



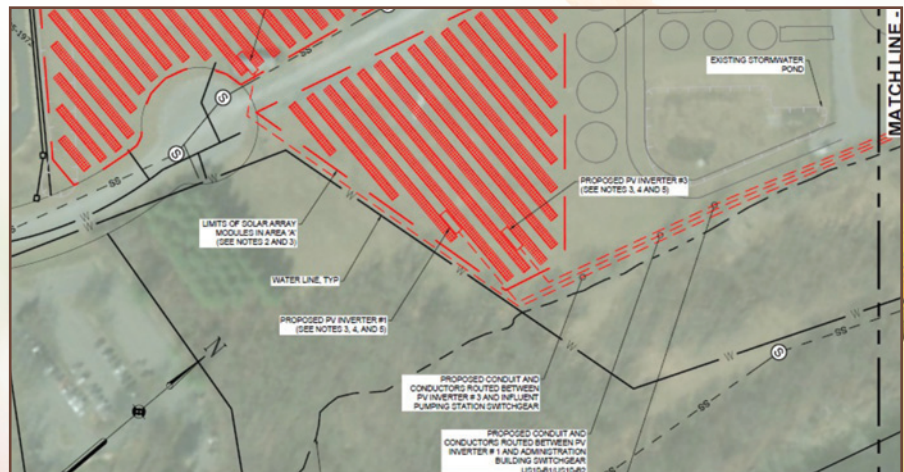
NEW SOLAR PROJECT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY

It started with a simple email request in the summer of 2017. The email was from Frederick County to the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority announcing that the County had been awarded a grant for up to two million dollars from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop a solar project at the Ballenger McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant. However, the County needed assistance to move the project forward and asked the Authority for help. The Authority agreed to lend its expertise because it had already developed two earlier solar projects, both of which were driven by grants. Assistance for the project began with the Authority reaching out to its on-call engineers through a competitive qualification and proposal process requesting them to develop specifications for a photovoltaic “solar” facility that would maximize the available space adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant and allow for battery storage of energy as a safety backup in the event that the facility lost main line power. EA Engineering was selected for this part of the project. They have developed project specifications and will provide

construction management and oversight during the installation of the solar array.

The Authority also coordinated meetings between MDE and the County to work through the procurement process for a developer to construct the solar array. A facility request for proposals was issued in May 2018 and the procurement period was managed during the summer. In August, the Authority Board accepted the recommendation of the review committee and awarded the development contract to Ameresco Inc. This award was conditioned on the final acceptance of the grant application documentation

by MDE, and ultimately the Maryland Board of Public Works. The Authority coordinated the final grant application filing and completed the procurement process with MDE in August. MDE was able to find additional grant monies during the application process for the project, increasing the total state contribution to \$2.43 million. Approval for the project from the Board of Public Works was received on November 14. A ribbon-cutting will be scheduled for late December. Project completion is to be wrapped up no later than November 2019.



Site plan for Frederick County Solar Project.

2

We can BMore Initiative

3

Authority Hosts Social Media Training for Government Professionals

4

Organics Operations Start!

6

Authority Welcomes Steve Sprague, Project Manager





WE CAN BMORE INITIATIVE: Wheelabrator Baltimore Joins Cherry Hill Residents to Beautify Neighborhood



In early October, Wheelabrator Baltimore joined up with Safe Streets Baltimore and the residents of Baltimore's Cherry Hill community for a memorable evening filled with peace, fun and beautification. Wheelabrator was represented by Plant Manager Austin Pritchard and employees Danny Carter and Matt Tan. They helped the residents clean up their neighborhood and provided them with the tools they will need to keep their community clean.

At the event, Wheelabrator unveiled its **We Can Bmore** initiative, an important local public awareness and education campaign the company has embarked on with local residents, businesses, government agencies and community organizations to keep Baltimore clean. With this campaign, Wheelabrator is supporting waste reduction, diversion of waste from landfills, increased



Pritchard (middle) introduces the We Can Bmore campaign to the Cherry Hill residents in attendance at the event.

recycling rates, composting, neighborhood beautification and sustainable habits in the city.

Wheelabrator started the campaign because Baltimore is known as a proud city and Baltimore residents are particularly proud of the neighborhoods they call home. They know trash is a major concern throughout the city and

that beautifying neighborhoods is an issue that many city residents are eager to tackle. The goal of this campaign is to bring people together to make Baltimore's communities better places to live and work, as well as increase the amount of waste that is either recycled or composted.

The event at Cherry Hill was a major first step in achieving this objective. Residents showed their passion for keeping their neighborhood clean by removing litter that surrounded the community's church. Many of the residents signed up to receive a free city recycling bin and composting kit as well as a reusable tote and tools to clean their block. Some also signed up to be a **We Can Bmore** Leader to engage other members of their community to participate in waste-reduction initiatives.

