



## ANTHONY RUSSELL BECOMES AUTHORITY'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Anthony Russell, Deputy Director of Transportation for Baltimore County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has been appointed by Governor Wes Moore to represent Baltimore County on the Authority's Board of Member Representatives. With more than 35 years of experience in this field, he currently supervises more than 500 employees across the Bureaus of Transportation, Highway

Maintenance, and Solid Waste. His responsibilities are diverse and include managing multi-modal street designs, directing county transportation initiatives, approving roadway construction projects, and the handling and transfer of municipal solid waste and recycling. Anthony began his career in the Bureau of Highways and has adapted to lead a varied team that addresses the daily needs of Baltimore County's nearly 850,000 residents.



Anthony Russell

## BALTIMORE CITY NORTHWEST TRANSFER STATION INSTALLS NEW TRANSFER COMPACTOR



Through a contract with the Authority the City of Baltimore has installed a new Marathon Transfer Compactor at the Northwest Transfer Station (NWTs). The new compactor unit will alleviate recent operational challenges due to frequent maintenance downtime from the unit it replaced.

The new Transfer Compactor was installed by Big Stuff Inc., Marathon's

local vendor. It can load a trailer to full capacity more quickly and efficiently than the previous unit. This compactor is also equipped with a sensor eye in the feed hopper that allows automated operation in conjunction with tipping floor and push pit loading speed.

Two more transfer compactor units will also be replaced around the end of this year, as they have exceeded the typical service life. The transfer station is an essential component of

the City's waste management system. Residential curbside trash collection is collected at NWTs and transferred via tractor trailer to nearby waste disposal facilities. City-wide curbside recycling is also collected at NWTs and transferred via tractor trailer to a private recycling facility.



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## AUTHORITY AND MEMBER JURISDICTIONS VISIT SECURIS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FACILITY IN VIRGINIA

In late August 2024, the Authority and representatives from two of its Member Jurisdictions, Baltimore City and Baltimore County, attended a site visit and tour of Securis' electronics recycling and reuse facility in Chantilly, Virginia. The Authority holds a Master Service Agreement (MSA) with Securis, while Baltimore City and Baltimore County each hold their own Confirmation Contracts with Securis under the MSA to utilize these recycling and reuse services. Attendees at the visit learned more about Securis' operations, downstream markets and witnessed firsthand how Securis processes the electronics it receives. As background, Securis has a zero-landfill policy and holds the R2 Certification, the ISO 14001 certification, the ISO 45001 certification, the NAID AAA Certification (standard for secure data destruction), as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission Certificate of Good Standing.



Inbound Electronics Loads, Prior to Processing by Securis Staff

Securis has been successfully performing sustainable electronics reuse/recycling services for more than 20 years. Its client base, some of which it has worked with for over 19 years, include large federal government agencies, state and local municipalities, Fortune 100 companies, multinational conglomerates, and Mid-Atlantic businesses of all sizes. Securis currently serves 12 municipalities covering 24 locations in Maryland and Virginia.

Securis also employs local workers with disabilities to help break down, disassemble and recycle electronics via partnership with ServiceSource, a non-profit organization that specializes in employing workers with disabilities. Additionally, Securis provides internship opportunities to special needs high school students and has successfully trained more than 400 students in on-the-job programs in electronics recycling, while some of these students have gone on to become full-time employees. Securis won the Council for Exceptional Children Business Award and won the Washington Business Journal's Corporate Philanthropy Award for its dedication to these important programs. In 2012, Securis was listed on the Inc. 500 list as one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States. It won this honor again in 2017.

Securis has experienced steady growth during the past several years, recycling the following amount of electronics: 4 million pounds in 2020, 6.1 million pounds in 2021 and 2022 and 6.8 million pounds in 2023. Securis manages electronics based on a



Example of Electronic Components Broken Down by Securis and Sorted into Different Commodity Loads, for Shipment to Downstream Markets

reuse, refurbishment and recovery hierarchy, performing cleaning and minor repairs/replacements to increase the resale value of equipment. Securis recycles 95 percent of its municipal electronics while the remaining 5 percent is sent for testing for potential resale.

