



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 9, 2018

The Honorable Mike V. Miller, Jr., President  
Senate of Maryland  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker  
House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair  
Senate Education, Health and  
Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
2 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House of Delegates  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401-1991

Dear President Miller, Speaker Busch, Chairs Conway and Barve:

As required in Section 5-1001 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, I am enclosing a copy of the 2015 report on the Maryland Used Motor Oil Recycling Program.

If the Department can provide you with any additional information, please contact me or Ms. Hilary Miller, Director of the Land and Materials Administration, at 410-537-3304 or via email at [hilary.miller@maryland.gov](mailto:hilary.miller@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Ben Grumbles  
Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services, Mandated Report Specialist  
Hilary Miller, Director, Land and Materials Administration





# MARYLAND USED MOTOR OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM (Calendar Year 2015 Data)

Prepared by:  
Oil Control Program  
Land and Materials Administration

Prepared for:  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Larry Hogan, Governor  
State of Maryland

Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
State of Maryland

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Senate President  
Maryland General Assembly

Michael E. Busch, House Speaker  
Maryland General Assembly

February 2018



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Larry Hogan, Governor | Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor | Ben Grumbles, Secretary



# 2015 Annual Report

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) administers the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act through an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement (IGA) with the Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department). The Used Oil Recycling Act is found in Section 5-1001 of the Environment Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. MES is responsible for implementing a statewide Program for the construction, operation, and the routine maintenance of used oil collection facilities; providing public education and outreach programs related to the proper disposal of used motor oil; and maintaining an information center to educate citizens regarding the proper disposal of used motor oil. Additionally, MES utilizes these used motor oil collection sites for the collection of related recyclables including used antifreeze and used oil filters.

MES also uses funding from the Department for the purpose of implementing supplemental environmental projects related to used motor oil. Specifically, this grant funding is used to assist in the construction of “rain shelters” to minimize stormwater contact with used motor oil collection tanks and is also used to fund the purchase of above-ground storage tanks for new sites, as well as replacements for older sites.

Since 1988, the partnership between MES and the Department has resulted in the collection and recycling of over 16.7 million gallons of used motor oil in the State of Maryland. Similarly, the Program has accomplished the collection and recycling of over 882,000 gallons of used antifreeze from Maryland Do-It-Yourself automobile and boating enthusiasts. The antifreeze is currently collected and shipped to a recycling facility where it is filtered, distilled, and reformulated into automotive antifreeze and industrial ethylene glycol.

During the 2015 calendar year, MES collected 463,619 gallons of used motor oil and 21,335 gallons of used antifreeze from Program-sponsored locations. Additionally, during this period, MES added a used oil filter collection service at select Program-sponsored locations, resulting in the collection and recycling of 298 drums of used oil filters.

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## MARYLAND USED OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

#### INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Used Oil Recycling Program Annual Report is provided to the Maryland General Assembly as a requirement of Section 5-1001(g) of the Environment Article.

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an independent agency of the State of Maryland, is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program through an Intergovernmental Agency Agreement (IGA) with the Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department). Program management includes the designation of used oil collection facilities, technical and financial assistance to establish collection facilities, routine inspection and cleaning of Program-sponsored facilities, public education, operation of an information center, and implementation of other non-regulatory provisions of the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act. MES is pleased to provide the following report detailing the accomplishments, initiatives, and progress of the Program during the past year as well as proposed plans for calendar years 2016 - 2017.

#### BACKGROUND

The Maryland Used Oil Recycling Law was enacted in July 1978. Initial program start-up funding was allocated from energy funds. This funding enabled MES to create a program to assist the home mechanic or Do-It-Yourselfer with proper used motor oil disposal. Farmers and boat owners at marinas also had need of these facilities for their recycling. MES purchased oil collection tanks, collection boxes, hardware, and signs. County and local governments were solicited to assist in establishing convenient and accessible used oil collection sites for citizens. A variety of collection sites were established. Most are located at government-owned solid waste, public works, and road maintenance facilities.

