

WASTE WATCH

building a greener future

FREDERICK COUNTY TO SAVE \$1.4 MILLION ON NEW SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING CONTRACT

The Authority has negotiated a contract that will save Frederick County more than \$1.4 million a year on single stream recycling. In June, the Authority, on behalf of Frederick County, entered into a one-year sole source agreement with Waste Management for the processing and recycling of single stream recovered material received at the County's Transfer Station, located at the Reichs Ford Road Landfill. The County will receive 70 percent of a blended commodity value (based on market commodity prices and a defined material composition) minus a processing fee of \$87.50 per ton. Under the current market, as of July 2019, the net charge to the County for Waste Management to accept, process, and recycle Frederick County recovered material at their Elkridge Material Recovery Facility is \$74.84 per ton. The Contract allows for the continued processing of all material under the County's current recycling program through June 30, 2020.

In an effort to provide savings and future flexibility to the County, the Authority procured the transportation services separately. To that end, an Invitation of Bids for a qualified contractor to provide transportation of recovered material from the Frederick County Transfer Station to a processing facility that is less than 100 miles from the Transfer Station was issued in May. As a result, the Authority entered into a two-year contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the transportation services, Bousum Transfer. An option in the contract will allow it to be extended for three additional 12-month terms. The contract also allows for Bousum to backhaul residue from the County designated processing facility to the Transfer Station, at the County's request.

Initially, the Authority issued two Request for Proposals for the transfer and processing of Frederick County recovered material: one in September 2018, which yielded no results, and one in March 2019, which yielded only one proposal. That proposal was rejected because it did

not include the acceptance of all material in the County's single stream program and did not provide pricing for the transportation and processing of mixed glass received separately from single stream material at the Transfer Station. As an option, under the RFP, the Authority did allow proposers to provide processing fee reductions for the elimination of certain material, such as glass, from the single stream program.

Based on pricing from the one proposal received and rejected in March, the estimated Fiscal Year 2020 cost for the transfer and processing of recovered material would have been nearly \$4.3 million. With the Authority negotiating a sole-source contract with Waste Management and procuring the transportation service separately, the County's estimated costs for total services is just over \$2.8 million, a one-year savings of more than \$1.4 million under the current market.

2

Authority Sponsors MRN and SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Annual Conference

3

Wheelabrator Baltimore and Ministers' Conference of Baltimore Expand Green Ambassador Program as Part of We Can Bmore Campaign

4

Harford WTE Facility Phase II Demolition and Site Restoration Completed with Efficiency



AUTHORITY SPONSORS MRN AND SWANA MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Maryland Recycling Network and SWANA Annual Conference was held in Linthicum on June 11 and was attended by more than 150 industry professionals interested in advancing recycling and improving solid waste management in the state. "The Changing Climate of Solid Waste & Recycling: A Practical Approach for the 21st Century," covered a variety of topics, including how to weather-proof solid waste operations and facilities, managing the ongoing issues surrounding plastics and food scraps recycling, and advice on how to increase citizen participation. Here are some of the topics:

Valuable Lessons from Natural Disaster

Severe flooding in Ellicott City impacted Howard County's solid waste and recycling operations. Alan Wilcom, Chief of Howard County's Recycling Division, shared the lessons learned from his county's disaster recovery efforts. Numerous other government and private sector officials contributed to the discussions, generously sharing their knowledge and experience with the attendees.

Food Scraps Challenges

For many jurisdictions that are just in the planning phases of developing campaigns to capture food scraps and

non-recyclable paper from the waste stream, a session titled Food Scraps: The Final Frontier, highlighted important distinctions between local programs. Speakers included representatives from Howard County and Prince George's County, as well as from the private sector, including Compost Crew, a collection company. Many types of collection and processing models were discussed, along with funding mechanisms for implementing them.

Contamination Issues

Multiple panelists addressed the ever-changing material stream and market challenges associated with the problem of contamination. Discussions focused on how and what to begin prioritizing in diversion programs, such as tracking materials in weight-based targets and greenhouse gas emissions, and how to communicate these changes to the public.

Annual Recycling Award

The 2019 Recycling Award for Outstanding Government Leadership was presented to Baltimore County's solid waste and recycling staff for its Clean Green Social Media Program.

In Conclusion

Overall, discussions that concerned global and local challenges, such as climate and weather or long-term market disruptions, became an important theme

for attendees to brainstorm collectively and share their best practices. Hearing speakers from all over the United States in government, non-profit and for-profit sectors provided a new network of support for creating solutions and moving programs forward.

The MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter joint conference provides a great opportunity to network and gain valuable knowledge. The Authority is active in the Maryland Recycling Network organization as a sustaining member. Authority executive director Chris Skaggs will serve as Treasurer during the upcoming year. Please visit www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org and/or www.swana-midatl.org for additional information.



The panel on customer service and help desk systems discussed how to improve existing recycling programs and help citizens participate in recycling and disposing of waste correctly.



Suzanne Boxman, (at podium) PhD, EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, shared a national overview on the lessons learned from disaster recovery and the resulting plans from around the country for solid waste and recycling programs.

