

Celebrate America Recycles Day -- November 15!

MDE Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment

November 1997

What's Inside...

Special medical waste regulations repeal proposal....2

National Priority List and Superfund Update.....3

MDE takes pollution prevention to our children.....4

Fighting acid mine drainage with the communities help.....5

Holiday environmental tips.....5

Summer Youth Tire program Wrapup.....5

Win a green dream house.....6

MDE needs your help! Permit turnaround review.....6

For The Record.....7

Public Meetings and Hearings Calendar.....10

Enforcement and Compliance.....11

Your chance to tell us what you think about the MDE environment is on the back cover of this issue!



Visit MDE's home page at <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Looking to Maryland for Help with Suburban Sprawl A National Perspective on Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative

by Governor Parris N. Glendening

In the State of Utah, which seems far removed from the development pressures we in Maryland have been experiencing for the past 20 or 30 years, sprawl development outside of Ogden, Provo and Salt Lake City is threatening to swallow up many smaller Utah communities. Governor Mike Leavitt, city officials, environmental groups and others are worried about the trends they see and are searching for ways to reverse them.

Along the rocky coast of southern Maine, Governor Angus King and his top planners say a suburban sprawl building boom around Kennebunk, Portland and other small cities is about to change forever the character and beauty of many of the State's scenic communities. One of the biggest issues facing the State is how to keep up with the rising cost of extending



Governor Parris N. Glendening

roads and other infrastructure to developments that are sprawling for miles across the Maine landscape.

In Florida, the Rails to Trails Conservancy is concerned that sprawl development there will eventually

consume so much land that dreams of a statewide trail network may become impossible to achieve.

What residents of Utah, Maine, Florida and other states have in common is that they are all looking to Maryland's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative as a guide for how one State has begun to deal with the problems associated with suburban sprawl.

Even though our Smart Growth initiative will not be fully implemented for another year, it is already gaining attention throughout the nation. Virtually every week, environmental groups, transit lobbyists, local elected officials, grassroots citizen organizations, transportation officials, planners and others -- even other governors -- request information about the Maryland program.

What appeals to them is the common sense approach of our Smart Growth

(continued on page 2)

How Safe is Maryland Seafood?

by Kathy Brohawn

Consumers can be confident that Maryland seafood from the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is safe to eat. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are among the state agencies that test the water, fish and shellfish, and inspect seafood processing plants to ensure safe and wholesome seafood in your supermarket and on your dinner table.

Pfiesteria piscicida is an issue that is on everyone's mind these days. DNR is leading an investigation with the help of other state agencies to determine what caused the *Pfiesteria* problems earlier this summer. Only a very small quantity of fish is caught commercially in the areas closed by *pfiesteria* and we do know that there is no evidence of food borne illness relating

to *Pfiesteria*. In fact, there is no evidence to suggest that the events in the Pocomoke River, Kings Creek, or the Chicamacomico River have any affect on any other seafood harvested from the Chesapeake Bay. Sores, injuries, and discolorations in fish are normal from contact with fishing gear and predators. Fisherman and dealers routinely discard such fish before reaching the market.

To ensure the safest Maryland seafood, MDE's Environmental Risk Assessment Program regulates shellfish harvesting waters and assesses the levels of contaminants in fish and crabs. MDE identifies and eliminates pollution sources; collects water samples for bacteriological examination and examines shellstock, finfish, and crab samples for bacteriological contamination and chemical toxicants.

MDE has been monitoring metal and
(continued on page 2)



Water quality samples are taken from over 700 sites on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries

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Safe Seafood

continued from page 1....

pesticide levels in oysters and clams from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries since the 1960s. No level of contaminants of concern has ever been identified in Maryland oysters, clams or blue crabs

Since the 1970s, MDE has monitored chemical contaminant levels in fish found in Maryland waters. Collections consist of two samples of accumulator species and one sample of game species three times yearly. Whole portions of accumulator species, a fish that is most likely to accumulate contaminants in its fatty tissue due to its long life span and bottom feeding habitat, and fillet portions of game fish such as Rockfish or perch, are analyzed. This allows water-quality managers to evaluate the relative levels of contaminants of concern accumulat-

ing in state waters and in fish to determine safety for human consumption.

Only two areas in Maryland have fish consumption advisories. Consumers should limit or avoid consumption of eels and channel catfish from Baltimore Harbor and Back River and carp and black crappie from Lake Roland because of harmful levels of the insecticide chlordane.