The Program has been successful at recruiting and maintaining donor locations for several reasons: 1) free collection service of used motor oil;



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2) Program-provided financial assistance for tanks and shelters; and 3) the Program assumes the responsibility for disposing of any contaminated used oil.

The Used Oil Recycling Program was established primarily to respond to market forces that changed the economic dynamics of automobile service stations. In the past, service stations took used motor oil from individuals that changed the oil in their own cars and trucks. Now, many of the local service stations sell milk and bread – not automobile-related maintenance or repair services. Maryland's Do-It-Yourself automobile mechanics and enthusiasts needed a reliable and responsible alternative to recycle used motor oil.

## **USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Collection of used motor oil from all statewide, Program-participating locations yielded 463,619 gallons of used motor oil in calendar year 2015. This is a slight increase from the 461,519 gallons collected in 2014. Since its inception in 1988, the Program has expanded from 44 collection sites to the current 134 operational sites and has recovered more than 16.7 million gallons of used motor oil over this time period. Used motor oil and antifreeze collection results are summarized at the end of the report. Copies of the detailed used motor oil and antifreeze collection records for the participating Program sites are attached as well.

### **Key Calendar Year 2015 Program Accomplishments**

- Collection of 463,619 gallons of used motor oil from Program-sponsored locations, up from 2014.
- Collection of 21,335 gallons of used antifreeze from Program-sponsored locations:
  - Replaced over 20 antifreeze drums at a number of Program-sponsored locations.
- Added used oil filter collection service to a number of Program-sponsored locations:
  - Collected and recycled 298 drums of used oil filters, up from 196 in 2014.
- Continued participation of 134 Program-sponsored collection locations throughout the State.
- Added new a collection site to the Program:
  - Added new site in Allegany County.

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Repaired / upgraded rain shelters:

- ▮ Upgraded rain shelter at Queen Anne's County Public Landing in Queen Anne's County.

Repaired / upgraded secondary containments:

- ▮ New concrete pads were poured for the upgrade to the Town of Abingdon used oil convenience site.
- ▮ New concrete pad was poured to enable placement of an additional tank at the Baltimore County Central Acceptance Facility.

Upgraded and replaced older above-ground storage tanks:

- ▮ Added a new 500-gallon double-wall tank at the Baltimore County Central Acceptance Facility.
- ▮ Replaced two older 275 gallon single-wall tanks with one new 500-gallon double-wall tank at the Town of Abingdon in Harford County.
- ▮ Replaced two older 275 gallon single-wall tank with two new 300-gallon double-wall tanks at Penn Mar Recycling and Mountainview Landfill in Allegany County.
- ▮ Replaced leaking 500-gallon double-wall tank with a new 500-gallon double-wall tank at Newland Park Landfill Transfer Station in Wicomico County.

Performed supplementary cleaning and maintenance at 36 Program-sponsored locations during the year:

- ▮ Eight Harford County sites are cleaned twice weekly (through an independent agreement between MES and the County).

Hazardous waste removal and spill cleanups performed at four sites. This represents one of the benefits to being in the Maryland Used Motor Oil Recycling Program.

Working to expand used motor oil collection Program within the State.

Maintained and updated the used motor oil and antifreeze website that provides information regarding all Program-sponsored locations.



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- ☑ Maintained and responded to citizen inquiries from the Public Information Number 800-4RECYCLE (800-473-2935). Most citizen inquiries concerned proper used motor oil and antifreeze disposal and the location of the nearest collection site.
- ☑ Performed annual inspections at all 134 Program-sponsored locations during the year, some more than once. MES conducted over 166 inspections.

With the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland boasts a large boating community. To serve the needs of Maryland's boating community, MES continues to provide collection sites at designated public marinas. Additionally, several private marinas throughout the State also participate in the Program.

