste-to-Energy No Longer a Major Source of Mercury Emissions

Studies show that mercury emissions from municipal waste facilities have decreased by more than 90 percent since 1990. **Page 2**

Covanta Files Second Reorganization Plan

Under this new plan, Covanta expects to be out of bankruptcy by spring of this year. **Page 2**

Authority Staff Members Speak to Varied Groups about Authority Programs


Project Analyst Andrew Kays presented a lecture about the Authority's Integrated Solid Waste Management approach to JHU graduate students. Commercial Recycling Specialist Clif Dowling delivered a presentation about the Authority's Maryland Recycles program at a MACREDO conference. **Pages 2 & 3**

Authority Signs Contract with Mirant for Sale of Electricity

The Authority has awarded an 18-month contract to Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, LP to purchase the 55 MW of electricity generated at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility. This represents the amount of electricity needed by 25,000 homes. With assistance from South River Consulting, LLC in Baltimore, the Authority conducted a two-step competitive bidding process. In step one, interested bidders were given the historical performance data and contract terms. In step two, bidders simultaneously submitted pricing offers. Under the previous contract, Mirant had the right to match the highest bid obtained by the Authority. This right of first refusal will not apply to subsequent bids.

This new contract will generate more than \$20 million in revenue for Montgomery County.


Mirant, under the terms of its contract, was allowed four hours after the bids were received to match the highest offer, which it did. This new contract will generate more than \$20 million in revenue for Montgomery County.

The Authority has further increased revenues by marketing the renewable energy credits (REC's) that are attached to electricity generated from renewable fuels. REC's for the Montgomery facility account for an additional \$800,000. The Authority will continue to pursue the renewable energy market in future bid solicitations and anticipates that the prices for these credits will continue to rise. 

Authority Members Join Together To Contract for Landfill Photogrammetry Services

The Authority has awarded a contract for landfill aerial surveying and volumetric analysis to Virginia Resource Mapping. Last year, the solid waste managers of the Authority's member jurisdictions requested that the Authority study the cost savings potential of securing a single contractor to conduct these landfill services for the entire region. The Authority reviewed specifications from each jurisdiction and issued a procurement. A contract was awarded after a detailed analysis of the proposals. At this time three jurisdictions




(Harford, Carroll and Baltimore City) have chosen to utilize this service and all three expect to save time and money. 




Traci Baker, Assistant Staff Accountant

Traci Baker Joins Authority Staff

The Authority recently appointed Traci Baker as an assistant staff accountant. Ms. Baker began her accounting career as a staff accountant for the Norfield Corporation in Danbury, Connecticut. After moving to Huntington Beach, California, she worked for Pierce Companies and Coca-Cola. Ms. Baker received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Connecticut State University. She currently resides in Ellicott City, Maryland with her husband and daughter. Ms. Baker also volunteers as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's troop and enjoys sailing on the Magothy River with her family. 

Authority Staff Member was Guest Lecturer at JHU Graduate Program

Authority Project Analyst Andrew Kays presented a seminar titled "Integrated Solid Waste Management: Reduce, Reuse, Compost, Combust and Landfill," as part of a fall seminar series at The Johns Hopkins University. The seminar for graduate students and faculty in the Department of Geology and Environmental Engineering focused on waste management in the Baltimore region. The presentation highlighted integrated solid waste management in Harford and Montgomery Counties, two of the Authority's member jurisdictions. Both counties emphasize waste reduction and the recycling of paper, containers and yard waste as the first steps in waste management. Paper and containers are recovered

and sold to regional recyclers, while yard waste is composted and made available to the public. Waste from each county is processed through local resource recovery facilities (RRF), where electricity (Montgomery) and steam (Harford) are generated for sale. Further recycling is achieved through the extraction of metals from the residual ash produced at the RRF's (Montgomery and Harford), and the ash itself is used as an alternative daily cover at landfill sites (Harford). The remaining small amount of non-processable waste is landfilled. For more information on applied integrated solid waste management and Authority projects, please contact Andrew Kays at 410-333-2730 or akays@nmwda.org. 


