

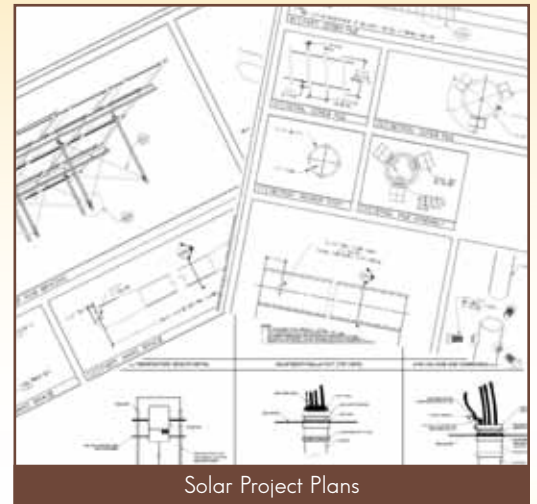


FREDERICK SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE: A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Nearly a year ago in December 2018, Frederick County broke ground for the 1.3 MW (DC) solar array adjacent to the Ballenger-McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant. At the same time, Ameresco, the selected engineering, procurement and construction firm, began the final design and permitting work. During the next eight months, the Authority worked with Ameresco to complete certain design components and file the requisite building, electrical, planning and interconnection submittals. Throughout this process,

the Authority's architect and engineering firm, EA Engineering, provided design review and submittal approvals using the design specifications. Frederick County staff members assisted in providing Ameresco with the information needed to complete the design and to obtain certain permit approvals. The Authority provided updates to the Maryland Department of the Environment as the project progressed through permitting.

In late August, the final local permits were granted and construction began with materials arriving at the site



Solar Project Plans



Material Staging Area

through early September. Site survey work took place first in order to layout the location for various components of the array (the racking locations, security fence, inverter posts and the transformer pad). Coordination with the County continued as field verification of the planned improvements was made to facilitate the staging of materials even down to the level of mowing prior to the survey.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE & MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONTINUE TO UPDATE LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MASTER PLANS ON WEBSITES

City of Baltimore

Complete updates on the Baltimore City long-term solid waste and recycling master planning effort, titled “Less Waste, Better Baltimore: Rethinking Our Waste Management Future,” can be found on the City’s website at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Less-Waste-Better-Baltimore>.

Highlights From Consultant’s Report for Baltimore City

Additional community meetings were held in June and Geosyntec has provided a report to document them. In these meetings, the study team provided an update on current research into improving solid waste diversion. Attendees posed questions and made suggestions regarding the master planning effort.

Geosyntec also has provided a comprehensive report on the City’s existing waste and recycling streams, as well as the current systems for processing and managing them.

Additionally, a second waste and recycling sort occurred over a three-week period in June and provided reliable and up-to-date data on the waste and recycling characteristics and quantities generated in the City. The waste sort evaluated components of the City’s existing solid waste management system, focusing on curbside waste collection,

commercial waste collection, and curbside single-stream recycling.

Lastly, Geosyntec completed a benchmarking report. This study compares the performance of the City’s current solid waste management systems and services with those in five other U.S. jurisdictions that have either enacted, or are in the process of enacting, meaningful improvements to their waste disposal and recycling rates. The City’s master planning effort can learn from the experiences in these other jurisdictions, which are:

- Austin, TX
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, SC
- Charlotte, NC
- Portland, OR

Areas of comparison included waste collection services, waste management infrastructure and facilities, waste management financials, quantities of waste managed, recycling rates, and waste-related initiatives and regulations. In addition to identifying lessons learned in each of these areas, the study includes a selection of physical infrastructure, policy and regulatory, programmatic, and economic best practices that the City may consider as part of making improvements to its current waste diversion and recycling rates.



The City also is currently reviewing a draft report submitted by Geosyntec, detailing improvements to the current diversion and recycling system in order to decrease material flow into the disposal sector. These findings will be posted on the “Less Waste, Better Baltimore” website once finalized.

Looking ahead, Geosyntec will be providing reports focused on:

- 1.) Developing options for “what’s left” to address long-term strategies to handle the material that is not captured in the diversion and recycling systems.
- 2.) A final master plan that incorporates the previous mentioned reports for presentation to the Mayor, City Council and the public.

Montgomery County

Updates on the Montgomery County long-term solid waste and recycling master planning effort, titled “Aiming for Zero Waste: A Vision for Sustainable Materials Management in Montgomery County,” can be found on the County’s website at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/master-plan.html>.



Less Waste, Better Baltimore
Rethinking our waste management future



Aiming for Zero Waste
A Vision for Sustainable Materials Management in Montgomery County

LATEST SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING ON TARGET

The Authority's most recent Social Media Training Workshop on Public Education and Behavior Change for government professionals was held in November. By all accounts, it was one of the Authority's most successful and productive social media training session yet.

According to Susan E. Casey, with the Maryland Department of the Environment, "I wish my colleagues had been there with me! It was a terrific workshop! All the speakers really were great!" The session was attended by 20 professionals from city, county and state agencies and was conducted by Pinnacle Communications Resource Company. It took place at Local Government Insurance Trust in Hanover, Maryland.

