

Prince George's County

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

november 2014



Prince George's County leads way with Clean Water Partnership

Green Scene

newsletter



The DoE Mission

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

DIRECTOR'S *Corner*



Dear Friends,

We are very excited to share this newsletter with you – as you will read, so many things are on the move for sustainability for our County.

I want to thank the members of our community and our County Council for the support (and 8-0 vote) for our Clean Water Partnership Program with Corvias Solutions. Through this public-private partnership (P3) program, we hope to meet our Clean Water Act requirements to stop polluted runoff into our water in a way that bolsters local businesses, creates job opportunities for residents and puts projects into the ground better, greener and faster than the government can do alone.

We are moving ahead on new technologies and efficiencies on next generation technologies for our waste stream. As we have expressed many times in these pages, our goal is to be the top County in the State and region for recycling. With the target date for the landfill closing in 2020, we have to begin planning now for what to do with the material that is not recyclable and be open to additional technologies that can help us meet our goals. We have issued a request for qualifications and we will see what the response is from the private sector. On a similar note, our team took a great tour of various repurpose and recycling businesses in New Jersey and Delaware and are now discussing how to incorporate some of the best practices that we have seen into what we do here.

We are also very excited about a great month of community action and engagement. PGDoE was thrilled to co-sponsor and host the 9th Annual Trash Summit for our region in cooperation with the (County-based) Alice Ferguson Foundation. We had an amazing turnout for the event and came away with new ideas and inspiration for removing litter from our neighborhoods. Also, we always love working with students on our storm drain mural efforts, teaching them that what goes down the drain ultimately ends up in our waters.

Finally, we cannot accomplish great things as an agency if our team does not feel great when they come to work. And so, I commend our staff leaders who organized our Wellness Day event to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle among our team. As you can see, the teams had a great time (congrats to Animal Management Division for winning the day). Also, I commend our staff leaders who organized the Wear Pink effort in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (I did wear my custom DoE pink polo, but missed the group photo :-/).

Enjoy what is left of our autumn weather, and remember to bag your leaves and yard waste in brown paper bags.

Be well,

Adam Ortiz
Director

P.S. Make sure you spay your pets - and bug your neighbors to do so as well! A spay a day keeps the litter away!

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The Green Scene newsletter is a monthly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at (301) 883-5952.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LEADS WAY WITH CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Approves first-of-its kind public-private partnership to cut stormwater retrofit costs, create local jobs, and spur economic development

In the 1990s, Prince George's County was the birthplace of low impact development and its signature development: rain gardens. The County again now leads the nation in stormwater management in announcing a public-private partnership pilot program with Corvias Solutions to manage \$100 million of green infrastructure projects to provide cost savings, create thousands of local jobs and boost economic development in the County.

Sealed with a 8-0 County Council vote, this Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is a first-of-its-kind program that maximizes the strengths of the public and private sectors to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pollution diet goals regulatory requirements (Total Maximum Daily Load) by installing filters to treat polluted runoff from 8,000 acres of existing impervious surfaces by the end of the decade.

"Prince George's County has made significant strides in its efforts to restore our local waterways and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "This partnership puts us in the forefront of creating clean, green and healthy communities and emphasizes the need for collaborative strategies to provide new solutions in the area of stormwater management. I want to thank the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) and Director Adam Ortiz for their hard work and ingenuity in creating this economic and environmental opportunity for our residents and local and minority businesses."

Adam Ortiz adds, "The government has strengths and weaknesses. By partnering with Corvias we can leverage their strengths to get this work done cheaper, greener and faster than what the government can do alone."

With offices in Ft. Meade and Bowie, MD, Corvias Solutions is a privately-held company that partners with public sector institutions to solve environmental, energy and infrastructure challenges. The County will pilot \$100 million in the initial retrofit of 2,000 acres with Corvias to manage the design, construction and long-term maintenance of County property. At the same time, Corvias will "race" the County's conventional project process in retrofitting a different 2,000 acres. If the initial terms are met showing efficiencies in construction and success in local business and job development, Corvias will have the option to cover an additional 2,000 acres.

