The Authority recently completed a refunding of $93 million of outstanding bonds for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, which will provide the county with $11 million in savings over the next three years. The savings of $1.3 million will be realized between now and June 30, 2013. In addition, the County will receive savings averaging $3.2 million during each of the next three fiscal years. Authority staff, along with the Authority’s financial advisor and bond counsel, worked closely with Montgomery County to complete the cost savings transaction.

The bonds were highly rated by Fitch Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service, AA and Aa3 respectively. These high ratings reflect the solid operation of the resource recovery facility and the strength of the overall solid waste system in Montgomery County. Based on the ratings and the excellent operating data, the Authority decided to sell the refunding bonds competitively. Thirteen investment banking firms bid on the bonds. J.P. Morgan was the winning bidder with a True Interest Cost of .56 percent over the life of the bonds which will amortize through April 1, 2016. The refunding savings equate to a disposal cost savings of approximately $5 per ton!
MILLERSVILLE LANDFILL RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY RECEIVES NATIONAL “PROJECT OF THE YEAR” HONOR

The Authority’s Anne Arundel County Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility recently received the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) Project of the Year Award for 2012. The prestigious annual award recognizes select projects nationwide that generate renewable energy from a local source while protecting the climate and strengthening the economy.

The Facility, commissioned in July of 2012, generates green power that is sold on the local grid. The revenue supports both the County’s Waste Management and Recycling Program and future energy projects. The 3.2 megawatt plant is the first of its kind in Anne Arundel County and provides a reduction in greenhouse gases equal to more than 2,600 vehicles while providing electricity to approximately 1,900 homes.

James Pittman, DPW Deputy Director of the Bureau of Waste Management Services, said “Establishing a renewable energy project like this has been a goal of the County for more than a decade. Our staff and partners worked hard to complete this project on schedule to meet the County’s environmental and economic goals.”

The Authority contributed oversight and management for design, engineering and construction of the project, while Landfill Energy Systems (LES) built the Facility and continue operations and maintenance. A combination of local bond sales and $2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, and cooperation among local, state and federal government determined this project’s success.


Members of the Project team are pictured above with the LMOP award (left to right): Sheila Miller (LES), Rhody Holthaus (AA County), Stephen Krajsik (AA County), Michael Laframboise (LES), Amanda Moore (NMWDA), and Bill Owen (LES)
Mayor Rawlings-Blake and Wheelabrator Recognize Trash Haulers at Garbageman Appreciation Day

As the Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company (BRESCO) Facility prepared to transform its 20 millionth ton of trash into energy, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Wheelabrator Baltimore recognized more than 700 municipal and private solid waste collection workers for their hard work in transporting more than 2,000 tons of post-recycled municipal waste each day to Baltimore’s waste-to-energy facility.

“A cleaner city is one where families want to live, and we know how hard you work every day to make that happen. Your efforts to collect both waste and recycling materials help make our city cleaner and are a vital part of us accomplishing our goal of growing the city of Baltimore,” said Mayor Rawlings-Blake, giving particular recognition to the efforts of employees following Superstorm Sandy.

“This contractual partnership with Wheelabrator through the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority is furthering the City’s sustainability goals by promoting a healthier environment and effective long-term management of the City’s solid waste,” said Mayor Rawlings-Blake. “From this facility comes green, renewable energy to provide electricity to homes and steam to heat and cool downtown buildings.”

Wheelabrator Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Jeff Primavera said the company was proud to honor the men and women who collect and deliver the post-recycled trash each day to the Baltimore facility. “Although they often go unnoticed, the services that these men and women provide each and every day are critical to the local communities which they serve,” Primavera said.

From the approximately 2,000 tons of post-recycled trash delivered each day, the Baltimore waste-to-energy facility generates enough clean, renewable energy for about 68,000 homes. In this upcoming year, the BRESCO Facility will pass the 20 million ton mark in its lifetime of transforming post-recycled municipal trash into green energy for the region.
Howard County Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility to Be Certified as a “Renewable Resource”

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority has entered into an Agreement with Howard County to manage and market the energy and renewable energy credits (RECs) generated from its Alpha Ridge Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility. As the Authority continues to develop renewable energy facilities (including waste-to-energy, landfill gas-to-energy recovery, and solar projects), it has become an active participant in the electricity and renewable energy markets. The Howard County Alpha Ridge Facility (“Alpha Ridge”) is one of the latest additions to the Authority’s energy management services portfolio.

The electrical generation from Alpha Ridge is currently managed by the Authority through its Pennsylvania, Jersey, Maryland (PJM)- account. The Authority has been a full PJM Member since 2006. PJM is the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. As a PJM Member, the Authority can directly market the electricity generated from Alpha Ridge and other Facilities through the PJM electricity markets. The Authority sells the energy from the Alpha Ridge Facility in the Real Time Energy Market or the “spot market”. The Authority has recently arranged for the certification of the Alpha Ridge Facility as a “Renewable Resource” under the Maryland and New Jersey Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) requirements. This allows the Authority, on behalf of the County, to receive a tradable REC for each MWh generated from the Facility. The Authority will market RECs to electricity suppliers or utilities that are required to supply a certain percentage of its electricity portfolio from renewable resources. A supplier or utility can meet a renewable portfolio standard by physically generating the renewable energy, making alternative compliance payments or purchasing RECs from a renewable generator such as Alpha Ridge.