WHEELABRATOR BALTIMORE AND MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF BALTIMORE EXPAND GREEN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM AS PART OF WE CAN BMORE CAMPAIGN



Members of the Union Baptist Church Green Ambassador team, one of four teams working with ministers across Baltimore.

Baltimore neighborhoods are getting cleaner – and safer – as a result of the Green Ambassador program, a multi-year initiative that brings together members of the city’s faith-based community, local volunteers and Wheelabrator Baltimore employees to reduce litter, increase recycling and enhance residential areas through grassroots efforts.

On August 10, leaders of the Green Ambassadors effort gathered at Ark Church in the Oliver neighborhood to announce a major expansion of the program, which is part of Wheelabrator Baltimore’s *We Can Bmore* campaign, and to conduct a community cleanup effort.

The Green Ambassador program was launched in July at Union Baptist Church in Central Baltimore. The rapid expansion of the program now includes neighborhoods surrounding Ark Church as well as Liberty Grace Church of God in Ashburton, Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn and the Community Outreach Ministry in Westport.

“Baltimore residents are proud to call this great city home, and the Green Ambassador program is an important way for community members to demonstrate the pride they take in their neighborhoods,” said Wheelabrator

Market Manager Michael Dougherty. “It’s a privilege for us to take an active role in this important effort to make Baltimore an even better place to live, work and play.”

In the first few weeks of the initiative, Green Ambassadors had already removed more than 11,500 gallons of litter from city communities. Members of the Green Ambassador team, which includes paid local residents in need of regular work, convene twice per week to pick up litter on neighborhood streets and invite community members to take part in the cleanup effort.

“This initiative is critical to improving the quality of life for residents in Baltimore City,” said J.L. Carter, the pastor of Ark Church and president of the Ministers’ Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity. “In addition to enhancing the appearance of our neighborhoods, our community partners in law enforcement tell us this type of program helps reduce crime by eliminating places for drug dealers to hide their stashes and by demonstrating to potential offenders that we won’t tolerate any type of activity that diminishes our neighborhoods.”

The Green Ambassadors program is an essential part of Wheelabrator Baltimore’s *We Can Bmore* campaign, a 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. Through the *We Can Bmore* campaign, Wheelabrator Baltimore provides the tools necessary to make a difference in individual neighborhoods and across the city.

We Can Bmore is committed to improving Baltimore’s recycling rate of less than 20 percent. Local street teams funded by Wheelabrator Baltimore work with local residents to go door-to-door to educate community members about reducing waste and litter as well as encouraging people to recycle. The teams distribute free recycling bins, educate residents on what products can be recycled and notify neighbors of recycling collection days.

“The Green Ambassadors are supporting environmental justice in Baltimore by educating residents about how to reuse more products and the need to divert waste from harmful landfills,” said Rev. Dr. Terris King of Liberty Grace Church of God. “In addition to empowering people with knowledge, they are providing our neighbors with recycling bins and other necessities to take action and foster change one household at a time.”

HARFORD WTE FACILITY PHASE II DEMOLITION AND SITE RESTORATION COMPLETED WITH EFFICIENCY



Work began in late Fall of 2018 on Phase II of demolition and site restoration of the Harford Waste Energy Facility, located in Magnolia, Maryland. Permitting and Government approvals for this work took more time than initially anticipated, but once permits were in place the Authority's contractor, Neuber Environmental Services, Inc. (NES), proceeded to design the site restoration. This effort included complete removal of all below ground and at grade man-made improvements at the facility, as well as grading to encourage stormwater drainage away from any one point on the site. Concrete footers and foundations were excavated and broken apart. Metal rebar was extracted from the concrete for recycling and crushed concrete was removed from the site.

Clean RC-6 that had been used under Phase I to fill the incinerator pit, was excavated, loaded into trucks and sent



End of Phase I of the project left hardstand and underground improvements.

to the Harford Waste Disposal Center for reuse at that facility. This value-added effort was achieved without slowing any progress for the project. Removing the



View of the site looking southwest towards Magnolia Road, a view that would have been blocked by the former building and emissions control devices.

facility's footers, foundations and roadways continued through the winter. Clean fill was brought in to fill the void left by the demolished footers and foundations. Grading of the site continued according to the approved design, so that sheet flow would be away from the center of the site and to prevent ponding. Compaction testing for the regraded fill also was completed during the grading process to ensure minimal settlement and to further reduce the chance of ponding.

The Authority's contractor worked under the supervision of the oversight engineer, SCS Engineers (SCS). SCS assisted with permit review and technical support prior to the start of construction and provided daily reports and tracking of progress throughout Phase II. NES

strategically moved through the site, "painting themselves out of the room" to be sure they were not tracking over areas that were at final grade and had been stabilized.

Final seeding took place in late June and early July. It is anticipated that the Government will take over the site at the end of the current lease, in mid-September 2019.

Demolition of the concrete continued through the winter.



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Rebar was extracted from the crushed concrete and recycled.