A key component of the agreement requires Corvias to boost local economic development by using local small and minority businesses. To get paid in full, they must meet a 30 percent target for the first year, 35 percent target for the second year and 40 percent target for the third year. In addition, the Partnership will link County businesses with training and education programs with Prince George's Community College, local organizations and existing government programs to build a stormwater management workforce within the County and develop mentor-protégé networks that will enhance skill levels and increase participation in the CWP.

Roland L. Jones, Director of the County's Office of Central Services states that this business model will help stimulate and expand the County's tax base and increase the number of employment opportunities for residents. "Under this agreement, small business enterprises will be able to compete and secure contracts to build water infrastructure systems."

To meet clean water regulatory requirements, the County must treat 15,000 acres of polluted runoff by 2025, consisting of 46,000 stormwater filtration devices at a price tag of \$1.2 billion. "This will require about 5,000 jobs from engineering to landscaping," says Ortiz. "Few, if any, jurisdictions in the country will be spending as much, as fast, as we are. This fact, coupled with our local hiring preferences, will launch a new clean water industry center here in the County. We will grow our current County-based stormwater businesses, and urge all stormwater-related businesses elsewhere to locate to Prince George's County to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

For more information about the Clean Water Partnership, contact CountyClick 3-1-1.



COUNTY'S LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY FACILITY MAKES GLOBAL IMPACT

Turkish environmental officials learn how to put landfill gas to use

Controlling greenhouse gas (GHG) is not just a concern in the United States but internationally as well. Earlier this year, DoE hosted a group of environmental officials from the Republic of Turkey through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Landfill Methane Outreach Program. This voluntary assistance and partnership program reduces GHG emissions by supporting landfill gas-to-energy project development. The program also assists countries throughout the world in developing landfill methane reduction projects through the international Global Methane Initiative. The officials were mainly interested in the County's Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility and its use of landfill gas to generate electricity as a substitute to boiler fuel. Operating since 1987, the Facility continues to be a primary source of energy for electricity that powers the County's Correctional Center. This energy is marketed nationwide, producing a steady revenue stream to the

County while reducing costs associated with purchasing retail electrical power and fuel oil, and meeting and exceeding EPA's Air Quality Regulations. During the planning stages of the Gas-to-Energy Facility project, landfill gas was not referred to as a greenhouse gas and current air quality regulations did not evolve until several years later. Prince George's County is a leader in gas-to-energy technology and broke new ground in what has become known today as an industry standard. In the Landfill's 27-year history there have been some successes and some setbacks. The challenges were eventually overcome and have become valuable teaching lessons that are shared among global start-up operations. The EPA considers the County's Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility a highly progressive operation that benefits the management of landfill gas and serves as a proven example of success for national and international interest.



DoE GOES PINK!

In honor of national Breast Cancer Awareness Month, DoE turned its logo pink and held a pink DoE polo shirt fundraiser, which generated a \$430 donation for the Susan G. Komen and Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. Organized by Reggie Ford and Theresa Bottner (Administrative Services Division) and Jeanne Fenstermacher (Stormwater Management Division), they hope to make this an annual event for the Department.



