



MDRECYCLES DIRECTORY EXPANSION HAS LAUNCHED

With the help of YSEALI FELLOW Weilin Koh



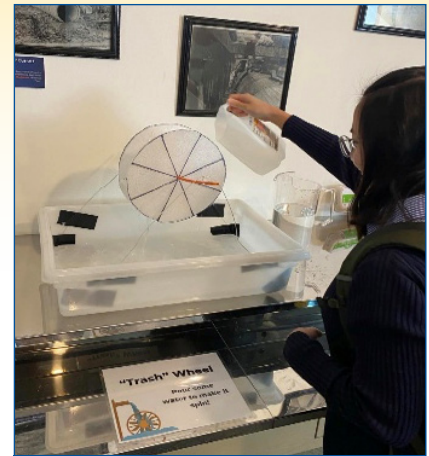
As a follow-up to the WasteWatch Summer 2024 Newsletter, the Authority's [Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellowship Program \(YSEALI PFP\)](#) Spring 2024 Fellow, Weilin Koh, completed her primary project by assisting the Authority with a comprehensive update to the [MDrecycles.org](#) Recycling and Donation Directories. She also researched and compiled information for two brand new Directories, the Refill/Return Directory and the Repair/Rental Directory.

The Refill/Return Directory lists and promotes food and personal care product companies and retailers that offer products that use and/or allow package free/refillable/returnable or reusable packaging available for Maryland customers in stores and online.

The Repair/Rental Directory lists and promotes fix-it and repair clinics, outlets or businesses, as well as tool libraries or equipment and other rental entities that operate in or near Maryland and are available to customers online.

Please share if you know of additional information to be added to the new directories, as we are still actively growing them!

As part of Ms. Koh's time at the Authority, she explored various circular economy practices in the U.S. including reuse, repair, and borrowing systems. Ms. Koh attended site visits, events and meetings related to existing projects managed by Authority staff, to further bolster her education of American environmental management. Ms. Koh was able to shadow the day-to-day of typical Authority staff projects over a month's period.



Weilin Koh testing the Trash Wheel model at the Public Works Museum Annual Celebration and Big Truck Day Event



Weilin Koh and the Authority's Project Manager Kitty McIlroy tour the Harford County Closed Landfill Site Visit (as part of an Authority renewable energy procurement)

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GCI RESIDENTIAL, INC. AWARDED NEW BALTIMORE COUNTY BULK MATERIAL COLLECTION SERVICE CONTRACT

The Authority issued a Request for Proposals to procure Service Area Bulk Material Collection and Special Collection Services in May 2024 on behalf of Baltimore County. This Bulk Material Collection Service was originally identified in the Authority managed Baltimore County 2021 Solid Waste Work Group [report](#), as a recommended program to implement Countywide. Thus, securing a long-term Bulk Material Collection Service (with options to divert/recycle) fulfills a key recommendation of the Solid Waste Work Group, created by former Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski, to enhance resident benefits under the County's recycling and solid waste system and improve Baltimore County's overall environmental footprint by reducing the volume of trash needing disposal. This effort is the continuation of that service to Baltimore County residents.

After reviewing the proposals, the Evaluation Committee determined GCI Residential, Inc. (GCI) to be best qualified overall to provide the services outlined in the RFP, and recommended GCI for the Service Contract. The contract award was approved by the Authority's Board of Directors in their October 2024 meeting. GCI was the incumbent bulk collection service provider for Baltimore County, and is already providing similar services to other jurisdictions in the region. Their proposal offered the best value, by a significant margin to the County, and provides programmatic flexibility for the County to offer multiple Service Area Bulk Material Collections per household per year. GCI will initiate the new contract with two collection runs per residence per year.

Services were initiated on January 1, 2025, under the Authority's Service Contract and extend through June 30, 2030, with a five-year renewal option term, through June 30, 2035. As part

of the new contract, Baltimore County will have the opportunity to phase in increased recycling/diversion of bulk materials, incorporated under the Price Proposal, at no additional cost. GCI's proposal also offered the most cost effective per hour Special Collection Service rate for the County.