Baltimore produces 1.5 million tons of waste each year. But according to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the city's recycling rate is only 20.4 percent, placing Baltimore below the national average of 26 percent and far below the 75 percent of American waste that could be recycled from the waste stream, as reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. **We Can Bmore** hopes to transform Baltimore from a recycling laggard to a recycling leader.

Wheelabrator Baltimore is a waste-to-energy facility that uses up to 2,250 tons of post-recycled everyday waste from Baltimore-area homes and businesses as a local, sustainable fuel to generate as much as 65 MW of clean, renewable electricity for sale to the local utility — the equivalent of supplying the electrical needs of 40,290 Maryland homes as well as its own operations. The facility provides green steam to the downtown heating loop, which serves more than



Wheelabrator Operator Danny Carter helps residents clean up the neighborhood at the event.

255 businesses including M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens. Additionally, the facility provides power to thousands of Baltimore-area homes, using local waste as fuel to create a local-energy ecosystem that recycles metals, provides power, reduces the need for landfill, and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Wheelabrator Baltimore's steam partnership with Veolia reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 47,000 tons per year, which is the equivalent of removing 8,400 cars from the road.



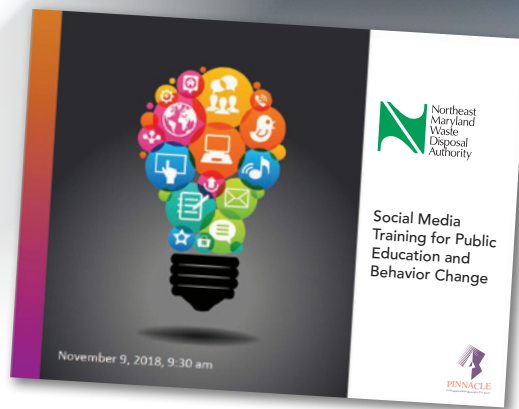
Through We Can Bmore, Wheelabrator Baltimore is supporting waste reduction, diversion of waste from landfills, increased recycling rates, composting, neighborhood beautification and sustainable habits in Baltimore.

AUTHORITY HOSTS SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS

In November the Authority held a Social Media Training Workshop on Public Education and Behavior Change for government professionals. The session was attended by 25 professionals from eight city, county and national agencies. It took place at the Local Government Insurance Trust in Hanover, Maryland and was conducted by Pinnacle Communications Resource Company.

The workshop featured segments on growing your audience, how to reach diverse audiences and measuring effectiveness. Case studies were presented by Jeremy Ames, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Annmarie Creamer, Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management and Jennifer Combs, Baltimore City Department of Public Works. Tracey Haldeman, President of Pinnacle, coordinated and lead the program. Some key advice takeaways from the workshop included:

- Calculate your reach and measure effectiveness.
- Increase your social media reach and engagement with relevant, interesting, fun and conversational posts that create an emotional connection.
- Boost posts to reach new audiences.
- Use images and live, stop motion and programmed video for all platforms that can be shared.
- Optimize and post different content to your different audiences.
- Use contests and ask questions to get people involved with your content.
- Follow, retweet and share other relevant content.
- Respond and show your audiences that you are listening.
- Try other platforms like Nextdoor for public agencies.



A meme posted by Frederick County.

MARYLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE

A Networking Event for Energy Professionals

Thought leaders, innovative builders, and developers met for the 2018 Maryland Clean Energy Center (<https://mdcleanenergy.org/>) Summit, October 8-10. The program, titled **Gearing Up For The Future**, was a three-day event that offered an opportunity for a diverse group of professionals in the energy and developing technology fields to interact and participate in a shark-tank like event

that highlighted the future of Clean Energy in Maryland and beyond. Speakers from several Maryland state government agencies, as well as elected officials, were present to talk about how the future of Clean Energy will impact our natural environment as well as the business environment. Keynote speakers addressed larger issues including the need to modernize the grid and the importance of including all types of Clean Energy in the future

to ensure stable, resilient energy for consumers and businesses. The Authority, a longtime participant in the renewable energy field, has developed three waste-to-energy facilities, four landfill gas-to-energy facilities and two solar facilities. A third solar facility, this time in partnership with Frederick County and under a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment, is currently being developed by the Authority. (See Front Page)



HARVEST

ORGANICS OPERATIONS START!

In April, the Authority's board selected Harvest Mid-Atlantic, LLC to accept, process and sell certain commercial and residential organics collected in Anne Arundel County. On September 27th the Maryland Department of the Environment issued a General Composting Facility Permit to Harvest that continues through March 2021 and on October 15th, the first loads of Acceptable Materials were delivered!