GETTING TOUGH ON TRASH

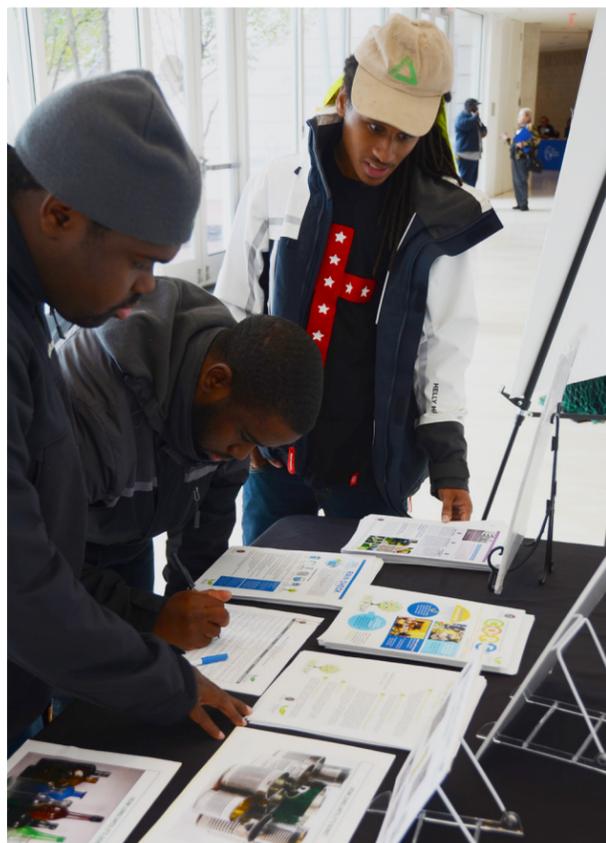
in Prince George's

Everyone was talking trash at the 9th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit hosted by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The goal of the Summit is to raise awareness, promote collaboration and inspire action on lasting solutions to the region's trash problem. Held at the University of Maryland Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, the single day event included a keynote address from Jim Dinagar, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and presentation of the Foundation's Potomac Champion Awards.

The Trash Summit featured interactive educational sessions focusing on building alliances, developing trash free policies and marketing to millennials to foster trash reduction. The sessions included presentations from local government agencies and environmental organizations, and lively discussions among session participants who identified action items they could commit to practicing in their own litter prevention activities.

Adam Ortiz, Director of the Department of the Environment (DoE) participated in the Fostering Trash Free Communities: How Public-Private Partnerships Help Transform Neighborhoods and Businesses session. Adam shared how government agency partnerships with private companies are delivering innovative programs and cost-effective solutions to solve the problem of litter in Prince George's County and around the region. DoE also moderated the Taking Action: Tools for Keeping Your Neighborhood Trash Free session, during which local County and city agencies shared their litter prevention and waste reduction policies, recycling goals, community cleanup programs and sustainability plans.

For more information about the 9th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit, visit www.trashsummit.org.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SEEKS TO RECOVER WASTE TO PRODUCE CLEAN ENERGY

By 2020, the Prince George's County Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill will phase out traditional methods of processing the County's municipal solid waste through landfilling. The County is seeking a new system to optimize the recovery of recyclables and conversion of organics into compost, fuel or renewable energy. To gain a greater understanding of innovative technologies that support these goals, the Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Office of Central Services (OCS) has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design proposals for the development, operation and maintenance of a resource recovery facility at the Western Branch Yard Waste Composting Facility located in Upper Marlboro, MD.

OCS hosted a Pre-Qualifications Conference to share information about the project including objectives, design, construction, operation, finance and ongoing maintenance of the facility. Proposals must be submitted to OCS by March 12, 2015 for review and consideration.

"This is an invitation for the new school to come into session here in Prince George's. We are changing the way we think about waste – that instead of it being a useless material thrown away in a big pile, it is a valuable resource that can be recovered, utilized and sold as compost, recycling or energy. Through this initiative, we seek a long-term sustainable and environmentally friendly solution or family of solutions that will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels while advancing our use of technology to achieve the goal of zero waste in Prince George's County," said DoE Director Adam Ortiz.

