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## Montgomery County Approves Sun Edison for Solar Energy Project

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (Authority) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of Montgomery County (County) for the development of solar energy at publicly owned solid waste transfer, resource recovery, recycling and composting facilities in the County. Montgomery County Solid Waste and Recycling asked the Authority to develop rooftop solar projects. The RFP was issued on February 4, 2009. Approximately 6.5 acres of rooftop space were offered at the Yardwaste Composting Facility (YWCF) and Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Dickerson and Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Transfer Station (TS) in Derwood. Authority staff coordinated the pre-proposal meeting and all site visits for the vendors.

The Authority requested traditional power purchase agreement terms, as well as a lease term for the solar array in the RFP. In this second option, the vendor would have the opportunity to use the roof space and sell the electricity to the grid. A novel approach for the vendors also was included in the RFP. For this third option, the vendor would retain all Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), environmental attributes, tax credits and other credits accruing to the owner of the system, sell electricity to the Authority and provide alternative RECs equivalent to the production of the system.

Advertising was placed on the Authority website, eMaryland Marketplace website; *Washington Post* [February 2, 2009]; *Solar Buzz* (electronic weekly solar newspaper); Department of Energy EERE website;

MDV-SEIA list serve and distribution lists for the Montgomery County School Board solar RFP and the 2008 Authority Solar RFP. More than 90 firms received the RFP. Three firms supplied responsive proposals to the Authority and all proposed solar arrays on three of the four roofs.

The evaluation committee reviewed the proposals and made the recommendation to award a contract to SunEdison, LLC, for the TS, MRF and YWCF. Through the negotiation process, further analysis was performed, and the MRF and YWCF roofs were removed from consideration. On July 1, 2009, the Montgomery County Council approved the recommendation of award and signed a Task Order with the Authority for the development of the solar project at the Transfer Station. The County agreed to purchase the electricity at a lower rate than its current power contract. The power purchase agreement stipulates that the vendor supply solar RECs equivalent to the annual production of the solar array for the contract term.

For more information about the Authority's solar procurements or the Montgomery County contract, please contact Andrew Kays at [akays@nmwda.org](mailto:akays@nmwda.org) or 410.333.2730.



# June MRN/SWANA Conference Provided Relevant Information and Networking

The 5th Annual Joint Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) and Mid-Atlantic Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Conference was held June 25 and 26 at the Stamp Union building at the University of Maryland, College Park. Once again, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (Authority) was a sponsor of the Joint Conference. The Authority hosted a table with information about the [mdrecycles.org](http://mdrecycles.org) website on behalf of our Members. Most Authority Member Jurisdictions also displayed representative advertising samples and program developments at the table.

MRN presented awards to several agencies engaged in the promotion of recycling. The Howard County Recycling Division received the 2009 Award for Outstanding Government Leadership for its efforts to increase recycling and offering a commercial recycling program. Cecil County was recognized with the Outstanding Small Government Program Award for its efforts to further promote recycling. The Boonsboro Recycling Task Force was presented with the Outstanding Environmental and Community Leadership Award.

Conference attendees browsed tables set up by various vendors and networked before sessions and during breaks. Attendees of the Conference chose from concurrent presentation tracks offering a broad range of topics, from recycling and waste reduction in capital

projects to emerging conversion technologies and public/private partnerships for recycling. Several topical and informative plenary sessions were available during the two-day conference.

Ed Skernolis, Executive Director of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), discussed the current financial position of the NRC and its proposed merger with Keep America Beautiful (KAB). Mr. Skernolis noted that the NRC will still exist and be accessible to its members. KAB will cover NRC's debt through the merger. Both entities will gain a larger presence in more communities throughout the United States. More details about the merger can be found at <http://nrcandkabcombination.blogspot.com/>.