The Authority's Service Agreement with Harvest optimizes the County's existing on-site composting facility, which was recently expanded at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility. Organics collected from the County's curbside collection program as well as some self-haul organics from its recycling centers and landfill are now being sent to Harvest. Under the Agreement, the company can provide a credit to the County if it utilizes the County's available on-site soils in its

end-product. In addition, the Agreement allows Harvest to provide miscellaneous emergency services to the County's Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility on an as needed basis. While the initial term ends on December 31st, the County has exercised its first of nine optional renewal years. Harvest Mid-Atlantic's contract allows it to process up to 35,000 tons of organics per year.



Delivery and Initial Processing of Organics at Harvest's Facility.

CITY OF HOUSTON HOSTS MUNICIPAL WASTE SUMMIT



ouston, Texas was the site of the **2018 Municipal Waste Management Association Fall**

Summit. The conference included presentations on diversion strategies, recycling markets in the wake of China's new policies, recycling contamination, and glass recycling opportunities. Municipalities shared their experiences in how effective source reduction and diversion strategies help reduce the amount of waste in their recycling streams.

Waste Management and Republic touched on global recycling changes including China's import policies affecting the market and the increased

contamination rates in Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) inbound material, resulting in increased processing costs. A common theme was the importance of effective outreach, education, audits, enforcement, and curbside feedback in reducing contamination.

In addition to contamination, glass recycling is a hot topic in the recycling arena today because many MRF's are making demands to remove glass from their programs. Republic reported that glass currently has a negative value in most areas, unless supported by subsidies. Members of the Glass Coalition believe that the value of glass can be maximized with the proper process and/or MRF equipment.

Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner discussed Houston's recycling program including market changes with the latest China restrictions, eliminating glass from its curbside program in July 2016, and its latest recycling agreement. Houston hopes that their next contract will provide the City significant savings and glass will be added back to the City's curbside program. Their MRF is expected to be in operation by March 2019.

Mayor Turner closed his session by thanking the solid waste industry. "If you take solid waste employees out of the equation, you have a huge mess," he said.



AUTHORITY CERTIFIES ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY SOLAR PROJECT



The Authority has certified an Anne Arundel County Solar Project under the Maryland Renewable Portfolio

Standard Program at the Millersville Landfill. It's a system comprised of two solar arrays on the roof of a County maintenance building located at the landfill. The design capacity of the solar project is 86.94 kW. This certification allows the Authority to sell renewable energy credits generating additional revenue for the County.

The Authority currently sells renewable energy credits generated from the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, Montgomery County Oaks Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility, Anne Arundel County Millersville Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility, Howard County Alpha Ridge Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility, Baltimore City Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Prince George's County Brown Station Landfill and Corrections Facility.



AUTHORITY WELCOMES STEVE SPRAGUE, PROJECT MANAGER

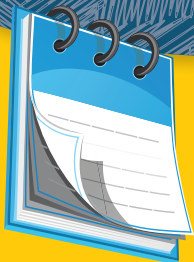
Steve Sprague has joined the Authority as our newest project manager. He has more than 25 years of professional experience, most recently as an environment, health, and safety leader in the pharmaceutical industry and as an environmental engineer with a large defense contractor, both global businesses with operations in Maryland. He is an experienced manager of staff, contractors, projects and budgets. Steve has a particular passion for recycling and waste programs. His volunteer efforts, as Chair and 10-year member of the Montgomery County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Commissioner on the City of Rockville Environment Commission, have been spent developing and strengthening programs to reduce energy consumption and waste while

helping government officials and citizens understand the environmental effects of their decisions. These positions also have provided Steve with an understanding of the economic and operational challenges faced by municipalities in implementing sustainability goals.

A lifelong “tree hugger” and a native of Maine, Steve describes himself as a minimalist who loves the outdoors, drives an electric car, has multiple compost piles in the backyard and regularly reaches into trash cans to remove recyclables. Steve graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering and Management. He is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager with extensive experience in environmental regulatory compliance. Steve lives in Rockville with his wife



and two children, who attend Richard Montgomery High School. He is extremely active in the Montgomery Youth Hockey Association as a youth hockey coach for multiple teams and is vice president of the MYHA Board.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

2019 MRN/SWANA-MA Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2019 MRN/SWANA-MA Conference which will be held at the BWI Marriott on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.



100 S. Charles Street, Tower II – Suite 402
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-333-2730 / Fax: 410-333-2721
E-mail: authority@nmwda.org
www.nmwda.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Christopher W. Skaggs

MEMBERS

James M. Irvin Chairman Howard County	Steven A. Walsh Baltimore County
Michael G. Marschner Treasurer Frederick County	Jeffrey D. Castonguay Carroll County
Rhody R. Holthaus Anne Arundel County	Joseph J. Siemek Harford County
Rudolph S. Chow Baltimore City	Guillermo Wainer Montgomery County
	Roy McGrath Maryland Environmental Service

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.

