

MD Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment

July 1998

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Milestone Reached in Voluntary Cleanup Program

The former American Can site in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore City has become the first participant in the state's Voluntary Cleanup Program to receive a "certificate of completion," which certifies that all required remediation activities have been accomplished.

The "certificate of completion" designation means that all environmental requirements related to hazardous waste have been met and that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) may not bring an enforcement action against the participant. Environmental cleanup activities at the site involved the removal of lead-contaminated soil, caused by almost 100 years of can manufacturing, and capping areas of the site. "The lead problem was solved with help from MDE," explained Bill Struever, developer of the American Can site, "it takes courage to go forward with brownfields."



Fred and Bill Struever development team during the final stages of the American Can Project.

The Voluntary Cleanup Program, which is administered by MDE, encourages redevelopment of contaminated or perceived to be contaminated industrial sites--known as brownfields--by streamlining the cleanup process and providing closure upon completion of an agreed cleanup

plan. The program is a key component of Governor Parris N. Glendening's effort to revitalize communities and control sprawl.

"The American Can site is a wonderful example of the type of cleanup and redevelopment projects that we envisioned would be the

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Status of Toxics in the Bay

by Wayne Jenkins

Declines in underwater grasses and widespread low dissolved oxygen conditions caused by excessive nutrient loads are the major causes of concern for the Chesapeake Bay. However, in some areas, chemical contaminants, or toxics, have also been identified as a problem. Toxics in the bay are generally a localized problem occurring near urban areas with an industrial history, such as manufacturing or shipbuilding. While there is no evidence that chemical contamination is causing severe,

system-wide impacts on the bay, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council designated three regions of the bay with known toxics problems as "Regions of Concern"-- the Anacostia River, Baltimore Harbor, and the Elizabeth River. In 1996, the council accepted the final regional action plans for the reduction and elimination of toxic impacts in these three areas. Each jurisdiction worked with local stakeholder groups to clearly define the chemical contaminant problems and develop viable options for reducing, preventing, and eliminating pollution in these areas.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has compiled information from a variety of sources to assess chemical contamination in the bay. These "indicators" show the trends of chemical contaminant loads to the bay, levels in the ambient environment (water, sediment, and fish tissue), and the impacts of chemical contamination on the bay's living resources and human health. Progress in reductions in toxics can be attributed to regulatory programs implemented over the past two decades as well as voluntary efforts implemented since the late 1980s.

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Voluntary Cleanup Program

result of Maryland's Smart Growth program," Governor Glendening said. "This project is proof once again that economic and environmental interests are compatible and not mutually exclusive. As a result, a once hulking environmental eyesore has been re-born into new office and retail space for the Canton community."

The purchaser of the site, the Can Company LLC, was the first participant to receive "inculpable person" status meaning it was not responsible for existing environmental contamination once it acquired the site. This designation has been a crucial element in the site's redevelopment. "American Can is a great example of smart growth, it makes common sense to utilize these available sites," Struever said.

Since the Voluntary Cleanup Program began in March 1997, MDE has received 28 applications for sites slated for assessment, cleanup or redevelopment. These sites comprise over 580 acres in Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Montgomery, Prince George's and Washington counties. In addition to American Can, five sites have completed the program and were issued "no further requirements" determinations. Cleanups are underway at three sites, two cleanup plans are pending, and nine applications are under consideration.



Marcena Barrow, a construction worker hired from the community with Dan Struever.

Maryland's New Approach to Urban Runoff Treatment

by Ken Pensyl

The State's current stormwater management regulations were written during an era when flooding was thought to be the primary reason for small stream degradation. Therefore, new development designs have been required to include facilities that replicate, through stormwater retention, predevelopment runoff characteristics. These regulations resulted in tens of thousands of stormwater ponds and infiltration facilities. Recent research has shown that not only is volume essential to management, but the quality of runoff can have more of an effect on the biological integrity of receiving streams. Through the *Maryland Stormwater Design Manual*, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) intends to address not only improvements to volume control techniques, but, for the first time, implement a comprehensive process that controls water quality as well.