Since the Authority's MSA contract initiation and service kick-off beginning July 2023 through September 2024, Securis has reused/recycled a combined 1,280,968 pounds of electronics from Member Jurisdictions Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Carroll County. The Authority expects this number to exponentially increase over the life of the MSA contract term, since Baltimore City only recently kicked off services in July 2024. Many of the public drop off centers are undergoing site improvements, which the Authority believes will better help capture more electronics for these reuse/recycling services. More updates on those improvements coming soon, so stay tuned!



## WECARE DENALI, LLC MAKES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COMPOST DONATION

**T**his fall, the Authority's composting contractor, WeCare Denali, LLC, (Denali) has made its annual donation of more than 20 cubic yards of finished compost to the South County Community Garden (SCCG), a 3-acre community supported agriculture space, located at the River Farm of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Lothian, MD. This compost is processed by Denali from Anne Arundel County's yard material collected curbside and received at the Millersville Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility's compost pad. The donated compost is used to grow vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs in the community garden. The food grown is primarily donated to Anne Arundel County food pantries and the South County Senior Activity Center, part of the County's Department of Aging and Disabilities. SCCG has highlighted the importance of this donation stating that "we use the compost to enrich the soil before we plant. Our bountiful vegetable donations to local seniors and other

organizations simply wouldn't happen without their generous support...this compost is like "black gold" in that it really enhances our production by adding critical nutrients."

The Authority would also like to acknowledge and thank the County's Recreation & Parks Maintenance Crew, who deliver the compost each year to SCCG. The Authority is pleased to acknowledge this great example of different partners working together to support initiatives that benefit the community.



Boxes of Produce Ready for Donation Delivery



Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks Maintenance Crew Unloading Compost Donation in 2023

## BALTIMORE CITY KICKS OFF TIRE RECYCLING AND BENEFICIAL USE WITH AUSTON CONTRACTING, INC.

**I**n August 2024, Baltimore City executed its Confirmation and kicked off its tire processing and beneficial use and recycling services contract with Auston Contracting Inc. (Auston), under the Authority's Master Service Agreement (MSA). As background, Auston is in Harford County, Maryland and holds a women owned business enterprise certificate, small business enterprise certificate, as well as a scrap tire recycler's license, and has been in business for more than 30 years. When tires arrive at Auston's facility, rims are removed

from the tires, loaded into containers and delivered to scrap metal facilities. The tires are then shredded and transported to facilities to be used as crumb rubber, tire derived fuel and tire derived aggregate. As part of the tire derived aggregate downstream recycling process, shredded tire chips are delivered to asphalt plants and concrete plants, to be added to those mixtures.

Since the term first initiated on January 1, 2022, Auston has beneficially used and recycled a total of 2,842,740 pounds of tires through September 2024, from Baltimore City,

Carroll County and Harford County under the Authority's MSA. The Authority expects this number to exponentially increase over the life of the MSA contract term, since Baltimore City only recently kicked off services.



Harford County Public Drop Off and Tire Collection Area

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

By Andrew Kays, Authority Executive Director



**T**he Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority continued strong support of its eight Member

Jurisdictions by providing many services during Fiscal Year 2024 on our common road to increasing sustainability. Throughout the year, Authority staff proceeded with managing our existing facilities and several disposal and recycling contracts, as well as procuring new services for Members.

In this Executive Summary, I would like to highlight a few of the Authority's FY 2024 activities, which reflect the direction of the Board as they carry out the solid waste management directives of their respective jurisdictions. Some of these activities, such as hosting MDrecycles.org and providing technical expertise to state agencies and commissions, extend beyond the Authority's Member Jurisdictions and are recognized benefits to the State of Maryland.

[Mdrecycles.org](https://mdrecycles.org) offers a recycling and donation vendor directory, as well as information about the residential

diversion program, to assist businesses and residents in developing and implementing recycling and reuse programs.