Bill Moore, President of Moore & Associates, discussed the current state of the recovered paper market in the United States and around the globe. Mr. Moore related the historical trends of the paper market and provided general analysis of the trends for the market moving forward. Broadly speaking, the market trend was rapid (artificial) growth followed by a sizeable correction. Moore & Associates reports that, through analysis of the historical performance of the markets, steel can be seen as a leading indicator for the performance of paper. Mr. Moore also noted that China became more of a consumer of global recovered paper in the last decade and that China has the

ability to shape fiber markets moving forward.

Brenda Platt, Waste to Wealth and Sustainable Plastics Program Director, Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR); and Ted Michaels, President, Energy Recovery Council; participated in a debate about Waste to Energy (WTE). The speakers were allotted time for opening statements and then answered questions presented by debate moderator Lori Scozzafava, Deputy Executive Director of SWANA.

Attendees at this year's Conference, as in years past, were provided with informative and timely presentations that should benefit them at work. The Conference setting also allowed participants to make valuable contacts with vendors and service groups in the short span of two days.

For questions regarding [mdrecycles.org](http://mdrecycles.org), please contact Andrew Kays at 410.333.2730 or [akays@nmwda.org](mailto:akays@nmwda.org). Details about the conference can be found at <http://www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org/2009Conference/index.htm>.

*Editor's update:* NRC recently filed for bankruptcy after failing to reach the required 2/3 majority of members voting for the merger. *Waste News* reported the story of the filing on September 3, 2009.



## EROI Receives Another Safety Award

Congratulations to Energy Recovery Operations Inc. (EROI) the operator of the Harford Waste-to-Energy facility in Joppa, Maryland, for four years of work without a lost-time accident. EROI maintains its status as one of a select number of facilities in Maryland to be a member of the Maryland OSHA SHARP program that operates an exemplary safety and health management system.



*This well maintained steam line vault is 22 years old. It is part of a 3 mile underground steam system connecting the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility to the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The steam line is owned by the Authority, and maintained by Energy Recovery Operations, Inc.*

## Counties Agree to Move Forward with Regional Energy Recovery Facility

In July, both the Frederick and Carroll County Boards of County Commissioners voted to move forward with the regional energy recovery facility. The Frederick County Board voted in June to approve the site for the new regional facility. The site will be adjacent to Frederick County's Ballenger Creek waste water

treatment facility on land owned by Frederick County. Both Boards approved Energy Recovery Agreements with the Authority. The project team selected Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., to be the full-service design, build and operate vendor. Wheelabrator will be responsible for all permitting, design and construction aspects

and will operate the facility under a long-term agreement. The permitting process is expected to take up to two years, and construction will last approximately three years. More information on the project can be found on the Authority's website, [www.nmwda.org](http://www.nmwda.org).

# Wheelabrator Technologies' Environmental Symposium

The 15th Annual Environmental Symposium was held in May in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Middle-school students from Federal Hill Preparatory School and Calverton School in Baltimore participated in a six-month learning project, identifying an environmental challenge in their community and developing a long-term solution. Under the guidance of educators and Wheelabrator employees, students apply lessons learned in the classroom to real-life situations. Participating schools each received \$500 in startup funds and a \$1,000 donation from Wheelabrator at the conclusion of the event. In addition, students can later qualify to earn a four-year scholarship through Wheelabrator's partnership with Fisk University in Nashville.

Each school year, 120 students and two dozen teachers from six to eight

states focus on developing and implementing practical, long-term solutions to local environmental challenges. The scenarios they choose require a broad and realistic perspective on the two-way impacts of society on the environment, while enabling students to envision flexible and creative solutions to resource-management decisions.

The program culminates with the students presenting their solutions to a VIP Panel at a national symposium. The teams also present their findings to their respective community leaders and local civic groups.

Since the start, more than 1,500 seventh and eighth-graders have had the opportunity to do something positive in their communities through this program, and the program has awarded more than \$250,000 to participating schools.



Federal Hill Preparatory School won the "Best Clean Waterway Information Project" award.



Calverton Elementary/Middle School won the "Best Neighborhood Environmental Awareness Project" award.



Northeast  
Maryland  
Waste  
Disposal  
Authority

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