Tips on buying fresh wholesome seafood involve common sense. When purchasing fish or fishing for personal consumption, look for signs of freshness and quality: bright clear eyes, scales that stick to the skin, skin that springs back when slightly pressed, bright pink or red gills and a mild sea breeze scent. Buy from a reputable dealer. If seafood does not look good or smell good, don't buy it!

National Perspective on Smart Growth

continued from page 1....

initiative.

We did not impose some new statewide zoning authority; instead, we preserved the authority of local governments to make land use decisions. But at the same time we said the State has a rightful interest in what those land use decisions are. Our program said that it is in the State's best interest to withhold State financial assistance if local land use decisions would damage the environment or promote suburban sprawl. Conversely, by targeting State resources to our existing communities, it said we want to encourage development in areas where the local governments want it, and where the infrastructure is already in place (or planned) to support it.

The interest in Maryland's program has not been lost on reporters from around the country. Newspapers in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and other major cities have made inquiries about Maryland's Smart Growth program. Many of the reporters are writing stories about the problems of sprawl development around their home cities and are citing Maryland as one State that is taking a creative, statewide approach to the issue.

I am encouraged by the national attention Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation is receiving. To me, it is an affirmation that we are not only on the right track, but are a leader in the nation on this difficult but important topic.

I often say that, with the exception of education, there is nothing I will do as governor that will have a more lasting, beneficial, long-term effect on the people of Maryland. I believe Marylanders deserve a more thoughtful pattern of development than we now have. That's what Smart Growth is all about.

For more information about Maryland's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative, contact: John W. Frece, Special Assistant for Smart Growth, at (410) 260-8112; or, Ronald M. Kreitner, Director of the Maryland Office of Planning, at (410) 767-4510.



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources patrols area that are restricted to shellfish harvesting to ensure the safest of harvests.

Special



In February, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will propose a repeal of state regulations that require generators of special medical waste to prepare a manifest for any such waste offered for shipment to a treatment, storage or disposal facility. In lieu of these state manifests, haulers of special medical waste will have to meet the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for shipping papers.

The current Maryland manifesting requirements are more stringent than those of the federal DOT. By replacing the manifest requirements, the reporting burden on businesses and the associated costs are reduced. Additionally, MDE would not be required to reproduce, collect and store special medical waste manifests. If manifesting requirements are repealed, there is no anticipated reduction in public safety, as regulations currently exist within DOT that govern the transportation of special medical waste. Acceptance facilities also are required to be permitted under solid waste regulations.

A public comment period will be held after formal notification is published in December. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Susaan Bull or Ed Hammerberg at (410)631-3345.

What is Superfund?

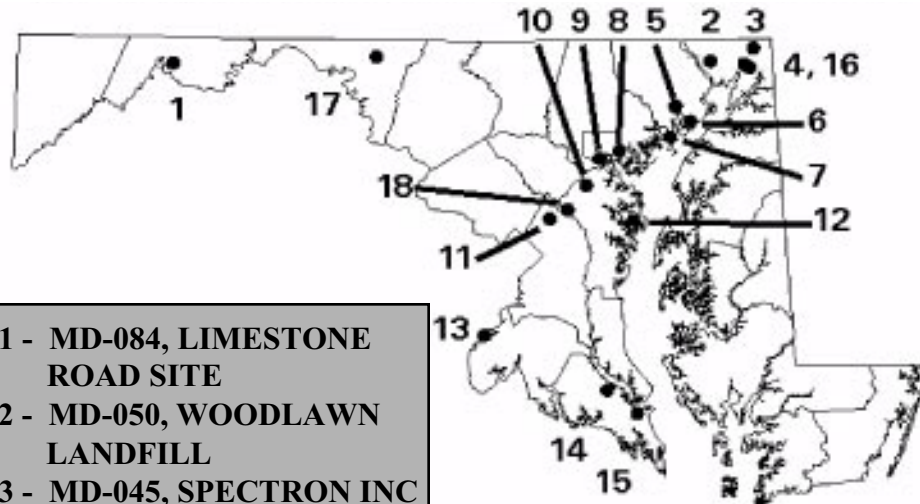
What are National Priorities List (NPL) Sites?