Tracey Haldeman, president of Pinnacle, coordinated and led the program. She discussed best use and best practices of Hootsuite, a social media platform, by walking the group through important features within the program. This included how to schedule and publish posts, how to create and manage content streams and even how to track content with UTM codes directly in Hootsuite. Natalie Adachi, outreach and education coordinator for Pinnacle, led a tutorial and workshop on how to use Canva, a graphic design website and app, and

Participant's created these products using Canva during training.



discussed Boomerang and Hyperlapse, two useful video apps. Attendees left the training with greater knowledge of how they might use these apps to create engaging social media posts with graphics.

Case studies were presented by Joseph Porcelli, public agency lead and ambassador of community for Nextdoor, and Kristin Lagana, program specialist, Anne Arundel County Recycling and Waste Reduction Division.

Some key advice takeaways from the workshop included:

- Canva is an easy way to create professional looking graphics for social media.

- Boomerang and Hyperlapse are two video apps that allow you to create short, dynamic content for social media.
- Hootsuite allows you to do more than just schedule social media; it has a wide variety of features that let you manage multiple social media accounts within one dashboard. Streams in Hootsuite can be used to curate content and do light social listening. And, UTM codes can be used to track the effectiveness of different social media posts within the same platform.
- The social media platform Nextdoor can be used to reach highly targeted audiences and communities, to reach larger audiences than traditional social media platforms and supports a multitude of features, such as polls.
- When engaging with constituents on social media, it is important to be kind, to be prompt, to be relatable and to listen.

Note: There are free versions for all of the social media platforms in this article.



WHEELABRATOR BALTIMORE RECOGNIZES AREA SANITATION WORKERS



Wheelabrator Baltimore, which converts everyday residential and commercial waste into clean, renewable

energy, hosted a Sanitation Worker Appreciation Day on November 12 to recognize the work these individuals perform to enhance communities throughout the region. Company representatives hosted 300 sanitation workers on-site at Wheelabrator Baltimore, providing each with lunch, safety vests, t-shirts, utility tools and a reusable lunch bag.

“It is a privilege to work each day with people who are committed to doing the hard work it takes to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe,” said Wheelabrator Market Manager Mike Dougherty. “Today’s event is a token of appreciation for the hundreds of area sanitation workers who spend countless hours improving the conditions of the communities in which all of us live, work and play.”

Each day, more than 400 truck drivers deliver up to 2,250 tons of household and business waste to Wheelabrator Baltimore. This diverts the waste from landfills and enables it to be converted into renewable energy capable of powering more than 40,000 Maryland homes, and clean steam, which is delivered to 225 Baltimore businesses.

“It can be easy to take for granted the important benefits sanitation workers provide for all of us,” Dougherty said. “By removing everyday waste from our communities, these individuals not only enhance the appearance of our neighborhoods but also promote public health and safety. There is no question that cleaner streets are safer streets.”

Recognizing the efforts of regional sanitation workers is consistent with Wheelabrator Baltimore’s *We Can Bmore* campaign (<http://wecanbmore.org>). *We Can Bmore* is a multi-year public awareness and engagement initiative that invests in waste-reduction efforts



and the individuals, organizations and institutions that support this important work in Baltimore City.

We Can Bmore partners with community leaders to conduct twice-weekly community cleanup projects in neighborhoods across the city. Through the program, Wheelabrator Baltimore also provides recycling education and free recycling bins to residents as part of a concerted effort to increase Baltimore’s recycling rate.



Wheelabrator Baltimore staff show gratitude to Baltimore Sanitation workers on a cold, rainy day with a warm lunch and notes of thanks from children who attend a local Recreation Center.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS . . . COMING SOON!

Textile Collection and Reuse/ Recycling Services:

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) and/or Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Member Jurisdictions including Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County

Building Material/Houseware Collection and Reuse/ Recycling Services:

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) and/or Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Member Jurisdictions including Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County

Aerial Services:

Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Member Jurisdictions including Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County

RECENT CONTRACT AWARDED . . .

Electronics Collection and Recycling

On October 1, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority's Board awarded a Master Service Agreement for electronics collection and recycling services to eRevival LLC, on behalf of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Carroll County for a term extending from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The related RFP was issued on

May 31, 2019. eRevival is currently servicing Howard County and Baltimore City through previously awarded Master Service Agreements for electronics collection and recycling services with the Authority. eRevival holds R2, OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 certifications as well as a Certificate of Good Standing within the state of Maryland.



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Next, the open field, south-west of the Ballenger-McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant, started to be transformed. The racking system, a post-based system rather than a pile driven system, required some pre-drilling in the field. Drilling for the racks was started soon after mobilization and the racking assembly began as drilling was being completed. As the racks were

being assembled, array assembly team members also started to install the 3,528 photovoltaic (PV) modules.

EA Engineering is under contract for the construction inspection activities in support of the larger project, making sure that the County's interests are protected both in regard to the array and the existing infrastructure. There has



Racking View



Aerial View (Courtesy of Ameresco)

been close coordination with Ameresco for the verification of the existing utilities and site operation restrictions.

The current planned completion is in mid-December of 2019. At that time, this process will result in a project that meets PV installation in just over a year from contract execution!

(Please see the [Fall 2018](#) and [Winter 2019](#) editions of WasteWatch for additional project details.)



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