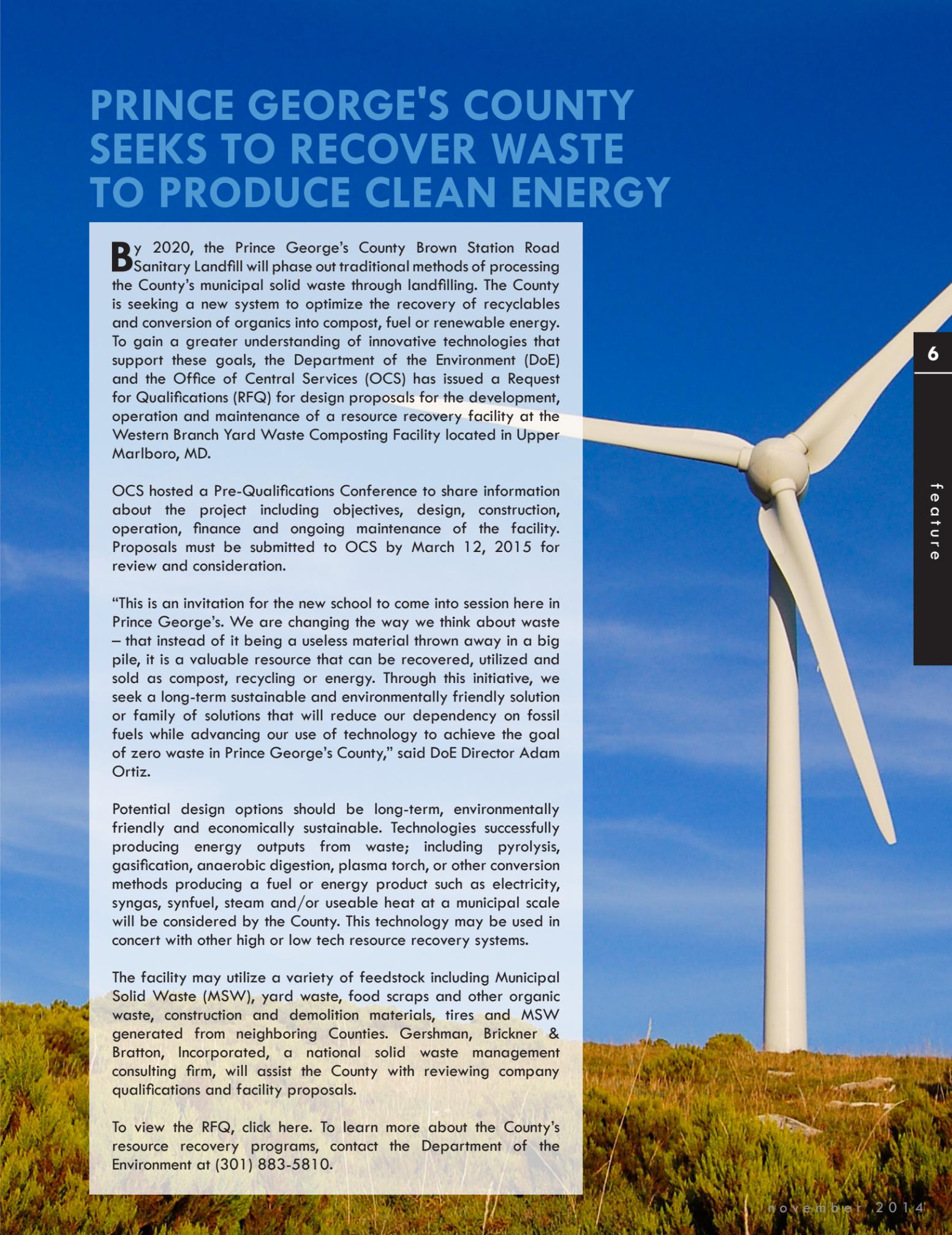
Potential design options should be long-term, environmentally friendly and economically sustainable. Technologies successfully producing energy outputs from waste; including pyrolysis, gasification, anaerobic digestion, plasma torch, or other conversion methods producing a fuel or energy product such as electricity, syngas, synfuel, steam and/or useable heat at a municipal scale will be considered by the County. This technology may be used in concert with other high or low tech resource recovery systems.

The facility may utilize a variety of feedstock including Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), yard waste, food scraps and other organic waste, construction and demolition materials, tires and MSW generated from neighboring Counties. Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Incorporated, a national solid waste management consulting firm, will assist the County with reviewing company qualifications and facility proposals.

To view the RFQ, [click here](#). To learn more about the County's resource recovery programs, contact the Department of the Environment at (301) 883-5810.

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feature

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feature



CHALLENGE!

Michelle W. Russell
DoE Associate Director

1801 McCormick Drive
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Largo, Maryland 20774

On a beautiful fall day, DoE employees put on their game faces for the first annual Wellness Works Field Day – a fun-filled afternoon of team-oriented physical challenges and brain games. The event was coordinated by the DoE Wellness Works Committee, which works to provide healthy programs, activities and events that support enhancing the physical and mental well-being of DoE employees. Hosted by DoE's Animal Management Division, participants brought high energy and a competitive spirit to the Field Day that included a combination of athletic games including Waterfall and Tire Flip, and mental challenges such as Movin' Up and Body Count. The day also included static squat and a push-up challenge, and the tie-breaker tire flip showdown. Teams competed for the Director's Wellness Cup, which was awarded to the Stormwater Management/Sustainable Initiatives/Animal Management team. The DoE Wellness Works Committee thanks everyone who participated in the Field Day. Special thanks to DoE Director Adam Ortiz and Associate Directors for their support.



ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor
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SPAY-A-DAY KEEPS THE LITTER AWAY

Prince George's County to launch new campaign for free spay and neuter surgeries

The Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division (AMD) has been awarded a \$49,580 grant through the Spay and Neuter Grants Program to launch its "Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away" campaign. In total, 51 applications were received for the 2015 Spay and Neuter Grants Program administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Of those, AMD and 13 other local government facilities and animal welfare organizations were selected to receive grants.

The goal of the campaign is to provide one spay or neuter surgery every day starting in 2015. Special radio and print advertisements will promote key campaign messages including fighting pet overpopulation, reducing high animal shelter intake and euthanasia rates, and improving pet health. AMD will focus on reducing Prince George's euthanasia and animal shelter intake rates by performing surgeries on 219 dogs and 146 cats in the County. In conjunction with the surgeries, complementary rabies vaccinations will be provided to all 365 animals. Surgeries, available on a first come first serve basis, will be conducted at the Spay Spot Clinic located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro.

This year, AMD serviced more than 11,000 animals and found new, loving homes for many homeless dogs and cats. AMD will use the campaign to promote spay/neuter services while educating dog and cat owners, in areas designated through County Executive Baker's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), on the importance of having their pets undergo this important surgery.

Residents interested in applying for a free spay or neuter pet surgery may contact the Animal Management Division at (301) 780-7201.



**STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT**

Jeffrey M. DeHan
DoE Associate Director

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COUNTY MOVES FORWARD WITH WATERSHED TRAINING COURSE

New training course set to start February 10 through March 15, 2015

Prince George's County took another step towards meeting the goals of its Clean Water Program with the introduction of its pilot Urban Watershed Contractor Training Course first offered fall 2014. The training course will be offered again at PGCC's main campus during the spring semester beginning in February 2015. The course was co-sponsored by DoE and Prince George's Community College (PGCC) with the goal of developing Prince George's County's workforce capacity within the emerging green industry. The Low Impact Development Center (LIDC) developed and delivered the course with support from the Prince George's County Supplier Diversity Development Division (SDDD) and University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center (EFC).

Initiated to introduce small businesses in the landscaping and construction industry to low impact development, the course provided an overview of

the Prince George's County's Clean Water Program and the design, construction, maintenance and permitting requirements of the seven green stormwater best management practices (rain barrels and cisterns, tree canopy, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement and green roofs) that are being used in the County's Rain Check Rebate Program.

The Clean Water Program provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work. As part of the program, the County will be contracting with County-based businesses to retrofit parking lots, roads and roofs with treatment devices that will filter out pollutants from stormwater. Successful participants of the training course will receive a certificate and inclusion on the County's web page of eligible Rain Check Rebate contractors and will have the resources to grow their green businesses.



URBAN WATERSHED RESTORATION Contractor Training Course

What you need to know!

New This Spring!

Prince George's County Community College is offering a 5-week noncredit Urban Watershed Restoration course to explain basic information on the maintenance of best management practices (BMPs) used for the County's Rain Check Rebate Program.

Now you can learn the Program's requirements for permits, planning, design, construction and maintenance.

The Urban Watershed Restoration course is sponsored by Prince George's Community College in partnership with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and Low Impact Development Center. The program is endorsed by the Chesapeake Landscape Council.

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

Construction, Operations and Maintenance of:

- ▶ **Low impact development**
- ▶ **Bioretention basics**
- ▶ **Permeable pavers**
- ▶ **Cisterns**
- ▶ **Rain barrels**
- ▶ **Pavement removal**
- ▶ **Green roofs**
- ▶ **Tree canopy**
- ▶ **Prince George's County Procurement**
- ▶ **Business Development**
- ▶ **County-based Business Program**

For more information or to register, contact Prince George's Community College at 301-336-6000 or visit http://www.pgcc.edu/Programs_and_Courses/course_detail.asp?courseID=6442468826&programID=6442462358

**COURSE RUNS
FEBRUARY 10, 2015
THROUGH
MARCH 17, 2015**



SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon
DoE Acting Associate Director

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Suite 500
Largo, Maryland 20774

A GOOD LOOK FOR STORMWATER DRAINS

In a very attractive way, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) in partnership with the Anacostia Watershed Society is calling attention to stormwater. Through the Storm Drain Mural Project, important messages are being spread throughout County communities about what happens to our local and national waterways when trash, debris and other hazardous pollutants are dumped into the stormwater system.