MDE's proposed stormwater design manual incorporates more frequent storm event management, more stringent water quality control mechanisms, and more flexible design incentives to improve Maryland's stormwater management program. The credits and incentives in the *Maryland Stormwater Design Manual* include reducing site imperviousness, reducing the runoff to be treated through natural conservation areas, disconnection of roof and non-roof runoff, sheet flow to stream buffers, open section roads, and environmentally sensitive rural development. These innovative techniques are intended to improve the protection of streams by providing better water quality management while relying on conventional practices that simply address flooding.

MDE has been working with Maryland's stormwater community for several years to refine the draft design manual and develop specific regulatory language that ensures deliverable goals for environmental protection while remaining practical and flexible to use. This immense, coordinated effort should be completed by the end of 1998 with a target date of July 1999 for local implementation.

Governor's 1998 Solid Waste Task Force Meetings

Monday, July 20	Room 449
Monday, August 17	Room 110
Monday, September 21	Room 112
Monday, October 19	Room 110
Monday, November 16	Room 110

Meetings are held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture located at 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Topics to be discussed at the July meeting include regionalization, privatization and recycling.

For information call Hilary Miller at (410) 631-3336.

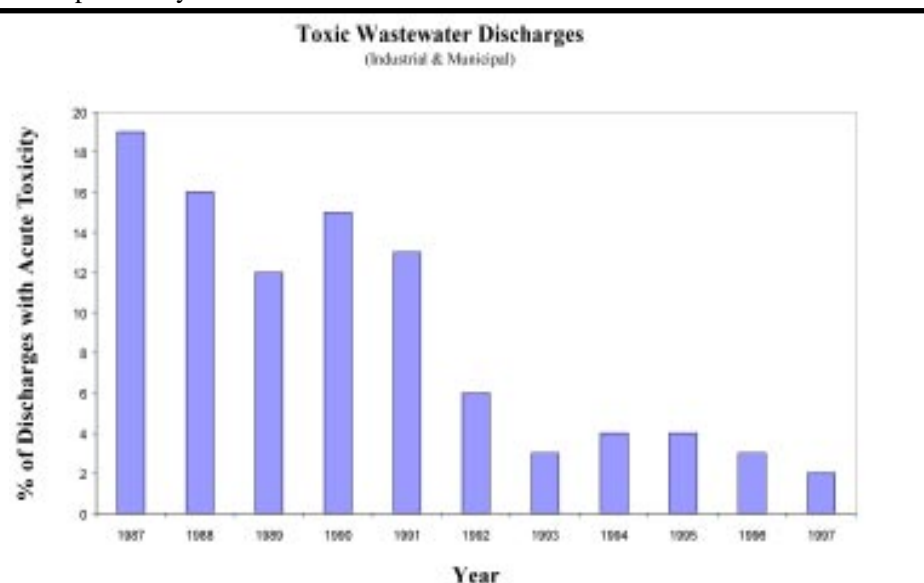
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Bay Status

Data show that chemical loads to the bay are on the decline. As a result of the Chesapeake Bay Program's toxics strategy, pollution prevention activities have increased throughout the watershed and should result in less chemicals released in the watershed. The upcoming 1998 Chesapeake Bay Toxics Loading and Release Inventory will provide more comprehensive and up-to-date loadings and release estimates to better assess our progress in reducing chemical contaminant inputs into the bay.

By reducing loads of chemicals to the watershed, we expect to see declines in the ambient levels in the bay. Chemical contaminant levels in the bay's water, sediment, and living resources are generally on the decline. However, levels of some chemicals in some areas of the bay are still high enough to pose risks to certain bay organisms.

Reducing toxic impacts on the bay's living resources and on human health is an important indicator of progress. Over the next few years, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) will be prepared for Baltimore Harbor for a number of toxic substances and MDE is moving to watershed-based permitting that will consider the impact of activities within the entire watershed. In addition, MDE will continue to work closely with businesses in the Baltimore Harbor region through Businesses for the Bay in promoting pollution prevention. All of these activities should result in significant environmental benefits for Baltimore Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay.