In April and May of this year the Authority participated in the International City/County Management Association's 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 and is 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. The YSEALI Fellow worked on an expansion of the covered subject directories and materials listed on the [Mdrecycles.org](https://mdrecycles.org) website, which is expected to go live this winter. Authority staff will continue to update the website on a periodic basis and verify that the vendor lists and information about the residential

program provided on the website are up to date, in conjunction with updates from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

More closely tied to day-to-day operations, the Authority holds recyclables processing contracts for the City of Baltimore, Carroll County, and Frederick County. The Authority also manages electricity and Renewable Energy Credits sales for several Member Jurisdictions, returning revenue from such sales to the applicable Member Jurisdiction for use throughout the year. During the year, staff assisted Members with several solid waste/diversion planning activities including updates to 10-Year Solid Waste Management plans, a landfill expansion project, upgrades to project infrastructure at a transfer station, a broad reaching marketing campaign for grass recycling, business outreach, bin-based education, recycling webpage management, grant application support, and the analysis of an organics diversion program.

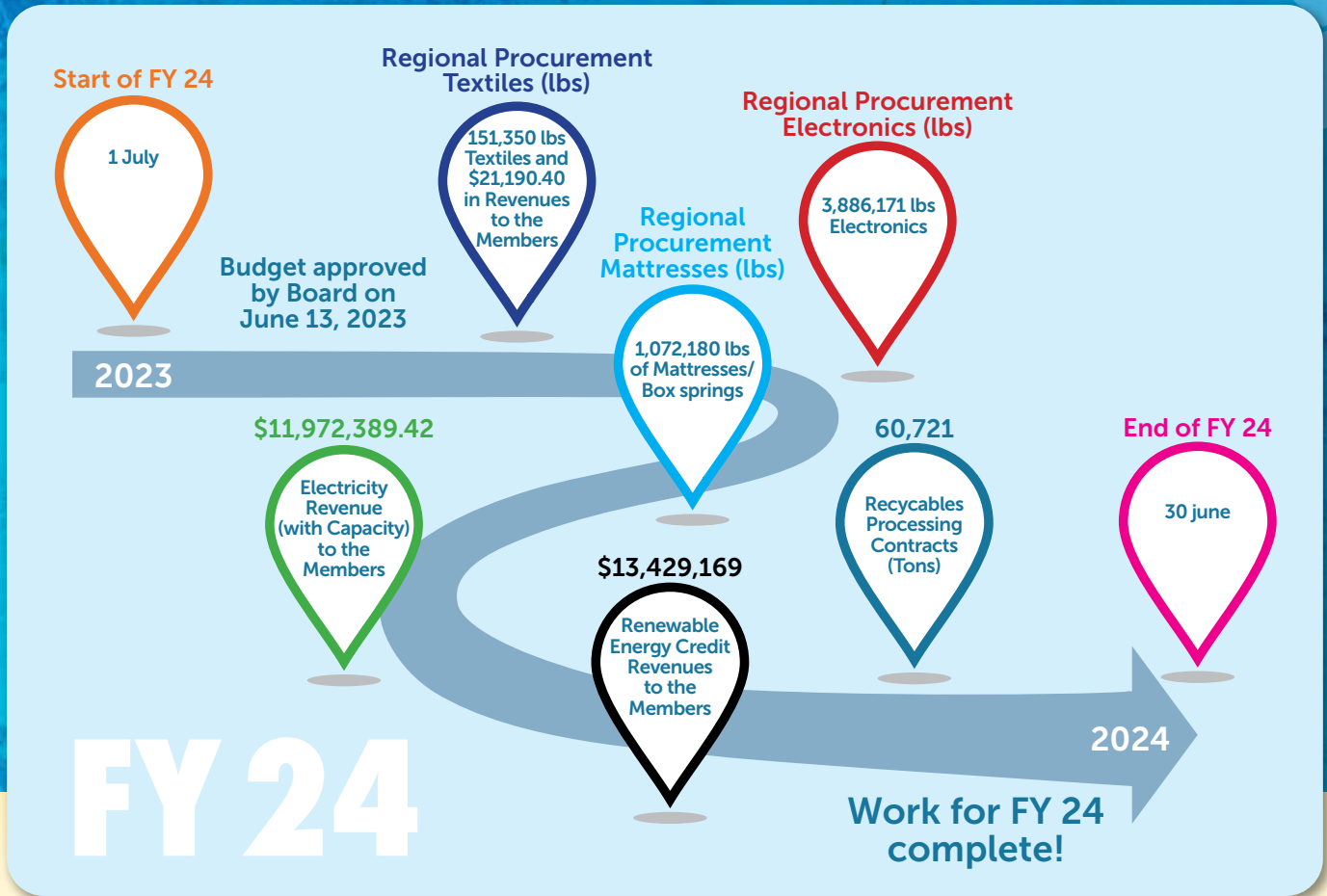
The Authority continued to offer reuse/recycling services for municipally collected electronics