GCI will perform the specific unloading of divertible/recyclable materials required at the County's three resident waste diversion drop-off areas. This will provide the County with the option to eventually divert/recycle all the following Acceptable Materials under its Bulk Material Collection Service Contract: electronic materials, single use and/or rechargeable batteries, scrap metal, appliances (including non-CFC based appliances), mattresses, box springs, durable/reusable medical goods, reusable building material/furniture and other household items.



GCI specialty trucks, with compartment near the front of the truck, to provide separate areas to preserve materials from being crushed/contaminated for reuse/recycling

BALTIMORE CITY MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING RECYCLING PROGRAM KICK-OFF AND EXPANSION

In July 2024, Baltimore City [kicked off its mattress and box spring recycling program](#), under the Authority's Master Service Agreement with TurboHaul, by initiating collection at its Quarantine Road Landfill. In January 2025, Baltimore City expanded the program, now offering acceptance of this

material for recycling from its residents at the Northwest Transfer Station, the Sisson Street Residential Recycling Center (Northwest Convenience Center) and the Eastern Sanitation Yard. Addresses and hours of operation can be found [here](#). Mattress and box spring recycling creates local, green collar jobs while diverting their steel, foam, quilted ticking, wood, cotton, fabrics, felt and coconut fiber components away

from the disposal stream. These components can be recycled in the scrap metal sector, recycled into carpet padding and particleboard, or into mulch or animal bedding. Diverting mattresses from disposal also preserves landfill space and processing equipment that can be damaged when compacting these units.



Mattress Collection Container at the Northwest Transfer Station



Mattress Collection Container at Sisson Street

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2025!

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22. Municipal events are listed on municipality websites as a global call to support environmental protection. Member Jurisdictions host a variety of Earth Day activities, which can be found at <http://nmwda.org/earth-day-2025/>.

Earth Day activities take place throughout the month of April. These activities range from

community clean-ups and workshops to sales of rain barrels and even some festivals! You will also find hazardous household waste collection and shredding events happening throughout the region. This list is not exhaustive, nor does the Authority endorse any specific activity. Some events require advance registration, which is noted in the descriptions.



GUDE UPDATES - SPRING 2025

The Gude Remediation project at the closed Gude Landfill in Montgomery County aims to transform the landscape into a community asset for environmental conservation and recreation. As the project unfolds, the Authority remains committed to reporting on the project's progress and use of sustainable remediation practices.

The project had a quiet start to the year in January and February, as the crew mobilized back to the site in March. One of the first tasks undertaken was dewatering the sediment basin, which had accumulated water due to winter

precipitation. With this completed, the team shifted focus to preparing the remaining Phase S-VII area for subgrade construction. In addition to the preparation work, the crew successfully completed the excavation for the liner anchor trench and backfilled the area where the materials storage concrete pad had been removed last year. On the perimeter of the site, the super silt fence along the northwest area was replaced, and the riprap stone was cleaned to maintain proper drainage and site stability. The fencing contractor then completed the installation of the perimeter fencing, along with gates and wooden guardrails, reinforcing the site's security and safety measures.

The crew from the concrete subcontractor made notable progress as well, pouring concrete for the storm drain bottoms and aprons for the box culverts. Work on importing topsoil resumed as available, further advancing the site's preparation for future construction.

Looking ahead, the installation of settlement plates is scheduled to begin in April, marking the next important step in the ongoing remediation efforts. These plates will help the County monitor the settlement of the site over time to mitigate potential damage to the cover. The team is making steady progress, and we will continue to provide updates as the project moves forward.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED MARYLAND RECYCLING REPORTS FOR 2024!

