

VOLUME 28. ISSUE 4 **SUMMER 2017** 

# ASTEWATCH building a greener future



# SAVE THE DATE

#### WASTECON® TO BE HELD IN BALTIMORE

#### ISWA World Congress / SWANA WASTECON

September 25-27, 2017 - in Baltimore, MD The North American Solid Waste Association's WASTECON conference will be presented concurrently with the International Solid Waste Association's World Congress this September. The event, titled *No Time to Waste*, takes place September 25 – 27 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

In addition to a broad and deep set of technical sessions, attendees will have the opportunity to register for mobile sessions, which are half-day or full-day tours throughout the region. Featured sites include Anne Arundel County Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility; Baltimore City Marine Litter Prevention; Baltimore City Quarantine Road Landfill; Baltimore County Central Acceptance Facility and Eastern Sanitary Landfill; and the Montgomery County Transfer Station, MRF and Resource Recovery Facility, in addition to others.

Please go to:

https://swana.org/Events/WASTECON/Tours.aspx to see the full listing of tour opportunities.

## **AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER** RUDOLPH CHOW NAMED CIVIL ENGINEER **OF THE YEAR**

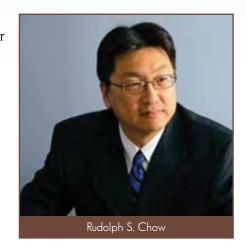
udolph S. Chow, PE, Authority Board Member and Director of the **Baltimore City** Department of Public Works (DPW), has been named Civil Engineer of the Year by the American

The ASCE award recognizes that Director Chow's "sustained and unusual efforts have enhanced the advancement of the civil engineering profession and provided a service to mankind during calendar year 2016."

Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Maryland Section.

During his tenure with the DPW, Director Chow has made great strides in many areas, including implementation of a state-of-the-art water billing system with new automated meters. In addition, he launched a mentoring program designed to encourage young adults to pursue careers in the water industry. Under the Director's leadership, DPW has been recognized as a Utility of the Future Today, a recognition program that celebrates



the progress and exceptional performance of the nation's wastewater utilities.

Director Chow is a registered Professional Engineer in Maryland and Delaware with more than 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. He is an active member of ASCE, American Water Works Association (AWWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), Water Research Foundation (WRF), National Association of Clean Water Agencies

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Montgomery County Transfer Station Earns VPP Star Recognition

Authority Visits Electronics Recycling Sites

SWANA and CRRA Development Zero Waste Course



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY TRANSFER STATION EARNS VPP STAR RECOGNITION

he Montgomery County Transfer Station, located in Derwood, MD, has been designated as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star worksite for 2016. The Award was presented at a ceremony held at the facility on May 24. County, State, Authority and Covanta employees and guests were on hand for the presentation and raising of the VPP Star flag signifying the facility's status. Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) Kelly Schulz presented the award to Facility Manager James Belden. In addition to the Secretary, Deputy Commissioner Steven Lakin and William Dallas from DLLR attended the ceremony.

The Transfer Station is owned by Montgomery County and operated by Covanta Montgomery, a subsidiary



Rooftop solar panels help to offset electricity needs of the Transfer Station

of Covanta Energy, Inc. under an Agreement with the Authority. Covanta has operated the Transfer Station since 1993 and has 62 employees. The Facility processes approximately 2,400 tons of solid waste per day.

Employees of the Covanta Montgomery Transfer Station worked for nearly five years in voluntary cooperation with Maryland Occupational Safety & Health (MOSH) to provide the safest possible environment for its workers. To earn this coveted VPP Star status, a facility and its employees must meet a set of stringent criteria and undergo a rigorous evaluation from MOSH safety and health experts. Covanta thanks MOSH for its work during this time and MOSH officials Allen Stump and Susan Catts attended the ceremony to help celebrate the successful conclusion of this cooperative effort.

Covanta earned this recognition for the Montgomery County Transfer Station first in 2011 and now for a second time in 2016. They also earned the same recognition for the County's Resource Recovery Facility, located in Dickerson, MD in 2006, 2010, and 2015.

The Authority congratulates Covanta on achieving this important recognition!

## **MRN CONFERENCE — RE-THINKING RECYCLING**

he Fourth R: Re-Think was the title of the 2017 Maryland Recycling Network's Annual Conference held in Ellicott City, MD on June 12, 2017. Conference attendees were challenged to assess whether current metrics are measuring materials appropriately and accurately in the State, and whether these methods are using resources in an efficient manner. Individual panel discussions addressed improving ways to measure recycled, diverted and disposed materials, such as utilizing diversion rates or per capita disposal and generation rates, or total lifecycle emissions rates.

