



MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECOGNIZED "PLASTIC FREE JULY" THIS YEAR, COLLECTING MORE THAN 600 LBS OF PLASTIC FILM

Montgomery County joined the national effort to recognize "Plastic Free July" this year by starting a campaign focused on promoting alternatives to single-use plastics, such as reusable or paper bags, or even no bags. However, if a Montgomery County resident does end up with plastic bags or other clean, dry plastic films, they may now dispose of those materials in a new special container, located at the Shady Grove Transfer Station upper lot. Plastic films must be collected separately from curbside recyclables because they can contaminate other recyclables and jam up the recycling center machinery.

The Authority secured a Master Service Agreement for TurboHaul, a junk removal service based in Baltimore, to provide plastic film collection, transportation, and processing services for any of its interested Member Jurisdictions.

Montgomery County moved quickly at the chance to offer this service to its residents. In coordination with County staff and site contractors, TurboHaul placed a large container with side doors to collect plastic film at the site.

TurboHaul picks up the bales of film, then transports the material to various downstream recyclers. These recyclers turn plastic film into products such as plastic polymer/wood fiber composite decking, plastic tanks for use in wastewater systems, and feedstock for plastic pellet producers to use in manufacturing other products.

In July, Montgomery County collected 640 pounds of plastic film. The Authority looks forward to continuing this effort to divert plastic film from the waste stream long past this year's Plastic Free July!



Side doors on the plastic film C-container



Plastic film collected inside the container

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BALTIMORE COUNTY'S EASTERN SANITARY LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE WORKS

The Eastern Sanitary Landfill (ESL) in White Marsh has been rapidly filling up. To address the issue, the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Bureau of Solid Waste Management determined that a comprehensive landfill expansion design and permitting project would be needed to guide planning, design and construction of improvements necessary to provide adequate capacity for future projected landfill needs, via a vertical expansion method. ESL is a non-hazardous solid waste acceptance facility. Materials accepted for disposal and recycling include residential and commercial solid waste (household refuse and waste from businesses, stores, and offices), bulky material, appliances, institutional (non-hazardous waste from schools, hospitals), asbestos, incinerator ash, unseparated land clearing debris and yard material, and construction and demolition debris.

According to Baltimore County Administrative Officer D'Andrea Walker, in her previous role as director of the County Department of Public Works and Transportation in a January 22, 2024, County Press Release, "at the Department of Public Works & Transportation, we recognize the pivotal role of efficient waste management in safeguarding public health and preserving the environment. With the expansion of the Eastern Sanitary Landfill, we are not only undertaking a significant infrastructure initiative but also making a long-term commitment to our community. This expansion ensures that we will continue to focus

on sustainable waste management, effectively addressing the needs of our community for the next several decades." ([source](#))

For this initiative, the Authority, on behalf of the County, issued a Request for Proposals, reviewed the responses, along with the County, and selected ARM to perform the design and expansion work through June 30, 2025.

This proposed expansion fulfills a key recommendation of the Solid Waste Work Group (SWWG), created by Baltimore County Executive Olszewski to preserve the only active County-owned landfill, and enhance its longevity with minimal environmental or community impact. The Authority's on-call consultants assisted the County with facilitating the SWWG and developing recommendations for the County's Recycling and Solid Waste System including an end-to-end review, along with a set of recommendations, timelines, and estimated cost of implementation over five fiscal years. The SWWG [released their final report](#), outlining recommendations for improving the system and reducing the overall volume of trash produced in the County.

The Expansion Project Will Significantly Extend The Life Of The Landfill

Previous County estimates anticipated that ESL would reach capacity by 2027. However, in combination with other ongoing

waste diversion, improved landfill compaction operations, and sustainability efforts, securing the expansion would extend the active life to 2060 or later. To estimate that updated lifespan under this project, ARM analyzed newer disposal data and performed an aerial survey to determine volume capacity.

The proposed expansion would occur within the existing landfill and change the current permitted height from 192 feet to 230 feet, adding over three million tons of additional capacity, without changing the landfill's physical footprint at the site.