The Superfund program in Maryland is administered by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The goal of the program is to locate, investigate and clean up hazardous waste sites throughout the state. Potential hazardous waste sites are reported by a variety of sources such as other local and state agencies, businesses, EPA, the Coast Guard and everyday citizens. Once a potential hazardous waste site is reported, it is investigated by either MDE or EPA. Those sites which warrant immediate attention to eliminate risk and ensure the safety of the public are addressed through "Removal Actions" and are completed on an emergency basis. Typically, EPA is the response authority for emergency removals. MDE may assist EPA on emergency removals and may perform removal actions which are not considered to be time critical.

All sites are evaluated through an extensive review of all available information, including interviews of area residents. Through this process, the history of the site and the site's potential or historical effects on the local community are determined. EPA has developed a hazard ranking system which allows EPA and MDE to evaluate the relative potential hazard a site poses to public health and the environment. If a site scores high enough on the system, it becomes eligible for the National Priorities List (NPL) and upon concurrence of the Governor, a proposal to list the site on the NPL is published in the *Federal Register*. This affords the public an opportunity to participate in the NPL process. If the site does not meet federal Superfund criteria, Maryland's state Superfund Program further evaluates the need for remedial action at the site.

Sites that are listed on the NPL are considered to be federal Superfund sites. These Superfund sites are subjected to further study in order to determine the best means of remediating site contamination. Tests of the soil, water and air are conducted to determine what hazardous substances exist and whether they exist at a level which threatens human health and the environment. An administrative record, the official file of record for the site, is maintained in the effected community. This allows local citizens an opportunity to review

Maryland's National Priority List Sites



- 1 - MD-084, LIMESTONE ROAD SITE
- 2 - MD-050, WOODLAWN LANDFILL
- 3 - MD-045, SPECTRON INC
- 4 - MD-033, MARYLAND SAND & GRAVEL
- 5 - MD-002, BUSH VALLEY LANDFILL
- 6 - MD-065, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND-AA
- 7 - MD-032, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND-EA
- 8 - MD-169, KANE & LOMBARD
- 9 - MD-082, CHEMICAL METAL INDUSTRIES
- 10 - MD-070, MID-ATLANTIC WOOD PRESERVERS
- 11 - MD-053, US AGRICULTURAL CENTER
- 12 - MD-081, MIDDLETOWN ROAD DUMP SITE **
- 13 - MD-064, USN NAVAL ORDNANCE STATION
- 14 - MD-135, SOUTHERN MARYLAND WOOD TREATING
- 15 - MD-057, PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION
- 16 - MD-268, ORDNANCE PRODUCTS INC
- 17 - MD-302, CENTRAL CHEMICAL SITE
- 18 - MD-067, FORT GEORGE MEADE ***

** - deleted *** - proposed

site-related information, usually at a library or public school.

The funding for these investigatory and remedial activities may either be sought from the individuals or businesses responsible for the contamination or drawn from the Superfund

trust fund if no "responsible parties" are able to fund the clean up. The fund is derived from special taxes on the chemical and petroleum industries. Another alternative is that the fund pays for cleanup activities and seeks cost recovery from the responsible party. When fund money is used to remediate an NPL site, the state is required to pay a percentage of the remediation costs. Usually, the state's share is ten percent of the remedial action cost.

The cleanup of an NPL site can be quite long and includes several phases. A detailed study of the site is undertaken to identify the cause and extent of contamination and the possible threat to human health and

the environment.

A plan for cleanup is developed and proposed which describes the various cleanup options being considered. A Record of Decision (ROD) is then published in local newspapers which outlines the method of cleanup selected.

The public has opportunities to comment throughout this process. Federal technical assistance grants of up to \$50,000 are available to enable communities to hire independent experts to assist them with the interpretation of technical information. Prior to the actual cleanup, a remedial design, or plan describing the method and the activities necessary to accomplish the cleanup, is prepared and distributed to the public who again will have an opportunity to comment.

These long-term cleanups may include restoring groundwater and taking measures to protect wetlands, estuaries, and other ecological resources. Many of these sites were caused by years of pollution and, consequently, may take several years, even decades to clean up.