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from Member Jurisdiction Drop Off Sites, as well as: 1) new services such as coordinating the purchase and placement of semi-permanent, removable covered structures for electronics, and 2) special collection events for Baltimore City agencies, offices and schools, through the new Master Service Agreements with publicly procured vendors.

Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Howard County, Montgomery County, and the City of Baltimore used the Authority's new Master Service Agreements in FY 24, and the Authority will continue to support other Member Jurisdictions that wish to utilize the Master Service Agreements.

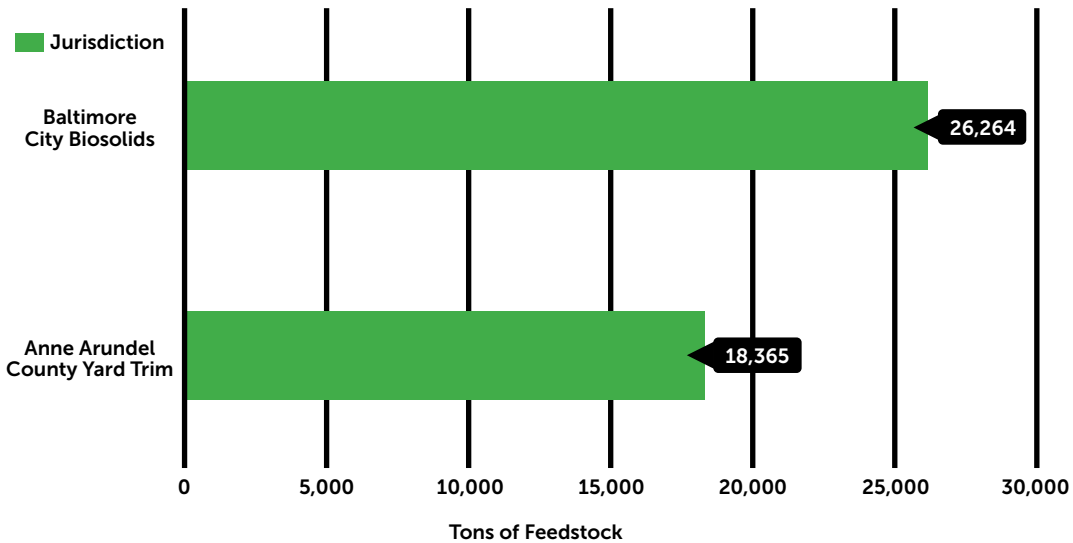
The Authority assisted Member Jurisdictions in managing solid waste with ongoing waste export and waste-to-energy contract operations. We also supported composting operations for several Member Jurisdictions, through contract operations, system review and design/construction management support services.

