CHRISTOPHER J. PHIPPS APPOINTED TO AUTHORITY BOARD

Christopher J. Phipps, Director of the Department of Public Works for Anne Arundel County has been appointed to serve on the Authority’s Board of Directors. In his position with the County, Mr. Phipps is responsible for highways, water and wastewater and solid waste management operations, and implementation of the County’s Capital Improvement Program. He has been in this position since August 2013. Prior to his appointment as director, Mr. Phipps served for 18 years as an engineer for the County’s Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Engineering, including 11 years as Deputy Director. In that role, he was responsible for many of the County’s $2.9 billion Capital Improvement Program projects, including water and wastewater infrastructure; roads and bridges; County facilities, including new fire stations, police stations and libraries; park facilities; environmental restoration projects, and waterway dredging. Mr. Phipps also led the Bureau in conducting hydraulic modeling and watershed analysis modeling in support of the County’s long-term water and sewer master plans, watershed plans, geographic information systems and surveying. Mr. Phipps received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Maryland. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation. We welcome Mr. Phipps and look forward working with him.
Montgomery County RRF to Receive EPA Excellence Award
First Use of LN Technology to Reduce NOx Emissions by Half

The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (MCRRF) will receive a prestigious 2014 EPA Clean Air Technology Award for its upgrade to the Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) for Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emission control called "Low NOx" or LN™. The system redirects a portion of the secondary, or over-fire, air to a higher elevation in the furnace. This allows for completion of the combustion process while minimizing NOx formation through temperature control.

The facility, owned by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority on behalf of Montgomery County and operated by Covanta Montgomery, Inc, will be presented with the award at the Clean Air Excellence Awards Ceremony, April 2 in Arlington, VA.

The upgrade, funded by Montgomery County and approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment, was voluntarily implemented by the facility in 2009. LN technology was developed by Covanta to retrofit existing waste-to-energy facilities. This new technology employs a process that redistributes combustion air leading to better fuel-air mixing.

The MCRRF is the first publicly owned waste-to-energy facility to install and use the LN design. Its performance has now demonstrated the promise of LN technology to reduce NOx emissions by approximately 50 percent from pre-installation levels. This reduction is equivalent to 400-500 tons-per-year, or the removal of roughly 50,000 passenger cars from the road.

The result has been a win-win for the local environment, reducing NOx emissions in the region.
SKAGGS APPOINTED TO HOWARD COUNTY FOOD TASK FORCE

Accessibility, Sustainability, Health and Well-Being are Top Goals

Christopher Skaggs, executive director of the Authority, has been named to Howard County’s recently created Food Policy Task Force. He is one of 24 community leaders, who will advise the County administration on overall food policy, and work to develop a Food Hub facility intended to collect, store and process locally produced healthy foods. The task force encompasses a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, including farmers, restaurant owners, food sales and distribution officials, health officials, economic development specialists and sustainability advocates.

Howard County’s Food Policy Director Kelly Dudeck will guide the task force, which will meet and work for a year to produce a summary report. The objective of the initiative is to make healthy, local food more widely available to all Howard County residents, regardless of location and income.

To accomplish this goal, the County has charged the task force with offering advice on how to establish and implement the following projects:

**Food Hub** –
The centerpiece of this initiative, the Food Hub will be used to collect, store and distribute locally produced foods.

**Incubator Kitchen** –
This would be installed in the Food Hub as a commercial grade community kitchen for local small food businesses.

**Mobile Market** –
The Mobile Market would be a farmer’s market on wheels that would make fresh fruits and vegetables more widely available at a reasonable cost.

The task force also will look closely at measures to ensure that the Food Hub and Mobile Market be both economically and environmentally sustainable. Chris will lend the expertise and experience of the Authority staff with a focus on maximizing the productive use of non-consumable food scraps from both the Food Hub and Mobile Market.

An overarching theme for the project is to create county-wide awareness of the role fresh local food plays in the health and well-being of county residents. The Food Policy Task Force and the Food Hub is a joint partnership between Howard County and the Horizon Foundation.

**By the Numbers:**
Ten million tons of waste processed at the Montgomery County RRF has resulted in:

- 5.7 billion kilowatt hours of renewable energy in the form of electricity, enough to power all of the County’s single-family homes for two years
- 10 million tons of greenhouse gases have been offset, the equivalent of taking two million cars off the road
- 260 thousand tons of metal have been recycled, enough steel to replace more than 1,100 miles of railroad track running from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans.

The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility is owned by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority and is operated by Covanta Montgomery, Inc.

*See related article on page 2.*
The many new and existing uses for landfill gas were the hot topics at the Environmental Protection Agency’s 17th Annual Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) Conference in Baltimore, January 22 and 23.

Day one presentations on some of the latest projects included two examples of landfill gas utilization. The first was a BMW assembly plant that is using landfill gas converted to hydrogen and the second was the City of Chambersburg’s efforts to power an entire community solely on energy produced by landfill gas.

It was pointed out that a decrease in electricity prices has prompted the industry to look for more landfill gas applications. As a result, there has been a resurgence in projects converting landfill gas to compressed natural gas and landfill gas to pipelines.

High Siloxane concentrations in the gas will change maintenance intervals and the economics of a project if it is not identified and addressed properly.

A series of presentations about international landfill gas projects and some encouraging words to continue innovating concluded the two-day conference.

Information on the EPA’s LMOP program and presentations from this and previous conferences, will be available at www.epa.gov/lmop/workshops/index.html.