There are 18 NPL sites in Maryland in various stages ranging from the initial proposal phase to completed clean-up. Information on each of the following sites is available at the locations listed below:

Maryland NPL Site & Information Location

Limestone Road	Allegany County Library, Cumberland
Woodlawn Landfill	Cecil County Library, Elkton
Spectron Inc.	Cecil County Library, Elkton
MD Sand & Gravel	Cecil County Library, Elkton
Ordnance Products	Cecil County Library, Elkton
Aberdeen Proving Ground (Aberdeen)	Harford County Library - Aberdeen
Aberdeen Proving Ground (Edgewood)	Washington College Library
	Harford County Library - Edgewood
Bush Valley Landfill	Washington College Library
Kane & Lombard	Baltimore County OEP, Towson
	Harford County Library, Belair
Mid-Atlantic Wood Preservers	Mayor's Office, Baltimore City;
Middletown Road	Highland Multi-Purpose Center, Baltimore City
	A.A. County Library, Provinces Branch, Severn
US Naval Ordnance Station	USEPA, Philadelphia, PA
	MDE, Baltimore
	Charles County Library, LaPlata;
Beltsville US Agricultural Center	INDIV-NSWC General Library, Indian Head
Ft. Meade	National Agriculture Library, Beltsville
So. MD Wood Treating	Proposed NPL site only
Patuxent River Naval Air Station	St. Mary's County Library, Leonardtown
	Patuxent NAS Library, Patuxent River;
	Lexington Park Library, Lexington Park
	Not yet available
Central Chemical	This is a Pennsylvania site very close to
Keystone Landfill	Maryland. An administrative file is currently
	being housed at St. Mary's Church of Christ,
	Westminster

MDE Offers Lessons in Pollution Prevention

by Melissa Farrell and Sue Battle

During Pollution Prevention Week this Fall the Maryland Department of the Environment reached out to the next generation of Marylanders about the need to prevent pollution and how they can help.

MDE's pollution prevention program began this outreach by providing an educational packet to more than 800 public elementary schools in Maryland. Each packet included a pollution prevention poster, a recommended list of P2 literature for grades K-12, and a P2 lesson plan on "How to Build a Pollution Prevention Lunch."

Responding to special requests from teachers and parents, eighteen MDE volunteers visited Maryland elementary schools during National Pollution Prevention Week and taught 953 students how to pack their lunch to minimize waste. Tips included using reusable plastic containers to pack sandwiches, instead of disposable plastic bags, and using lunch boxes instead of paper bags.

about the presentation given to her third grade class by Lauren Gibson of MDE's Water Management Administration.

Diane Nelson of MDE's radiological

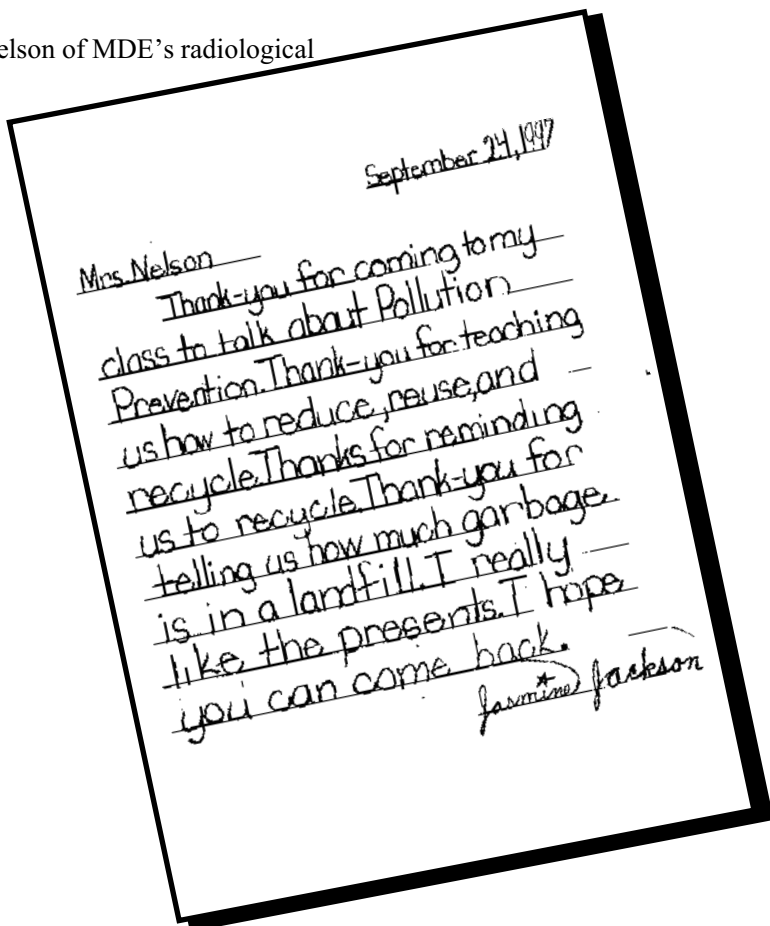
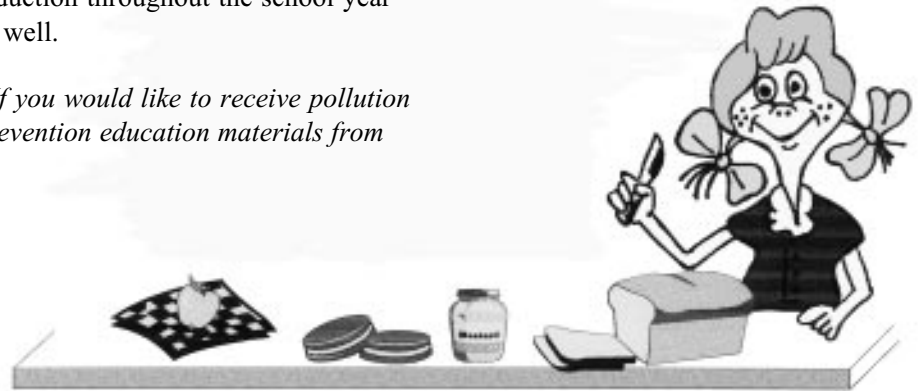
health program taught the largest number of students -- 125 -- and pronounced it a "fabulous" experience. "The kids loved it" she says. "I dumped 125 lunch bags and 125 sandwich baggies on the floor of their classroom to show how much trash their lunches can produce in a day, and they were captivated -- that really got their attention. As I gave suggestions, they all wanted to share their stories, like the student who raised his hand to tell me how they recycle his father's old shirts by using them to clean the house. I live near the school where I spoke. The neighborhood kids still come up to me to tell me the good things they're doing. I just heard recently from a child who bragged that his mother had bought another plastic sandwich container. This was a great opportunity to help kids learn simple pollution prevention techniques that they can apply every day."