In 1987, nearly 20 percent of Maryland's permitted discharges showed some level of toxicity to aquatic life. Through Toxicity Reduction Evaluations (TREs), 104 cases of effluent toxicity have been eliminated. Fourteen industrial and municipal TREs are ongoing. This means that less than two percent of Maryland's discharges are currently demonstrating effluent toxicity.

MDE Helps Communities in Western Maryland

by Quentin Banks

Tornadoes are a phenomenon that do not respect natural or man-made objects as they carve their destructive path across the countryside. A series of tornadoes across parts of Western Maryland destroyed and damaged homes, businesses, and forests. In response to this destruction, volunteers from MDE's Frostburg field office coordinated recovery actions of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maryland Conservation Corps, the Clarysville Volunteer Fire Department and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice.

MDE worked with local contractors

and private citizens to secure the right of ways on private property and use of donated equipment for the cleanup. Due to these efforts, the Maryland Conservation Corps cut broken and fallen tree limbs that blocked creeks and streams. The Department of Juvenile Justice hauled cut wood out of the streams and creeks for sale as firewood. MDE coordinated a natural woodwaste permit so that tree stumps could be deposited in coal mine pits as part of the coal mine reclamation effort. Kudos to the volunteers who donated nights and weekends on recovery efforts for their neighbors.

MDE Recognizes Sand and Gravel Mine Restoration Efforts

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) recognized two surface mine operators for their creative and environmentally responsible efforts to reclaim former sand and gravel mines. Awards were presented to the Prince George's and Somerset County recipients by MDE representatives on May 19.

E.L. Gardner Inc. of Annapolis received an award for their efforts in reclaiming part of a 405-acre sand and gravel surface mine known as the "Gladfelter tract" in Prince George's County. Gardner installed a baseball diamond, soccer fields and a walking track that the southern Prince George's County community uses daily. The facility was donated to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The late Mitchell Bonneville, Sr. of Revells Neck Road in Somerset County, was recognized for leaving behind an outstanding 20-year legacy of surface mine reclamation at his farm. The property was returned to productive farmland after finishing his mining operation and produced crop yields comparable to any farm in the surrounding community.

Yearly, approximately 550 acres of non-coal surface mines are reclaimed by surface operators as part of their surface mine permits that may include non-tidal wetland creation, or creation of fish breeding ponds, farmland, forests or open spaces.

MDE also recognized Chaney Enterprises of Charles County with its "Good Neighbor" award for outstanding involvement in the community by donating resources and volunteer time on behalf of worthy causes.

WANTED: Submissions for Environmental Education Resource Guide

MDEnvironment's September Back-to-School issue will feature a resource guide for K-12 environmental educators and your organization can be part of it! Please send us information about any environmental education resources that your organization, business, association or government offers. These resources may include videos, brochures, experiments, newsletters, field trips, plant or facility tours, exhibits, films, lesson plans, games, websites, reports or speakers bureaus. Help educate Maryland's children about the environment!

To be part of this guide, send **by August 7** the name of your organization, a short description of each educational opportunity, and any other important details, along with the name of a contact person and their phone number, fax number and e-mail address to: *MDEnvironment*, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224 or e-mail swoods@mde.state.md.us.

EPA Grant Aids Access to Information

Maryland citizens will have a better opportunity to obtain environmental information from the state thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) One Stop Reporting Program. The grant funds enhancement of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) integrated environmental permitting and compliance information system.

"This grant will help improve user-friendly access to environmental information," said Governor Parris N. Glendening. "Improved management of our data will enable us to determine our environmental priorities in the most cost-effective manner in order to protect Maryland's air, water and land-based resources."

Through this project, the public will access information about their environment and the performance of both industry and regulators through the

World Wide Web. Maryland and the federal government are working together to reduce reporting burdens on the regulated community, as well as providing information to support community-based solutions to environmental problems. This will be accomplished by using technology such as the geographic information system, electronic reporting technology and on-line environmental permit applications. The project is expected to take three years to complete.