After Authority and County review, ARM submitted the Phase I Report along with a Refuse Disposal Permit Application to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Solid Waste Program, in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.04.07.06. The Phase I Report provides general information regarding the land use, zoning, soils, and geology in proximity to the site, as well as additional narratives, figures, maps and documentation.

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Photo from the May 7, 2024 Public Informational Meeting

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The Authority, County, ARM and MDE held a Joint Plan Review Meeting to discuss the Phase I Report in March 2024, and ARM submitted a final Phase I Report to MDE in April 2024. On May 7, the Authority, County, ARM and MDE hosted a Public Informational Meeting to provide the public an opportunity to obtain information about the permit application and MDE's review process, as well as to answer questions.

The permit application and supporting documents were available for public review at the meeting and may be reviewed at MDE, by appointment. The public also was notified that written comments regarding the application may be submitted to MDE.

Supporting documentation includes the following links, for reference:

[Phase I Report and Permit Application](#)

[Notice of Application Received and Informational Meeting](#) (April 2024)

[ESL Semi-Annual Environmental Report January-June 2023](#)

[ESL Semi-Annual Environmental Report I](#)

[Public Informational Meeting Presentation](#)

These listed documents, as well as the information listed above, can be found in MDE's website: [Solid Waste Management in Maryland](#)

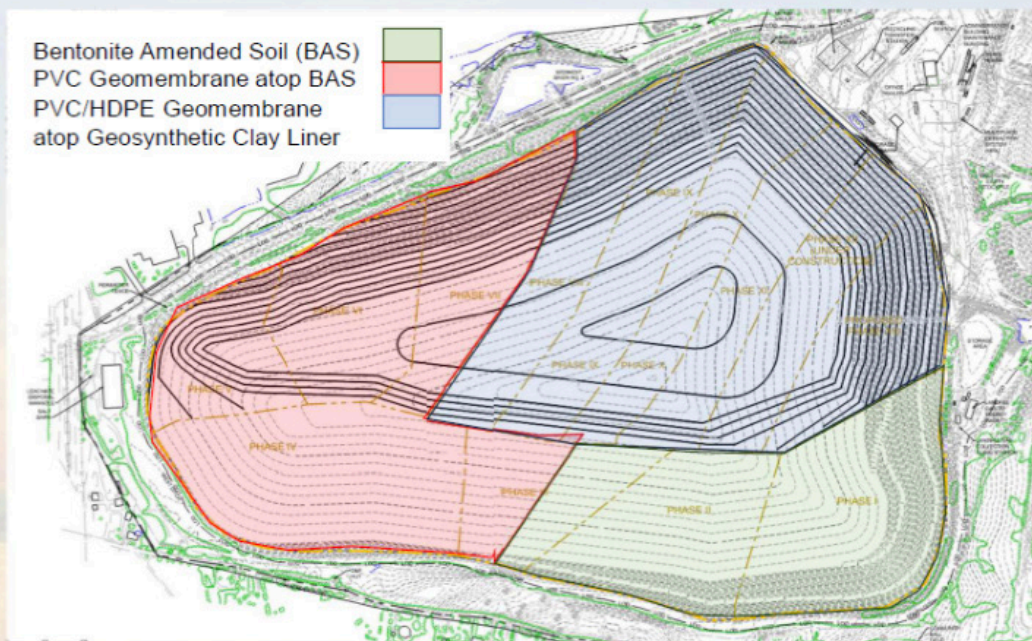
In May 2024, ARM, the County and Authority received written approval for the Phase I Permit Application from MDE.

Developments on this project, including the preparation and submission of the Phase II Geology and Hydrology Report, as required under COMAR 26.04.07.07, will be announced in future issues of *WasteWatch*, so stay tuned!



ARM site observation visit of new Phase constructed at ESL for landfilling waste.

PROPOSED VERTICAL EXPANSION: CONCEPTUAL FINAL GRADING PLAN



Note: The map legend provided herein was revised post public informational meeting to clarify the information provided herein to the reader.