Students who learn to reduce waste and recycle when they are young are more likely to continue those behaviors as adults. When waste reduction is incorporated into the curriculum, environmentally-

responsible actions are reinforced, and behavioral changes occur outside the school environment. The MDE volunteers encouraged the teachers to use in teaching students about waste reduction throughout the school year as well.

MDE call Melissa Farrell at (410) 631-4119

If you would like to receive pollution prevention education materials from



Lauren Gibson of MDE's Waste Management Administration speaks to Woodhome Elementary students about preventing pollution.

Teaming Up To Fight Acid Mine Drainage

A new project to clean up acid mine drainage in Western Maryland demonstrates that partnerships of government, industry and citizens can be successful alliances in efforts to restore Maryland's environment.

On a bright Saturday morning in June, a group of 10 members of Boy Scout Troop #28 from Westernport, Allegany County gathered at the site of a long abandoned underground mine that had been discharging acid mine drainage into Potomac Hill run near Barton since the early 1900s. They were on a mission: to help with the restoration of a waterway that had for so many years been barren of aquatic life.

The troop spent the day seeding and mulching a ditch that was constructed with out cost to the state by Barton Mining Co. to collect acid drainage seeping from a nearby abandoned coal mine. The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) provided the seed, mulch, lime and fertilizer, and the Maryland Coal Association provided a picnic lunch for the hungry young workers.

"These types of projects that involve cooperation between industry, government and private citizens are necessary for the final cleanup of acid mine drainage in western Maryland," said Adrienne Ottaviani, executive director of the Maryland Coal Association. "The Maryland Coal Industry looks forward to our continued partnership in this effort."



Participants of the planting near Potomac Hill Run take a break from the hard work of protecting Maryland's environment.

Ultimately, the project will feature a coordinated collection system and a high-quality limestone acid neutralization system. MDE has applied for funding for the project from the federal Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative that provides partial funding for public and private partnerships involved in improving streams polluted with acid mine drainage.