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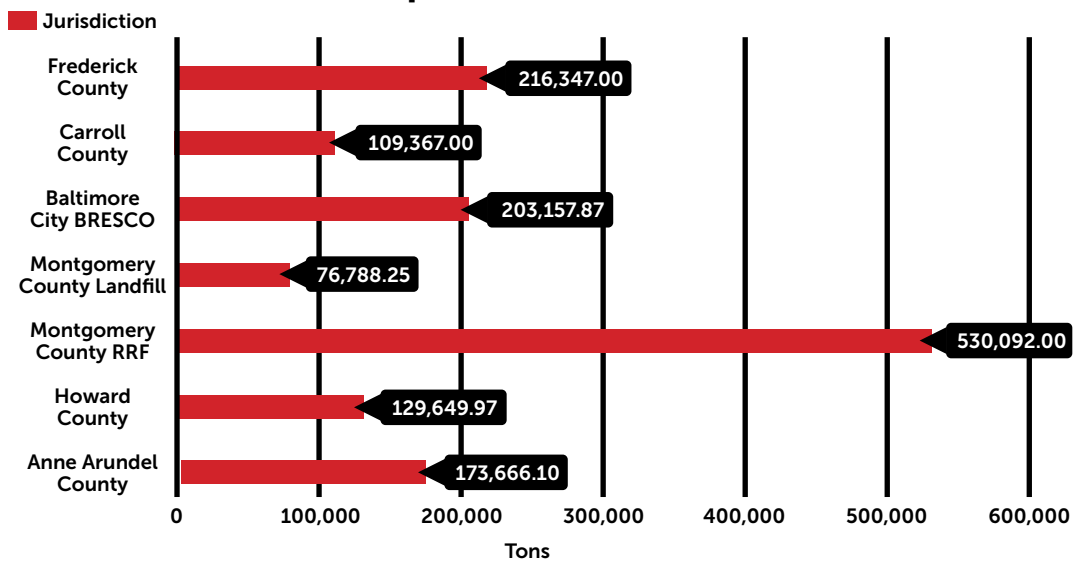


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### FY 2024 Organics Processed under NMWDA Contracts



### FY 2024 MSW Disposed Under NMWDA Contracts



For the biosolids processed above, the City of Baltimore Composting Facility added amendments to produce more than 24,000 cubic yards of compost.

The Authority also gathered recycling information from large recyclers in the region to help Member Jurisdictions prepare their 2023 Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) recycling reports. See the Spring

2024 issue of [WasteWatch](#) for our call-out of those reporting businesses! Master Service Agreements were maintained with the Authority's textile reuse and recycling vendor, and its mattress and box spring recycling vendor, which were procured and made available to interested Member Jurisdictions. Baltimore County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, and the City of Baltimore requested use of the Authority's

Master Service Agreement for textile reuse/recycling. Frederick County and Montgomery County are using the Agreement for mattress and box spring recycling. The City of Baltimore prepared for the start of service through the year with the kick-off that took place in July. The Authority will support other Member Jurisdictions that wish to utilize the Agreements.

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Authority staff also maintained a Master Service Agreement with its tire processing and beneficial use/recycling vendor. The City of Baltimore, Carroll County and Harford County are using these services, to date. The Authority will support other Member Jurisdictions that wish to utilize the Agreement as well.

The Authority actively participates in local and national associations, making a broad spectrum of experience and expertise available to our Member Jurisdictions. Through the Authority's association activities, we were able to provide Member Jurisdictions with two complementary registrations to the Maryland Recycling Network (MRN)/Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Annual Recycling Conference. SWANA and MRN are leading professional associations that foster continued education and networking opportunities for those new in the industry as well as for more experienced professionals. The Authority also supported Member Jurisdictions attending the SWANA Regional Road-E-O event, where frontline employees participated in a friendly skills competition.

The Authority testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the issue of [Improving Capacity for](#)



Panelists with U.S. Senator Tom Carper, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in Washington D.C.

[Critical Mineral Recovery through Electronic Waste Recycling and Reuse](#), specifically regarding the need to better support public sector electronics and battery recycling programs.

As a member of the MRN, Authority staff also testified before the Maryland House Economic Matters Committee, in support of HB468 which would establish a Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety In Maryland in order to advocate for proper battery management amidst the growing issue of battery related fires in collection vehicles and at waste management facilities. HB468 passed and was signed into law. The Authority is supporting the Commission, which is currently working on recommendations to improve battery recycling and safety in the State of Maryland.

The Authority also provided information to the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee for HB1355, to establish a Mattress Stewardship Program, as more funding is needed for the Authority's Member Jurisdiction's mattress and boxspring recycling programs, as well as for other cities and counties throughout the State. Additionally, at the State level, the Authority provided technical information for HB830 and SB686 for the establishment of a Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program. The goal of the Program is to provide funding for electronics recycling programs in the State.