Covanta Files Second Reorganization Plan

Expected to be out of Bankruptcy Spring, 2004

Covanta filed a second joint plan and disclosure statement in December and expects to be out of bankruptcy in April 2004. Under this plan, Danielson Holding Corporation (DHC), a publicly held corporation, will purchase 100 percent of the equity in Reorganized Covanta for \$30 million.

According to Covanta CEO, Tony Orlando, the benefits of the purchase are: an injection of new funds, the partial de-leveraging of the debtor's obligations and a potential increase in the debtor's post confirmation cash flow as a result of Reorganized Covanta's reduced tax obligation.

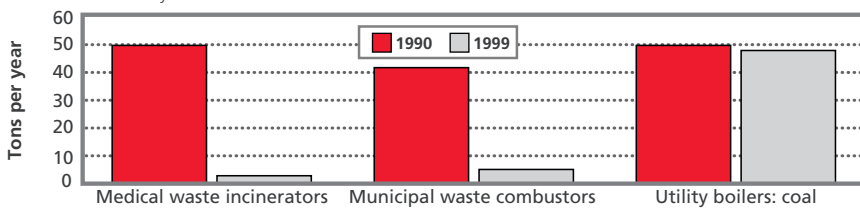
Mr. Orlando reports that the waste-to-energy projects' operating performance through November 2003 is on track to surpass last year's production levels. As of November 30, the waste-to-energy projects had processed more than 9.5 million tons of waste and had sold over 4,490 GWh of electricity. This production level represents a waste processing performance of 165,000 tons more than last year's production level for the same period.

A full text copy of Covanta et al's Second Reorganization Plan is available for free at: http://bankrupt.com/misc/Covanta_2nd_Joint_Plan_of_Reorganization.pdf 

Environmental Defense Report Finds W-T-E Facilities Are

Mercury releases from major sectors in the United States

Emissions of mercury from electric utilities have remained static while other major sources of mercury have declined. Since 1990, national regulations have compelled municipal and medical waste incinerators to reduce emissions by over 90%.



Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Technology Transfer Network (TTN), Clearinghouse for Inventories and Emissions Factors. www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/

In the recently released Environmental Defense report titled, "Out of Control and Close to Home," author Michael Shore reports that mercury released from electric utility plants have remained static while other major sources of mercury, including waste-to-energy facilities, have declined. "National policies have been successful at reducing mercury emissions from medical waste incinerators and municipal waste incinerators by over 90 percent since 1990," according to Shore (see graph).


Catonsville Community College Renews Recycling Program

Officials at the Catonsville Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) held a ceremony in November to dedicate their new and improved recycling program. Although the campus has had a recycling program for many years, participation had declined sharply and the program was in danger of disappearing. School officials asked the Authority's Commercial Recycling Specialist Clif Dowling to join a committee charged with re-energizing the recycling program. The committee reviewed the school's waste disposal and recycling programs and made recommendations to the administration for improving both.

Mr. Dowling arranged for a group from the college to visit the University of Maryland at

Baltimore to learn about the exceptionally successful recycling program on that campus. Mr. Vassie Hollamon, manager of the University's Division of General Services, conducted a tour of the recycling program. He provided valuable insight into organizing a successful college recycling effort.

CCBC has contracted with Vangel Paper, Inc. of Baltimore to provide pick-up service for recyclable paper and cardboard at all three of their campuses — Catonsville, Essex and Dundalk.


Speakers at the kickoff ceremony for the new recycling program included Dr. Irving McPhail, chancellor of CCBC; Dr. Andrew C. Jones, president, CCBC-Catonsville, and Mr. Gerry Kramer, senior director of facilities management, CCBC. 

Staples Launches Computer Take-Back Pilot Program

Staples Inc. is spearheading a computer take-back pilot program that calls for electronics makers to pay for the recycling of their own name-brand products and could lead to a nationwide system to handle scrap electronics.

Staples will handle the collection of end-of-life electronics at 26 of its retail stores in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The Product Stewardship Institute in Lowell, Massachusetts, will gather information to study the feasibility of using reverse distribution to ship recovered material to electronics recyclers.