Good housekeeping practices are important aspects of spill control and contamination prevention. As part of the administration of the Program, MES has conducted on-site audits of all Program-sponsored collection facilities to assure that sponsors, recycling coordinators, site supervisors, and site operational staff are aware of their pollution prevention responsibilities. Additionally, MES staff conducted routine cleaning and maintenance as necessary to assist the site hosts in maintaining environmental compliance. During the 2015 calendar year, MES performed supplementary cleaning and maintenance at 36 Program-sponsored locations.

Although there were no noted incidents of non-compliance with any sites over the last year, the Program continually reminds all site hosts that they are responsible for providing day-to-day monitoring and housekeeping of their tanks. MES staff provides assistance with housekeeping and compliance, as needed, based on the results of the routine site inspections. MES maintains a full-time staff to conduct routine site audits and assist with site maintenance and cleaning. Sites are upgraded, as needed, to increase compliance and minimize the potential for impacts to the environment.

While there had been a marked decrease in the total collections of used oil from 2012 to 2013, over the past three years, 2013 through 2015, the total collections of used oil have been relatively consistent (Figure 1). Factors that can affect the total collections of used oil include: the increased use of longer lasting synthetic oils; commercial establishments offering recycling services; auto service centers specializing in oil changes and routine maintenance that are convenient and reasonably priced; and theft of oil.





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Currently, there are 134 participating program collection sites. Due to the continued low crude oil prices, an increase in the number of sites is anticipated in 2016 as some local governments find that it costs too much for them to run their own facility (i.e. they find they have to pay to have the used oil collected).

Given the concern over proper disposal of used oil, contaminated oil, and unauthorized dumping of trash and hazardous materials, MES continues to urge site hosts to remain in the Program. Due to the fact that the used oil can be easily contaminated with PCBs, brake cleaning fluids, and other readily accessible chemicals, MES and the Department feel that citizens are better served by local governments staying within the established Program.

In an effort to monitor certain sites which have had incidents in the past, MES purchased and placed surveillance cameras at several sites. The cameras have caught illegal dumping and oil spills. MES will continue to use the cameras and has also installed electronic tank sensors at several sites in an effort to deter thefts and prevent tank overflows.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

MES maintains the Public Information Number **800-4RECYCLE** (800-473-2935) in response to citizen inquiries concerning proper disposal of used oil and antifreeze and the location of the nearest collection site, as part of our Recycling Information Center. The Program received 325 calls in 2015 with the majority of callers requesting information on used oil collection locations. This public service provides information about recycling various household wastes. MES participates and monitors the activities and publications of the Association of Responsible Recyclers (<http://www.noranews.org/>), a trade group representing over 200 companies in the liquid recycling industry.

Collection reports, a current list of participating collection sites, newsletter publications, and supporting documentation are posted on the MES web site – [www.menv.com](http://www.menv.com). During the 2015 calendar year, brochures providing information to the public about the importance of proper handling, disposal, and recycling of used motor oil and antifreeze were circulated at local recycling trade shows and conferences.

## **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2016 AND 2017**

Planned activities for calendar years 2016 and 2017 include:

### **Public Outreach**

- Continue updating and linking the used motor oil recycling pages on the MES web site – [www.menv.com](http://www.menv.com).

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- Continue the MES membership in the Association of Responsible Recyclers while updating Program participants and citizens with current information, issues, and trends within the industry.
- Present Program updates to statewide solid waste managers and recycling coordinators.
- Continue public outreach and education at local county events.
- Explore additional ways to market the Program to the public.

## Operation and Maintenance

- Continue annual auditing and inspection of all Program-participating sites in order to ensure continued protection of the environment (copies of all audits are maintained at the MES headquarters)
- Continue the routine maintenance and cleaning program to ensure safe operation participating sites.
- Continue the tank upgrade program by replacing single-wall 275 gallon tanks with newer, more environmentally sound double-wall tanks.
- Promote establishment of additional used oil DIY locations in highly-populated counties.
- Explore ways to improve automated monitoring of participating sites to deter abuse of the facilities.

