

July 18, 2005

# ENVIRO MATTERS

## FISCAL YEAR 2006 INITIATIVES

The coming year is met with initiatives that build on the foundation of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) historically successful programs. MDE's vision is consistent with one of the Five Pillars – Health and the Environment – which represent the highest priorities of the Ehrlich-Steele Administration to enable a greater quality of life in Maryland. To read about the department's initiatives in greater detail, visit [www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/EnviroMatters/2006mde\\_initiatives.asp](http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/EnviroMatters/2006mde_initiatives.asp)

### 1. Land Redevelopment and Community Revitalization

To meet Governor Ehrlich's 2010 goal to eliminate childhood lead poisoning, MDE will continue outreach efforts to make rental property owners aware of their obligations under Maryland's lead poisoning prevention laws. The Voluntary Cleanup Program's goal is to expand the number of Brownfields properties throughout the State that are restored and redeveloped. MDE will also implement House Bill 575 (2005) for a statewide computer recycling pilot program to encourage computer manufacturer take-back programs. Maryland is one of three states with an eCycling law, and the only State to require a computer manufacturer registration fee based upon computer takebacks.

### 2. Water Quality Restoration and Protection

MDE will help local governments implement water-quality requirements associated with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and evaluate local compliance with EPA's BEACHES Act. Through the Governor's Bay Restoration Fund, MDE will support the State's 66 major sewage treatment plants in achieving enhanced nutrient removal. Working with the Maryland Department of Planning, MDE will assist local governments with water and wastewater capacity management.

### 3. Air Quality Restoration and Protection

To address air pollution transport, MDE will move beyond state plans to regional implementation plans to reduce emissions. Industrial air toxics and ambient air quality are monitored for local public health impacts. MDE provides emission control solutions for mobile sources by retrofitting diesel vehicles such as municipal trucks, ambulances and school buses. MDE also plans to further assist with localized air pollution impacts in environmental justice communities.

### 4. Efficient and Cost-Effective Departmental Support

The department will enhance internal services by developing and implementing training programs for MDE's most important resource – people.

### 5. Multi-Media Innovations, Stakeholder Relations, and Outreach

MDE will assess methods to better survey and measure our customer service to stakeholders. MDE will partner with the Maryland Department of Education on the Green Schools program and other environmental education initiatives. The department will also strongly pursue environmental justice initiatives such as designating additional Environmental Benefits Districts (EBDs).



**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor**  
**Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor**



**Kendl P. Philbrick, Secretary**  
**Jonas A. Jacobson, Deputy Secretary**

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