The One Stop Reporting Program is a key element in President Clinton's program to reinvent environmental regulations. Maryland, along with Arizona, Florida, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma and Wisconsin were selected by EPA to receive grants in a highly competitive process involving applications from 24 states.

Innovation and Creativity Characterize Efforts of Lower Potomac Tributary Team

by Louise Lawrence

Protecting water quality in a defined watershed is an incremental process. Small actions by many individuals can add up to noticeable improvements in water quality and natural resources protection. These changes, however, can be slow and subtle, causing some to abandon the effort in favor of projects that yield faster and easier rewards. But the members of Lower Potomac Tributary Team know that patience and hard work can pay off. During the past two and one half years they have forged ahead with an ambitious and innovative water quality protection program--and their efforts are making a difference.

The Lower Potomac Tributary Basin covers 730 square miles in southern Maryland and includes parts of Charles and St. Mary's Counties, along with a small portion of Prince George's County. Although only 13 percent of the watershed is currently developed, population growth is a serious issue, given the basin's proximity to the Washington metropolitan area. In addition, the recent expansion of the Patuxent Naval Station is already impacting the area's roads and infrastructure.

Outdated wastewater treatment plans, stormwater runoff, leaking septic systems and agricultural runoff are among the major threats to water quality in the watershed.

To tackle these and other issues, members of the Lower Potomac Tributary Team have looked beyond the traditional approaches to protecting water quality. Their biggest challenge to date has been in the field of public education. They are continually seeking new ways to involve the citizenry in watershed protection programs. Changing behavior patterns continues to challenge the team.

Initially, the team focused on implementing a number of tried and true education and outreach activities. A portable, table-top exhibit was developed and promptly dispatched to public library systems, county fairs, and community events. At a recent Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting held at the Holiday Inn in Solomon's Island, the hotel asked if the display could remain in its lobby as an attractive education component for their guests. In addition, the team developed an accompanying brochure for the exhibit which is now being used as a model by other tributary teams.

Building on this sound foundation, the Trib Team has branched out into other public education areas, many of which have never been fully explored by a Trib Team. Following is a sampling of the Team's innovative approach to public involvement and stewardship.

In 1997, the Lower Potomac Tributary Team worked to create an ongoing internship program with St. Mary's College. Funded by a Section 319 grant, Dana Hall, team member worked throughout the summer to set up the program. Thanks to her hard work, the Trib Team now works directly with officials from St. Mary's College on a semester-by-semester basis to identify projects of joint interest and benefit. Through this mutually beneficial partnership, the Team gains the part-time assistance of a student volunteer to implement a project, while the student gains first-hand experience working with natural resources issues, public outreach and community organizing.

Intern Frank Houser recently surveyed farmers in the St. Clement's Watershed to gain a better understanding of their attitudes toward implementing water quality measures on their farms. The St. Clement's Watershed had been targeted by the survey's sponsor, the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, for accelerated technical assistance. However, since the district's tracking system could only "capture" information about existing cooperators, the survey was commissioned to improve the district's understanding about practices farmers install on their own. The results of the survey should be available this summer.

The Lower Potomac Tributary Team recently sponsored a workshop on proposed changes to Stormwater Management Regulations by the Maryland Department of the Environment. County representatives and private sector consultants were on hand to learn more about programmatic changes designed to protect water quality and stream integrity while maintaining traditional water quantity management requirements. These workshops will be scheduled prior to regular Team meetings periodically to provide direct outreach to various constituencies. It is hoped that the workshops will directly influence behavior, increase knowl-

edge and interest in the Team's work, and solicit new volunteers for Trib Team projects.

The Lower Potomac Tributary Team is also actively involved in natural resource management issues in existing communities. Long View Beach is a community established along a small stream valley in St. Mary's County. Flooding problems occurred periodically and the community was interested in addressing the problem. This past winter, the Team and the county planning department arranged for DNR's Watershed Restoration Division to conduct an informal technical evaluation of the site. The evaluation revealed that the proximity of houses limited stream restoration possibilities. Therefore, enhancement of vegetative buffers was identified as an alternative measure. This spring, the community worked with DNR foresters to plant almost 200 trees along the stream in an effort to help attenuate flooding. As an added benefit, the project has secured the services of Fluellen Sayf-Uddin, one of the community's organizers, as a regular volunteer working with the Trib Team.