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority thanks these businesses and institutions for submitting their Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) Recycling Reports for 2024. This valuable information is used by the counties as they prepare their annual MRA reporting to the State:

Advance Auto Parts – Micah Thompson
Aldi – Carissa D.
All Shred – Becky Kimble
Clean Harbors – Simantini Chakraborty
Clorox – Lorraine Hannah
Conserveit – Steph Trumpower
Delhaize/Food Lion/Giant - Colleen Kinniburgh
Frito Lay – Tyson Gilbertson
Home Depot – MaKenna Hylleberg
Interstate Batteries – Deb Degasperri
Lowes – Cassie Semonis and Gary Holman

MOPAC – Rachael Reimel
Safeway/Albertsons – Priscilla Raffetto
Soil Safe – Nicholas Bartlinski
Staples – Amanda Paul
Sustana – Scott Hurd
Target – Rebecca Xiong
Trex – Emily Whitacre
Veolia – George Flowers
Walmart – Lizzy Smith
Weis – Derrek Reitz

BALTIMORE CITY SOLID WASTE HUB RECEIVES EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

Through a contract with the Authority, the City of Baltimore has replaced two old and costly waste transfer compactors with two new Marathon Transfer Compactors at the Northwest Transfer Station (NWTS). The two new compactor units supplement a

third transfer compactor replacement performed in August 2024.

The new Transfer compactors were installed in February and March of this year by Big Stuff Inc., the local Marathon vendor. The new compactors will allow for faster and more efficient loading of

transfer trailers at the City's waste management hub on Reisterstown Road. The transfer station manages residential curbside collected trash and recycling – consolidating small residential collection vehicle loads into larger trailer loads for delivery to disposal or recycling facilities.



A tractor trailer maneuvers a new transfer compactor into place at the Northwest Transfer Station.

EXCERPTS FROM SWANA NEWSLETTER YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S INTERVIEW WITH AUTHORITY PROJECT MANAGER DIANA RIEGHART



What does Sustainable Materials Management mean to you?

Sustainable materials management means using each material to its highest use and minimizing waste/ environmental impact all along the lifecycle of a product. I really appreciate this reframing of “solid waste management” because there is so much material that ends up in landfills that could be diverted for better use – textiles, food, paper, metals, the list goes on. There’s absolutely no need for many materials to be permanently trapped in a pile of plastic bags, which creates a need for new materials to get used in the next product rather than recycling or reusing materials that already exist.

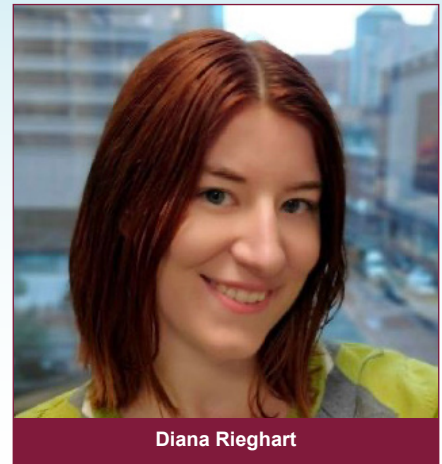
How did your education contribute to you joining the solid waste industry?

My bachelor’s degree in biology and double major in Environmental Studies were key pre-requisites for my position as an Environmental Project Manager, though none of my classes were specific to the solid waste industry. I also was a part of the Food Recovery Network on my campus which allowed me to be involved in

recovering surplus food and donating it to local emergency food locations and homeless shelters.

As a Young Professional working in Sustainable Material Management, what about this industry have you found to be most interesting?

As a very curious and outgoing person, I appreciate that there is never a dull day. I am constantly learning new information, liaising with different organizations, and there will never be a shortage of projects – talk about job security! There are so many materials streams that there is no way one person could be an expert in every area of this industry. I love that there’s folks with great passion for starving incinerators and landfills, while there are also people still managing them as our society makes the shift to a greener economy. One day I could be working on 10 completely different projects – helping a County inform residents about grasscycling through radio ads, getting a pilot plastic film recycling program off the ground, remediation of a municipal solid waste landfill, the list goes on and on. There’s just no end to this industry, and we all need each other to make changes in sustainable materials management.