The conference centered on re-imagining the current metric application and

focused on expanding recycling and reduction programs instead of spending resources on tonnage counts. Select speakers discussed the need to improve the relationship between jurisdictions that are responsible for reporting and haulers and waste facilities that generate the tonnage reports. In other sessions, speakers addressed traditional methods of advertising and the need to encourage more public participation. It was acknowledged that the future of waste communications will depend more on utilizing all platforms of social media to better connect with departments and communities. Non-standard methods should be embraced, such as using humor or attention grabbing live video and day-to-day online posts to further engage citizens. Humanizing these

messages and making them relatable has translated into effective programs in other communities.

Other topics included an update on the commodities markets and best practices for generating the most revenue from materials. Coordinators and vendors discussed how to better predict and cope with the changing material stream and recycling outlets. Productive partnerships between public and private sectors were also discussed. Working together, rather than alone, will expand contracting opportunities. Recycling coordinators and recyclers also discussed unique programs and steps taken to enhance their recycling outreach and how to handle unexpected situations.

## **AUTHORITY VISITS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SITES**

n May, the Authority participated in site visits to the electronics recycling vendors that have been awarded contracts under the Authority's Master Service Agreements.

#### SourceAmerica

The first site visit was to CyclePoint, SourceAmerica's main processing facility in Virginia Beach, VA on May 15. Representatives from Carroll and Baltimore counties joined the Authority for a tour of the 120,000 square foot material aggregation center, where material is received and sorted into categories required for reporting and invoicing to customers. CyclePoint from Source America recycles a wide variety of consumer electronics and business eWaste. Operations at the



site visited include manually de-manufacturing PC's, servers, CRT devices and other electronic assets and refurbishing equipment in compliance with the most stringent electronics standards. In addition, this facility bales the plastics generated.

SourceAmerica is a national nonprofit organization that for more than 40 years has provided employment opportunities to more than 43,000 people with significant disabilities, including 2,000 Veterans and Wounded



Warriors. Through its CyclePoint program, SourceAmerica provides a national network of nonprofit R2/RIOS-certified electronic recyclers.

#### Vintage Tech, LLC

Representatives from the Authority and Carroll County visited Vintage Tech's new Processing and Transfer Facility in Langhorne, PA on May 31. The facility receives and sorts material into categories required for reporting and invoicing and sends materials for further processing, if necessary, to its main state-of-the-art processing facility in Illinois. Vintage Tech has the capacity to process 5.6 million pounds of electronic material a month and 20,000 pounds an hour with its equipment.

The combined facilities are capable of processing 5,000 CRT units a day and 11 million pounds of CRT material a month. Vintage Tech has more than a decade of experience managing collection sites from the Midwest to the East Coast and is owned by the international metal recycler Kuusakoski Recycling, which was founded in 1914.





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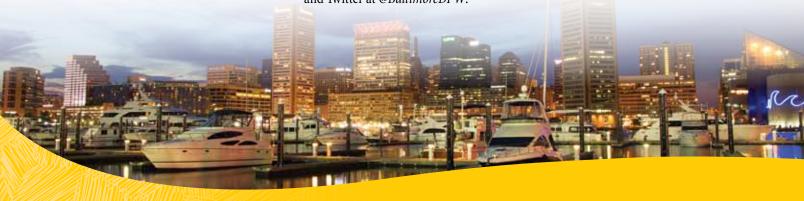
(NACWA), Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), American Public Works Association (APWA), and Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). He also serves on a number of boards and committees.

The American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 150,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 177 countries. Founded in 1852, ASCE is the nation's oldest engineering society with 75 sections including Maryland.

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works supports the health, environment, and economy of the City and region by cleaning neighborhoods and waterways and providing its customers with safe drinking water and sustainable energy practices.

For additional information visit: publicworks.baltimorecity.gov; Facebook and Nextdoor at Baltimore City Department of Public Works; and Twitter at @BaltimoreDPW.

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### **SWANA AND CRRA DEVELOP ZERO WASTE COURSE**

Authority Staffer, Andrew Kays - Review Team Member and To Be An Instructor

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) have been developing a Zero Waste Principles & Practices Course over the last two years. Kessler Consulting Inc. was selected to write the course, with the input/direction of the CRRA and SWANA. This course will be added to the suite of certification courses offered by SWANA. In early July 2017 SWANA and CRRA completed the train-the-trainers and first level beta testing for the course. The Zero Waste Principles & Practices course will have a first public offering at the CRRA annual conference August 19-23, 2017 in San Diego, California. SWANA International is planning to offer its first course later

this fall in Silver Spring MD. This certification is an advanced overview course (combining the components of various programs into a one stop shop) of zero waste principles and is meant to equip the local solid waste/recycling/diversion manager with the tools to start moving the zero waste discussion forward. The overall tone of the certification is that the road to zero waste is one of local design.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter has two trainers with this certification – Robin Ennis from Montgomery County and Authority Deputy Director Andrew Kays. SWANA is planning to hold its first zero waste certification in the Fall.





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