Protecting shoreline near St. Mary's City, the first Maryland settlement and an important archeological resource, is a major priority for the Lower Potomac Tributary Team. The Team is actively working with the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, which has secured state funds to design a non-structural shoreline protection project. The Team will be working with other community volunteers--such as the Boy Scouts--to help plant marsh grass along 2100 feet of shoreline at Chancellor's Point. The project calls for small breakwaters to be constructed parallel to the shoreline to help deflect some of the wave energy. However, the purpose of non-structural shoreline stabilization is to minimize hard surfaces, such as bulkheads, that can increase wave energy and damage habitat.

For more information on any of the projects that the Lower Potomac Tributary Team is involved in, please contact Roger Banting, Team Coordinator, at 410-260-8725. The Lower Potomac Tributary Team meets on the fourth Monday of each month.

Safe Drinking Water in Maryland

by Nancy Reilman

Maryland has over 3,500 public water systems that provide water to homes, businesses, schools, restaurants, and churches across the state and serve approximately 84 percent of the state's population. The remaining population uses private individual wells to meet their water needs.

Public water systems are required to monitor up to 84 regulated contaminants. Public water systems that are in compliance with the water quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serve the greatest percentage of Maryland. Systems that are in violation of a standard serve less than 2 percent of the State's population. Over 99 percent (220 out of 221) of the water quality violations occurred at very

small (serving 25 to 500 persons) and small (serving 501 to 3,300 persons) water systems. Nationwide, very small and small systems are most frequently out of compliance due to a relative lack of financial means or technical expertise.

Last year EPA commended the Maryland Water Supply Program's emphasis on 'preventative' efforts, such as sanitary surveys, assistance to water operations, and source water protection, as "an excellent approach to maintaining system compliance. The program has been successful in getting a number of systems back into compliance and in addressing the harder cases with assistance and enforcement actions." These efforts will be expanded to assist additional systems in 1998.



Stewardship of Agricultural land in the watershed is important to the watershed's health. No till production reduces soil erosion.

The Gunpowder Falls Project

by John Grace

The Gunpowder Falls watershed is not just an excellent recreational site, it provides nearly half of the drinking water for 1.5 million residents and businesses for the City of Baltimore and metropolitan region. Public ownership of land around Prettyboy and Loch Raven Reservoirs and along Gunpowder Falls has allowed thousands of Marylanders to regularly fish, canoe, hike, bike and enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding countryside. In spite of its proximity to metropolitan Baltimore, land use in the watershed is nearly half agriculture, or 44 percent. Forested land occupies approximately 35 percent and developed land the remainder at 21 percent. This balance has been maintained due, in large part, to protective zoning by Baltimore County within which most of the watershed lies.

Recognizing the inherent value of this watershed for the region, and concerns of the effect of future development within the watershed, local, state, and federal governments have joined together to study the watershed's long-term health and the effect of land use on its water quality. Within the first year of the joint study,

the bed of Loch Raven Reservoir has been profiled, sediment cores are in the laboratory for analysis, and modeling of Piney Run subwatershed, Loch Raven Reservoir and full watershed is underway. Monitoring of water quality during storm events and base flow conditions continue and areas at high risk from spills are being placed on maps.

Local governments are looking for the study to help them better manage the lands within the watershed and target resources for correcting any critical problem areas. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sees this effort as an important model because all levels of government are working together to assess the health of the watershed. The citizen action team is working to ensure continued protection of this natural resource. MDE is impressed with the commitment and excellent caliber of work that all participants brought to this project, and expect to gain the insight needed to take appropriate action to manage the water resources of this watershed for all Marylanders.



North end of the Loch Raven Reservoir, the spit of land was formed by accumulated sediments.