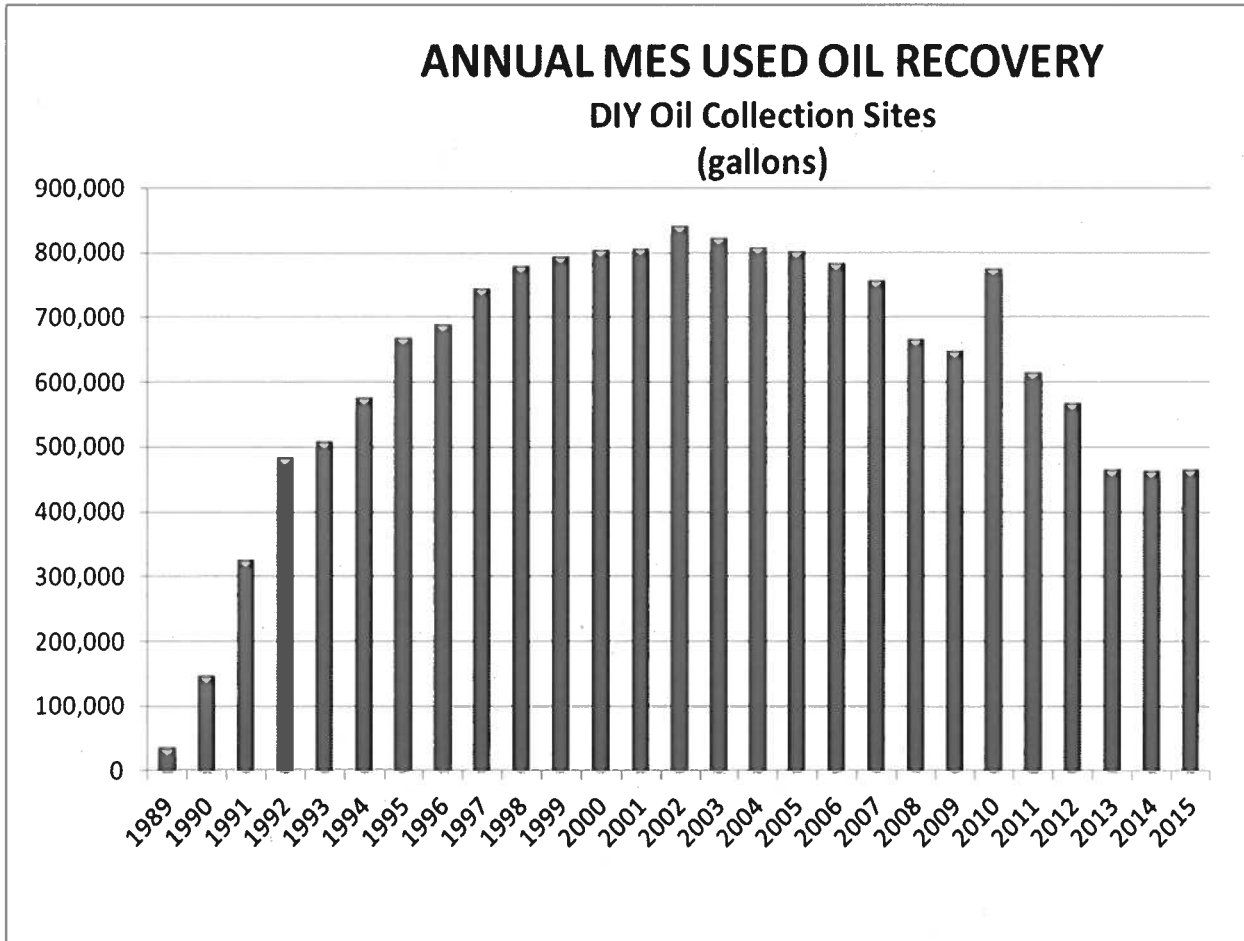
## Administration

- Continue the grant program to assist in funding construction of new sites and upgrading existing sites.
- Continue to expand the used oil filter collection program to other sites throughout the State.