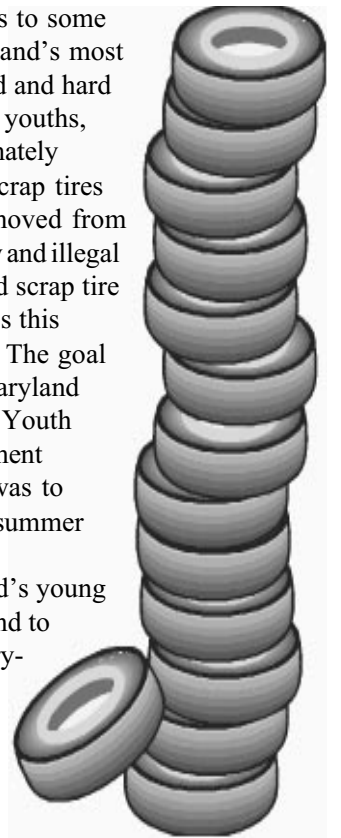
MDE has received \$100,000 in OSM funding for the Cherry Creek Restoration Project to neutralize acid mine drainage from Glotfelty Strip Mine and Teets Deep Mine. Currently the project is in cooperation with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, however, additional partners are sought.

In addition, the department has applied to OSM for funding for the Mill Run and George's Creek Elementary School projects which involve MDE, the Department of Natural Resources, Frostburg State University, Allegany County Commissioners, Garrett County Commissioners, Barton Coal Co., Tri-Star Coal Co., Buffalo Coal Co., Nemancolin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Westmar High School, Allegany County School System, Mill Run Watershed Association, Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association, and U.S. Biological Services.

For more information about MDE's acid mine drainage abatement projects, contact MDE at (301) 689-6104.

1997 Summer Youth Employment Project Update

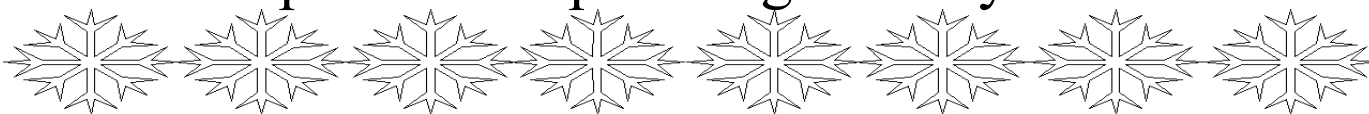
Thanks to some of Maryland's most dedicated and hard working youths, approximately 60,000 scrap tires were removed from unsightly and illegal Maryland scrap tire stockpiles this summer. The goal of the Maryland Summer Youth Employment Project was to provide summer jobs for Maryland's young people and to help Maryland out from under a ton of tires.



As of August 15, which signaled the end of many of the clean-ups, the participants were responsible for removing approximately 50,000 scrap tires from over thirty state parks, wildlife management areas and other publicly-owned properties. The sites are located in Baltimore City, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Talbot County and Wicomico County. Two clean-up projects, including one in Frostburg and several sites in Garrett County were completed in October. The clean up in Ocean City was also completed in October which brings the total to around 60,000 tires. Monies from the Used Tire Cleanup and Recycling Fund paid for the project.

The project was a coordinated effort involving the Governor Parris N. Glendening's Office, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Maryland Environmental Service, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Maryland Transportation Authority. In addition, personnel from the counties and cities where the work was completed provided valuable assistance in making the project work effectively.

Tips for the Upcoming Holiday Season



- Thanksgiving produces more edible food waste than any other meal of the year. Ask guests to bring along a container so they can take home some leftovers.
- Having a party? Turn the heat down before guests arrive. Their body heat will help warm the room.
- Holiday cards bought each year would fill a football field 10 stories high! Just cutting back one card would reduce this huge mound by one full story or 50,000 cubic yards. Try sending e-mail or making phone calls. Another suggestion is to send holiday postcards.
- Shop from home—electronically or through catalogs.
- Use the comics instead of gift wrap – if we each wrap only three gifts in reused paper, we would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields!
- Take your own bag to carry your purchases.
- Buy larger size rolls of film to save packaging and money.
- Provide rechargeable batteries with your gifts. You might even give a battery recharger as a present.
- 50 million Christmas trees are purchased each year in the U.S. Consider a potted tree that can be planted in the yard, or an artificial one.

*Facts provided by the ULS Report, November-December, 1996. To subscribe to the ULS (Use Less Stuff) Report call 313-668-1690 or e-mail to uls@cygnus-group.com. Also, try their web site at <http://www.cygnus-group.com/>.

Celebrate America Recycles Day, November 15

Win A Green Dream House!