Delmar Water Project Benefits Two States

by Virginia Kearney

Delmar Town Manager Roberta Neilson was ready for the officials from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) that sunny winter day in February 1997, as we filed into the Town's meeting room, in a building that straddles Wicomico County and Sussex County on the Maryland-Delaware line. On the table were several plastic gallon jugs, filled with water the color of strong iced tea, with an unappealing layer of sludge on the bottom. We were asked if we cared for some water, and we politely declined.

The Town of Delmar needed MDE's help in funding a new water treatment plant to provide the necessary treatment to make the Town's water potable for its 1,500 customers. "After exhausting all alternative treatment solutions, it



Town of Delmar's new water treatment plant. The entire community anticipates the project completion by the end of the year.

became apparent that, due to the complexity of the water quality issues, a water filtration plant was necessary and that cost was beyond the economic grasp of our community," Nelson said. Therefore, Delmar began seeking help from MDE and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since the Town straddles the state line, funding for the project had the potential to become a challenge. Fortunately, the key involvement of Jim Waters of USDA, and his innovative staff helped to smooth the way and maximize the financial benefits to the Town which serves citizens in both states.

The problem, the Town had concluded, was the high concentration of minerals and sediment in the wells, and an aged treatment plant, which was no longer able to remove these impurities to acceptable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) levels. The Town had done all that it could, such as flushing the water distribution lines, to try to reduce the amount of iron and sediments in the drinking water. MDE staff had attempted to provide technical assistance to the Town, but given the age of the system, options were very limited. The Town was on EPA's "Significant Noncompliance" list in 1997. The prospect of EPA taking action of any kind was a hammer hanging over the Town's head, and they were very anxious to correct all of the water supply problems. All users of the system had been advised by the Town, as was required by MDE, of the problems with the drinking water. A funding plan was put into place so that the Town could proceed with the design of needed upgrades as quickly as possible. The funding package included \$820,000 in state grant, \$93,000 in state loan, and \$1,087,000 in a USDA grant and loan.

The project broke ground on October 27, 1997. Today, the structure is rising at an impressive rate, after having been slowed down by excessive wet weather during the winter and spring. By December of 1998, the system should be able to deliver treated, safe drinking water to its customers. It is very satisfying to be involved in a cooperative effort when federal, state, and local government come together to provide funding to solve a critical problem in a small rural community.

How to Turn Waste Into Revenue in the Automotive Business

by Laura Armstrong

Attention Automotive business owners and workers! Come enjoy free pizza and attend a hands-on equipment demonstration designed to help you improve waste management practices and save money through pollution prevention.

The Mobile Outreach for Pollution Prevention (MOPP) program, sponsored by the Iowa Waste Reduction Center, will be visiting Baltimore on August 7. The MOPP is a customized Winnebago housing waste reduction and recycling equipment used in the vehicle maintenance industry. Professional staff will be available to answer pollution prevention questions and provide free, hands-on equipment demonstrations between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Topics covered include used oil, antifreeze, solvents, parts cleaning, other waste, painting techniques, spray guns, and gun wash.

The MOPP will be located from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 3603 S. Hanover Street across from the Community Environmental Partnership building at the corner of Patapsco Avenue in the Brooklyn area. Call Laura Armstrong with the Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-631-4119 for information regarding the location of the afternoon MOPP demonstrations.



**Join the Iowa
MOPP for lunch
while you learn on
August 7, 1998**

Ozone Action Days

Here are ten tips to help you do your share for cleaner air and reduce ground level ozone in Maryland!

1. Don't use gasoline-powered lawn and gardening equipment. Try electric or manual tools instead.
2. Limit driving. Rideshare, carpool, walk or bike. Combine your errands into one trip.
3. Take public transportation.
4. Postpone using oil-based paints and solvents.
5. Don't refuel on Ozone Action Days. If so, refuel after dusk.
6. Avoid excessive idling.
7. Keep your car well tuned.
8. Don't use household cleaners or products that release fumes or evaporate easily.
9. Start charcoal with an electric or chimney-type fire starter instead of lighter fluid.
10. Conserve energy and recycle.

**MDE's
Air Quality
Hotline
410-631-3247**

We all have a stake in clean air, and we all have a responsibility to help clean the air. Let's work together and do our share for cleaner air and a cleaner bay.

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