[Source: Expansion Feasibility Study Report, ARM Group LLC, December 18, 2020]

Slide from May 7, 2024 Presentation: Public Informational Meeting

GUDE REMEDIATION PROJECT PROGRESSED THROUGH PHASE VI

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 its progress and the use of sustainable remediation practices.

This summer was busy despite the multiple record-breaking days of heat. Allan Myers, the construction contractor for the project, finished importing all topsoil material to the Phase I stockpile. LEMS, the erosion and sediment control subcontractor, re-matted swales and over-seeded the slopes of Phases II and III to continue stabilization efforts. Grasses grew on the northwest slope to the point where they needed mowing. Carlson Environmental Consultants (CEC), the subcontractor for LFG Operations and Maintenance, began setting up landfill gas (LFG) piping in Phase III.

After preparatory work in the spring, contractors from Allan Myers removed an existing storm drain and LFG piping in Phase VI. They also began removing waste from Phases V and VI. Subsequently, subgrade construction and geosynthetic lining installation occurred in Phases IV, V, and VI. The liner acts as an impermeable barrier that will prevent rain generated leachate from infiltrating the waste and entering the groundwater and surrounding waterways. Vegetative support soil construction over the geosynthetics stabilized the areas.

The County continues to update the local community regularly on the project's progress through direct communications, and in files on the County's project webpage. For more information, please contact the Authority or visit the County's project website at <https://www.montgomery-countymd.gov/DEP/trash-recycling/facilities/gude-landfill/remediation-project.html>



Phase V and VI after waste excavation and grading from April 2024



Phase VI after liner installation

BALTIMORE CITY BEGINS EASTSIDE TRANSFER STATION REDESIGN

Significant Federal and State Funding Secured For A New Composting Facility

The City of Baltimore and the Authority have chosen EA Engineers to lead the design project that will provide conceptual and final design and permitting services for redevelopment of an inactive municipal landfill into a waste transfer station, sanitation yard, compost facility, and citizen convenience center. The RFP for the project was published in February and the design project contract was awarded to EA Engineers in May, after a competitive procurement process among qualified Authority on-call contractors.

The primary deliverable for this project is a comprehensive Site Design to transform the current Bowleys Lane Sanitation Yard facility and property into the Eastside Transfer Station. The Bowleys Lane Sanitation yard is located on an 82-acre parcel of land at 6101 Bowleys Lane in Baltimore. It is owned by the City of Baltimore and is operated by the Bureau of Solid Waste. The closed landfill covers 22 acres of the facility. The site is currently used for a small residential drop off center, solid waste vehicle and driver parking, and an administration building.

Objectives for this project include reducing traffic at the Northwest Transfer Station, decreasing cycle time and lessening total distance travelled for city solid waste vehicles. The Site Design will guide planning and construction of the improvements necessary to provide adequate customer support for current and projected needs. This work will include design and permitting of new facilities and infrastructure to support future operations.

New Onsite Composting Facility

A major highlight of the redeveloped site is a new 4-acre parcel of land that has been approved for the construction of a mid-scale composting facility that will move the City of Baltimore one step closer to reaching its Food Waste and Recovery Strategy goal of 90 percent residential organics diversion, and a Climate Action Plan goal of 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030. The proposed facility will be a huge step forward in the City's goal to remove food waste from the waste stream that would otherwise be landfilled. It

will also create a valuable compost product to support local soil quality and reduce dependence on fertilizers.

The composting facility will have the capacity to compost approximately 12,000 tons of organic materials per year, create three to five permanent full-time jobs, reduce greenhouse gases by 6,000 tons, and improve environmental conditions for Baltimore communities. The compost facility will be solar powered, effectively reducing long-term energy costs, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing the City's dependence on combustion-based power.

To assist in the funding to construct the new compost facility, the City applied for and has been selected to receive a \$4 million Federal government Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant to design and build a compost facility. To assist in the funding of the larger project, the City also received a \$4 million State Capital Program grant.



AUTHORITY HOSTED FELLOW FOR THE YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority was honored to participate in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Spring 2024 Fellowship Program. It is a program of the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education and other Institute Partners.