Diana Rieghart

What are the topics you see keeping you busy over the next 5-10 years?

Handling food waste continues to be one of my favorite “hot topics” within the industry that I expect to continue keeping me busy over the next five to 10 years. In the past I’ve overseen waste sorts that continue to uncover the vast quantities of wasted food. I currently assist with contract management and deliverables review for the construction and design of a composting facility. An upcoming project relates to educating and encouraging residents to donate non-perishable foods. I expect to keep seeing these types of projects come up with our members,

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FILM PLASTICS UPDATE



Since the inception of the plastic film recycling pilot in Montgomery County last July, the contractor, TurboHaul, has collected more than four tons of

plastic film. After education and better screening were implemented during the first two months of the pilot, contamination has stayed below two percent and consistently has been at zero percent for the past six months.



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especially since a Food Residuals Law passed in Maryland now requires entities that generate one ton or more of food residuals per week to divert to other methods of disposal other than landfills. Anaerobic digestion, backyard composting, apps to assist with connecting those in need of food with excess food, curbside organics collection, all these and more are topics of discussion at every conference I attend.

What's your favorite project you've worked on in regard to SMM? Any lessons learned you'd like to share (successes or 'what not to do')?

My favorite project so far has been assisting the launch of a regional plastic film recycling pilot at the behest of the Member Jurisdictions. I issued a Request for Expressions of Interest and let our Member

Jurisdictions know about the organization that responded. One of the Member Jurisdictions was interested in contracting with the plastic film recycler, so I assisted in setting up a Master Service Agreement. One of the lessons I learned is being intentional about finding the right folks to reach out to at different organizations to make sure they hear about any procurements. I also learned that some organizations may get intimidated from responding to formal requests for information and procurement documents, so now I try to summarize the main points at the beginning of the document. I also ensure that I provide sufficient opportunity for a written question-and-answer period, all of which is made publicly available, to allow all interested parties the opportunity to benefit from any

additional information about the request or procurement. In getting a pilot off the ground we also learned that there needs to be very clear discussion of acceptable materials – even though we had a list there were still specific points that needed to be addressed between the Member and the recycler to make sure the Member Jurisdiction kept contamination to a low enough level. We also had tons of details come up about balers, container types and sizes – it really all is in the details, so good communication between the parties is key.

Let's collaborate and learn from each other. Feel free to email me at dreighart@nmwda.org!



KYUNGHYE BERGREEN JOINS THE AUTHORITY AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kyunghye (Kay) Bergreen recently joined the Authority as an Administrative Assistant. She grew up in Seoul, South Korea, and worked at the biggest pharmaceutical company in Seoul. She also worked in Public Relations and as an Administrative Assistant at Seoul National University.

Kay came to the United States in 2000 and worked in the education and

service industry for more than 10 years. She also worked in the banking industry prior to joining the Authority. Kay attended Howard Community College and majored in Criminal Justice.

She enjoys working with people from all walks of life and actively volunteers with nonprofit organizations in her community. Her two children are the joy of her life. She also enjoys



Kyunghye (Kay) Bergreen

hiking, biking, dancing, and listening to music in her spare time.

EMMANUEL OJO JOINS THE AUTHORITY AS ADMINISTRATIVE & ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Emmanuel Ojo recently started as the Administrative & Accounting Assistant. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in business with a major in accounting at Coppin State University. Alongside his studies, Emmanuel has gained valuable experience working as a Finance Administrator at Job Corps, where

he managed financial operations and ensured smooth administrative processes. Originally from Africa, he moved to Maryland at a young age. Outside of work and academics, Emmanuel is passionate about sports, particularly basketball, which he enjoys playing whenever he gets the chance.



Emmanuel Ojo



SAVE THE DATE

MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Annual Conference
Monday, June 9, 2025!



Resilience

Resilience is the 4th "R" after **Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle**, and will be the theme of the upcoming conference.

REGISTER NOW!



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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, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.