There are many more large and small projects that the Authority staff worked on during FY 24. While this summary provides highlights, a more comprehensive list of accomplishments was presented to the [Board in June](#).



Equipment competition at the SWANA Road-E-O





## AUTHORITY ORGANIZED & LED A TOUR OF THE HELPSY WAREHOUSE IN NJ

**T**he Authority contracts with HELPSY, a Certified B Corp and Public Benefit Corporation, to offer textile reuse and recycling services to its Member Jurisdictions. Since its inception last year, the program through the Authority has collected more than 163,000 pounds of textiles and generated \$23,000 in revenue for its Members. HELPSY collects clothing and other textiles for recycling or resale in various second-hand stores, an effort that advances zero-waste and sustainable materials management goals in the region. To get an inside look, the Authority organized a site visit to the HELPSY warehouse on May 23, 2024. The rain poured as an intrepid party of 11 from the Authority, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County began the three-hour journey up to the Eatontown, New Jersey warehouse.

HELPSY's co-founder Alex Husted, greeted the group upon their arrival. Mountains of baled clothing were stacked in cardboard boxes around the building awaiting outbound shipment to various markets. Husted also directed the group's attention to several containers filled with luggage, children's toys, shoes, and other items that HELPSY receives in more than 1300 collection bins in 10 states. HELPSY works to find markets for all these items – even unpaired shoes and plastic bags. The group learned that while 85 percent of used clothing ends up in landfills, 95 percent could be resold or recycled. HELPSY sends 45 percent of the clothes they receive to bulk graders or thrift stores for reuse in their

original form. Fifty percent of the textiles they receive will not sell on the reuse market, so are sent to recyclers to turn them into industrial wiping cloths or insulation material, called slag, that is used as fill for items such as mattresses, insulation, stuffing and carpet pads.

After touring the warehouse, one of the staff members demonstrated the proprietary sorting system HELPSY uses to determine where to send each item. Sorters type in the brand, if one is visible, then inspect and record any defects with the item. The system will automatically show which category and bin the item should be placed in (Kosei 1-13, vintage, luxury, bulk, baby clothing, etc.). Tour participants learned about the process of using computer tablets to sort through piles of clothing.

To round out the site visit, HELPSY's regional manager Brian Stroh took the group upstairs to enjoy lunch and a presentation with further information about HELPSY's mission and operations, as well as the state of textile recycling in general, including



Bales of textiles await their next stop at the HELPSY Warehouse in NJ

existing domestic and international markets and the difference between mechanical and chemical recycling for textiles. Specifically, attendees learned about developments in the chemical recycling world of textiles, and efforts by innovators to scale up this technology.

All attendees enjoyed this informative site visit. As Brian said in his follow-up email, "In a fast-paced world where almost everything is done online or through email, we truly value the time that we get to meet in person!"



Tour attendees using the proprietary software on the tablets to document information about the clothing and how to sort the clothing



## REVIEW PROJECT FOR THE BALTIMORE COUNTY CENTRAL ACCEPTANCE FACILITY KICKS OFF



On behalf of Baltimore County, the Authority conducted a Request for Proposals from its pool of qualified on-call engineers, to commission a study to evaluate the County's Central Acceptance Facility (CAF) Material Recovery Facility's (MRF) existing lifespan and long-term recycling strategy. This CAF assessment is meant to analyze the equipment, facilities, operations, and all ongoing maintenance practices within CAF to determine its remaining useful life and provide recommendations for upgrading the existing facility, or siting and building a new MRF.