Under this program, Authority staff acted as “Citizen Diplomats” on behalf of the United States Department of State in hosting Fellow Weilin Koh, a Senior Market Transformation Executive at the World Wide Fund for Nature in Singapore, in late April through May.

YSEALI matches young professionals from Asia with organizations that can benefit from their talents and initiative for a month, at no cost to the host organization. It is a professional development exchange program developed by ICMA that provides selected participants, age 25-35, the opportunity to spend five and a half weeks in the United States. This includes four weeks working directly with American counterparts in individually tailored placements with non-profit organizations, state and local government, and private-sector offices across the country. ICMA brings participants from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam to expand their technical expertise, leadership skills, and professional networks in



Weilin Koh and Authority staff member, Kitty McIlroy, at the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Region Road-E-O

environmental sustainability. The goal of the program is to share and build an appreciation for cultural diversity, as well as a mutual vision of equality and democracy by fostering long-term international partnerships in the environmental field.

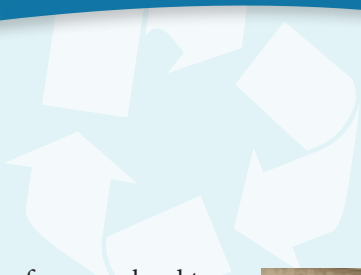
For the YSEALI program, ICMA generally receives more than 500 applications and only approves 50 or so, thus it is extremely competitive and truly impressive to be selected.

During Ms. Koh's time here, Authority representatives and their colleagues shared their insights on best waste management, recycling, waste reduction/reuse, composting and renewable energy practices.



Weilin Koh, Authority staff member, Kitty McIlroy, and other volunteers after planting tree in Baltimore City

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Her work experience, which prepared her for this role, includes impact funding and corporate sustainability, including a mutual interest in reuse (i.e. she brought her project expertise in advancing reusable food packaging for downtown restaurants in Singapore under her role at a nonprofit there). Additionally, she earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Environmental Engineering from the National University of Singapore. While with the Authority, Ms. Koh learned about American recycling systems including operations, technology, and data solutions, along with recycling public educational campaigns. She also shared information on the many advanced waste management practices that already exist in Singapore, including extended producer responsibility systems that are

commonplace there for many hard to recycle materials. Additionally, it was fascinating to learn from her about the extensive multi-family recycling educational efforts that occur, as most of the population of Singapore lives in high rise, condominium, multi-family units and does not experience traditional American “curbside recycling collection.” Learning about a culture that solely relies on trash/ recycling chutes and dumpster collection and/or collection of recyclables under takeback programs in large shopping malls or other commercial locations for most of their household waste, was truly eye opening.

More on the primary project completed by Ms. Koh will be discussed in future issues of *WasteWatch*, so stay tuned!



Weilin Koh and Authority staff member, Kitty McIlroy, May 30, 2024. Reception hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Lee Satterfield, honoring the participants of the Spring 2024 YSEALI Fellows Program at the Harry S. Truman Building, U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C.



MID-ATLANTIC ROAD-E-O CONTINUES TO YIELD SKILLED CHAMPIONS



In the unseasonably cold and misty morning of May 10, the 2024 Regional Road-E-O took place at the Midshore II Landfill in Ridgely, MD. The landfill is operated by the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), which once again offered to host this annual competition. The Road-E-O showcases the skills of heavy equipment operators in the Mid-Atlantic Region in various

equipment categories and is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). Participants from the Pennsylvania Keystone Chapter of SWANA and the New Jersey Chapter of SWANA joined operators from the Mid-Atlantic region in this friendly competition. Volunteers from participating SWANA chapters staffed the courses as judges, runners, and score talliers. The winners from each

equipment category will have the opportunity to move on to the 2024 International Road-E-O in Dublin, Georgia to compete against operators from across the Country. The overall 2024 regional champion was Bruce Carroll from MES! MES also won top places in the articulated dump and compactor categories.

For more details and to see the list of winners, visit: [2024 SWANA Mid-Atlantic Regional Road-E-O](#)



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