Maryland's recycling rate topped out at 29% in 1994 and hasn't changed since. While these statistics indicate that more than one quarter of all Maryland's household waste is being recycled, no increase for the past three years means that we can do more for Maryland's environment. America Recycles Day, November 15, will focus renewed attention on this important environmental issue by partnering communities, businesses, industry, state agencies, nonprofit organizations and individuals to spread the message "Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled."

Buying recycled is easy to do. Whether at the grocery store or at the office, recycled products are everywhere. There are thousands of recycled content products—everything from bicycles and appliances to laundry detergent bottles and carpeting. Recycled content products can be equal in quality, and cost the same as products made from nonrecycled materials. However, buying recycled helps conserve resources, reduce waste and creates opportunity for

economic development in Maryland and across the nation. By purchasing recycled content products, we are building markets for finished products made from the recyclable steel, glass, paper, plastic and aluminum materials we place in our recycling bins at home and at work.

Use the postcard inserted in this edition of the MDEnvironment to make your personal commitment to improving recycling in the state. On the card write how you will do this by making your pledge to recycle and shop for recycled products.

All pledges received by MDE by November 13, 1997 will be entered into a random national drawing for the "American Green Dream House"—a brand new 3-bedroom, 2 ½ bath home built with recycled materials. The drawing will be held on December 15, 1997 in Washington, D.C. One entry per person. Employees of MDE are not eligible. For additional pledge cards, call 410-974-4478 or 1-800-YES-1-CAN (1-800-937-1226) or check out these web pages: <www.mde.state.md.us/was/recycle> <www.marylandrecyclers.org>

Here are a few suggestions for your American Recycles Day pledge. Commit to:

1. "Buy Recycled" at home and at work and read product labels for recycled content.
2. Think before you buy. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
3. Tell your local retailers you want them to stock more recycled-content products.
4. Encourage the use of recycled content products in your place of business.
5. Increase your participation in home and workplace recycling.

<www.americarecyclesday.org>

Join your coworkers and neighbors in Maryland's America Recycles Day events and help our nation continue to realize recycling's environmental and economic benefits. To find out how to get involved in your office or neighborhood, contact your local recycling coordinator. The telephone number for your county can be found on the Recycling Information pages in the white pages of your telephone book or by calling MDE at 410-631-

3315 or 1-800-633-6101 extension 3315.

America Recycles Day in Maryland is sponsored by the Maryland Recyclers Coalition (MRC), Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Bell Atlantic, Black & Decker, ECO Specialties, Maryland Chapter of SWANA, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Environmental Service, the National Aquarium and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority.

MDE Needs Your Input on Permit Turnaround Times

Currently, the Maryland Department of the Environment is reviewing permit application turnaround times and is seeking comments from the public. To become involved in this review, please contact Sue Battle at MDE's Environmental Permits Service Center at (410) 631-3772.

Update

World Wide Web

A new recycling section now appears on the MDE homepage. This section, found under "Environmental Information," provides information about each Maryland county's recycling services. Find out the location of drop-off centers, items that they will take, phone numbers and hours of operation. Also available are fact sheets and county recycling coordinator name, address and phone number. Check it out at

<www.mde.state.md.us>

Help in Paying College Tuition

Saving for college just got easier in Maryland. Legislation introduced by Governor Parris N. Glendening and passed by the General Assembly will help Maryland families pay in advance for college tuition and fees through a new investment program. The program will offer three college options: the community college plan; the baccalaureate plan; and the two-plus-two plan, which combines two years of community college and two years at a four-year college.

For many families, the most convenient way to invest in the program will be to make monthly payments. The amount of the payment will depend on which option they choose and how soon they start investing. Rates will be set later this year, when Maryland's prepaid tuition program opens for business. A board appointed by the Governor will oversee the program, hire a staff, and select investment professionals to handle the funds invested in the program. The goal of the program is to earn enough of a

return on the investments to pay tuition and fees when the child begins college.

Details about this program will be available later this year, and it is expected that Maryland's prepaid tuition program will start selling contracts early in 1998. In the meantime, you can sign up to receive information as soon as it is available by calling 1-800-903-7875. Operators will put your name and address on our mailing list. Our web site is <www.prepaid.usmd.edu>. This is a great way to receive the most up-to-date information on the Program.

The prepaid tuition program office is located at 217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 2050; Baltimore, MD 21202. The phone number is 410-767-2024 and the fax number is 410-333-2295.

Taken from: Children First in Maryland B Our Priority, Our Children, a Publication of the Office for Children and Families