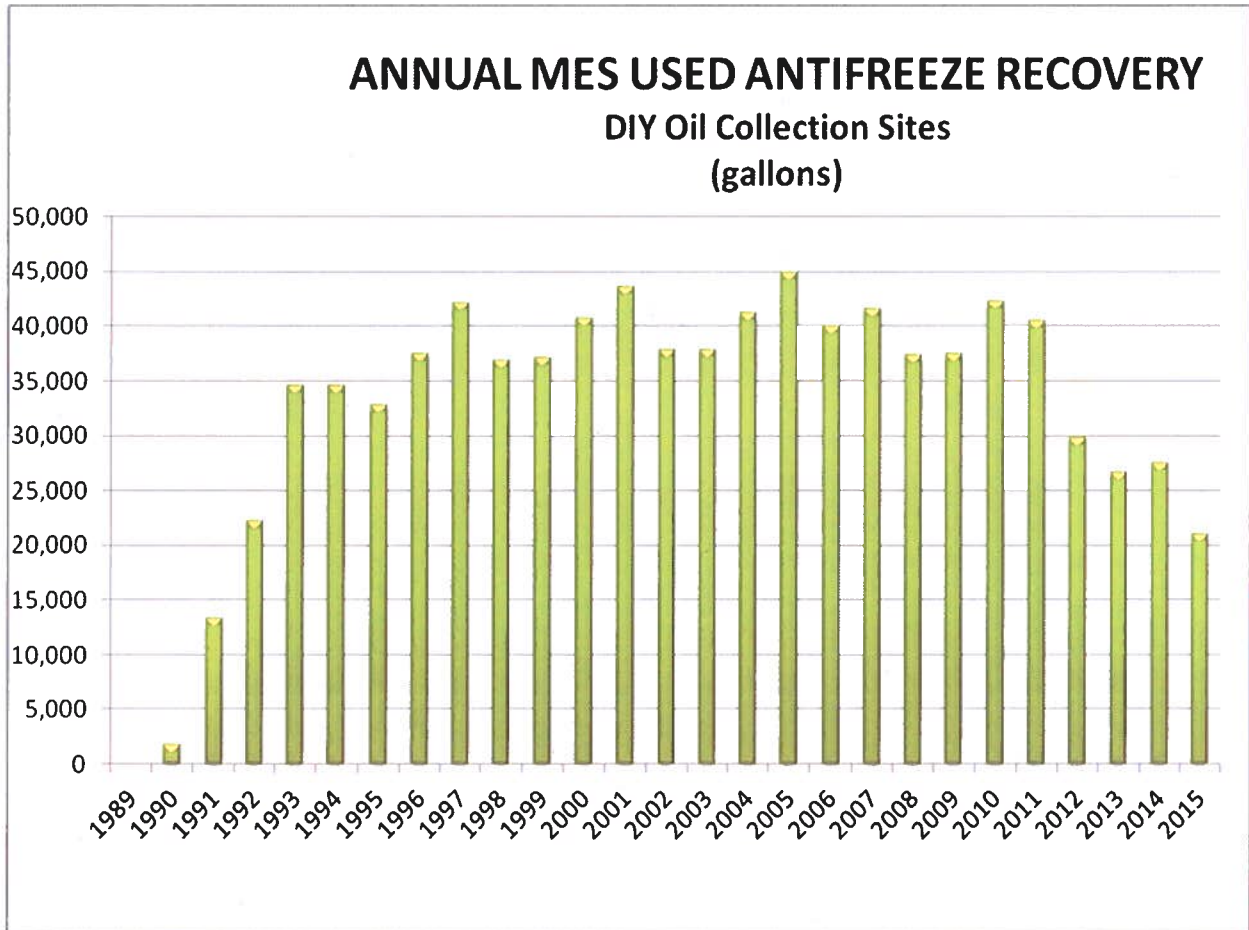
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**FIGURE 1 – USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION SUMMARY**



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**FIGURE 2 – USED ANTIFREEZE COLLECTION SUMMARY**



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## DETAILED USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION DATA





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## DETAILED USED ANTIFREEZE COLLECTION DATA