To fund this project, Baltimore County is pleased to be using grants received under The American Rescue Plan Act, passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law in March 2021, which provided \$350 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

In 2020-2021, the County commissioned a Tactical Five-Year Plan on the County's Recycling and Solid Waste System. In support of this effort, County Executive Johnny Olszewski created the Baltimore County Solid Waste Work Group in October 2020. The Final Report of the Work Group recommended that the County evaluate long-term plans for the MRF and the need for future replacement of the facility. One of the key recommendations was that the County pursue a new, stand-alone MRF in fiscal year 2025. The County's current MRF is approaching the end of its estimated lifespan within the next four years, and it has already reached capacity. It is essential that the County develop plans for the future of its recycling program. Thus,

this project is intended to be a highly specialized evaluation of the totality of the County's recycling operation and infrastructure and will support the goals outlined in the County Executive's Solid Waste Work Group Final Report.

EA Engineering Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC (EA) was selected by the County and awarded the work to undertake this project with prime subcontractor, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB). Services kicked off in August 2024.

The main tasks of this project include:

**Task 1:** Project Management

**Task 2:** Site Inspection and Composition Study

**Task 3:** Summary Report of Inspection and Analysis

**Task 3.1:** Description of Additional Evaluations

**Task 3.2:** Provide Assessment of All Major Equipment and Estimate Useful Life

**Task 3.3:** Review of Existing Preventative Maintenance Program

**Task 3.4** Review of Spare Parts

**Task 3.5** Additional Analysis

**Task 3.6** Provide a List of Recommended Maintenance Vendors

**Task 3.7** Analysis of Current Storage and Recommendations for Additional Storage

**Task 3.8** Discussion of Current Heat and Fire Detection and Suppression Systems

**Task 4:** Summary Review and Benchmark Report of Three Other MRFs

**Task 5:** Analysis and Recommendations for Retrofitting MRF

**Task 6:** Analysis and Recommendations for new MRF and Locations Recommendations

**Task 7:** Prepare the Recommendations Report for Retrofitted and/or new MRF Options for Long-Term Operation

**EA and GBB have initiated Task 2:** Site Inspection and Composition Study, completing the MRF composition sort in September 2024. The EA/GBB team is currently preparing the resulting study for Authority and County review.

The composition sort spanned over five days at the CAF facility, collecting samples from individual truck routes throughout the week as well as sorting samples from the residue line and from bales. Specifically, bale sorts were conducted to look at all the composition components, not just product, outthrow and prohibitives, to give a better understanding of what materials are ending up in specific bales. The sort categorized standard MRF commodities consisting of 34 material categories that span most MRF materials of interest such as fiber, plastic, glass, metals, organics, textiles, HHW, electronics, C&D, also include additional sub-sorts to provide information about certain categories without diluting the main sort numbers.

In the end, the sort team hit the goal of sorting 40 samples from a variety of inputs, which resulted in a proper and statistically robust study, producing data that will be an invaluable tool for better understanding the existing MRF capabilities as well as its common contamination issues and other

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## ALLIYAH JOHNSON JOINS THE AUTHORITY AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR



Alliyah Johnson has begun her role as an Administrative Assistant/Network Administrator at the Authority. Alliyah received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Since graduating, she has worked for a diverse selection of companies, that include Lifetouch Photography, G&G Outfitters/Sureship Inc.,

and most recently, the District Office for Baltimore City Public Schools. Alliyah has an extensive background in administrative work and several years of experience in marketing, sales and photography that complement her line of work. Alliyah is a Maryland native and outside of work enjoys going to concerts, festivals, plays, musicals and ballets. So far, she has attended almost 60 shows! She is an avid collector with many interests.



Alliyah Johnson

## REVIEW PROJECT FOR THE BALTIMORE COUNTY CENTRAL ACCEPTANCE FACILITY KICKS OFF

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hazards or challenges when processing the materials.

As stated in the County's September 2024 Solid Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Refuse Disposal Newsletter "this effort will provide a clearer understanding of what County residents are placing in their recycling

bins. During the sort, materials arriving at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) are manually separated into categories such as plastic, glass, metal, paper, and non-recyclable items. This detailed process gives us valuable insight into the types of materials we are receiving. The data gathered will help us improve the

sorting process, increase the recovery of valuable materials, and enhance the marketability of recyclables. Additionally, identifying the most common contaminants will allow the Bureau to target specific problem areas and better educate residents on proper recycling practices."



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