Staples plans to start the program in the spring and expects its duration to be about four to six weeks. The Product Stewardship Institute plans to complete its evaluation of the program by the end of September.

The partnership is part of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Plug Into Recycling" campaign to promote electronics recycling. 

Authority's Recycling Specialist Speaks to MACREDO


Clif Dowling, the Authority's commercial recycling specialist, delivered a presentation on the Authority's Maryland Recycles program (see our website: www.mdrecycles.org) to the Mid-Atlantic Consortium of Recycling and Economic Development Officials (MACREDO), at a meeting in Gettysburg, November 7. He explained how the program helps businesses and organizations establish or expand recycling programs by analyzing the operations and making recommendations to improve recycling rates and lower overall waste disposal costs. Maryland Recycles was started in 1998 as a pilot program

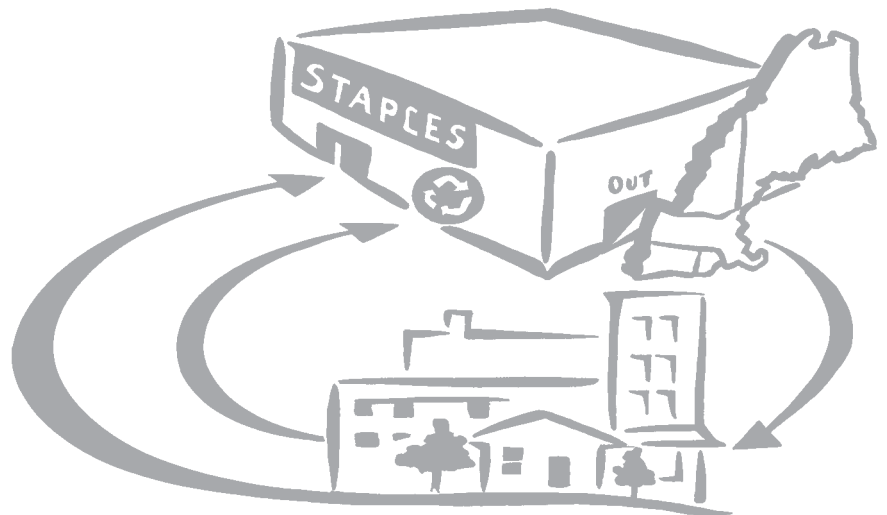
under the auspices of a one-year grant from the EPA Region III. The Authority has continued the program, successfully assisting member jurisdictions to increase their commercial recycling rates.

MACREDO is an organization of recycling and economic development interests representing the states and jurisdictions included in the EPA Region III (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia). The organization's mission is to identify, promote and implement projects and programs that enhance regional recycling and economic development opportunities. 

Not A Major Source Of Mercury

Waste-to-energy facilities have installed carbon absorption equipment to trap mercury before it is emitted into the air. At the same time, mercury pollution from electric utility facilities is predicted to increase along with increased demand for electricity.

This study marks a significant departure for environmental groups like Environmental Defense who, in the past, have criticized waste-to-energy facilities. 



Office Depot Issues Catalog of Environmentally Preferable Products

Office Depot Inc., a retailer of office products, is introducing a unique catalog consisting entirely of environmentally preferable products. The publication, titled *The Green Book*, is printed on chlorine-free, 100 percent post-consumer recycled-content paper. It is available to business customers and contains more than 1,000 products. Office Depot operates more than 870 retail stores in addition to a national business delivery network.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Maryland Recyclers Coalition 2004 Conference

The Maryland Recyclers Coalition (MRC) 16th Annual Conference will be held at the Catonsville campus of the Community College of Baltimore County, May 26 – 28. Directions to the Catonsville campus and a campus map are available from the school's website at www.ccbc.cc.md.us/campuses.

Check the Maryland Recyclers Coalition website at www.marylandrecyclers.org for additional conference information, which will be posted as it becomes available. MRC membership information is also available on the website or you can call the MRC office at (443) 640-1050 or e-mail them at: Info@marylandrecyclers.org



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