With the help of energetic elementary and middle school students, and generous grant funding through Maryland Milestones, 20 storm drains in Riverdale Park and Hyattsville were recently painted with decorative murals depicting fish, cranes, butterflies and flowers, which were designed by local artists.

This project builds on the County's Storm Drain Stenciling and Medallions Project and provides another creative way to encourage everyone to take pride in our rivers and streams. It's also a fun way of engaging and educating County residents on what they can do to help keep our waterways clean and healthy.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Roger E. Merritt, Jr.
DoE Associate Director

3500 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774

WASTE MANAGEMENT STAFF GETS BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT RECYCLING BUSINESSES

Group gains insight to best practices employed at other innovative facilities

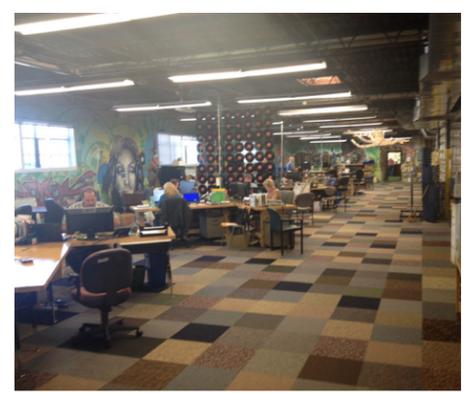
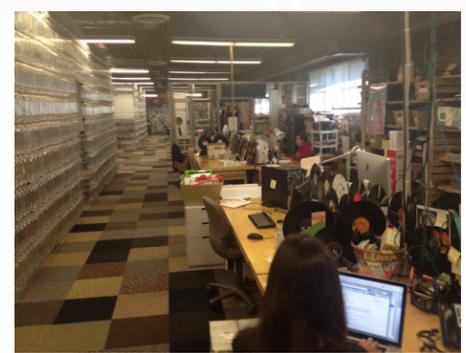
While the County has created a variety of innovative and unique recycling programs, it never hurts to look at something new. That's why staff from DoE's Waste Management Division made a road trip to two recycling facilities to examine their best management practices and to gain new insight.

DoE staff visited with Delaware-based Revolutionary Recovery, Inc. — a construction and demolition debris recycler that just entered a public-private partnership with the State to run a state-of-the-art processing plant. Their plant receives, sorts and processes mixed loads of construction debris and recovers about 80 percent of inbound materials. They recycle a variety of materials that include wood, drywall, metal, ceiling tile, rubble, carpet and a host of other construction-related products. DoE's main focus in visiting this office was to learn how they structure their public-private partnership for this operation.

DoE also toured the headquarters of Terracycle, a specialized firm that collects difficult-to-recycle packaging and products, and

repurposes the material for use in other products. Founded in 2001 in Trenton, NJ, Tom Szaky started the company by producing organic fertilizer from liquefied 'worm poop' in soda bottles. The company offers a variety of no cost programs for schools to collect and recycle waste (food containers) to generate income for the schools. One of their more successful programs involves development of a residential zero waste program that encompasses source separation by residents sorting all materials in color-coded bags first, then placing the bags in the recycle containers. The idea of presorting all the items at the source greatly reduces or eliminates the need for trash pickups and makes sorting at the Materials Recycling Facility more efficient and profitable. One cool thing about this company is that everything in their offices is from recycled material including the furniture, decorations, carpeting and the computer equipment.

DoE Director Adam Ortiz said he was sure the group would make more road trips to learn other new tricks of the trade.



MISSION: CLEAN UP, GREEN UP!



Gloves? Check. Recycling containers? Check. Volunteers? Check! Friends of Brier's Mill Run recently partnered with volunteers from the Anacostia Watershed Society, Riverdale Heights and Riverdale Hills communities, the University of Maryland's School of Engineering and DeMatha High School for their annual Clean Up, Green Up event. An initiative by Prince George's County, Clean Up, Green Up supports the beautification of County neighborhoods and communities

through environmental activities such as litter collection and tree plantings.

"Everyone got dirty and worked hard as a team to remove trash and other debris in Brier's Mill Run and the surrounding wooded area leading to the stream. We filled eight recycling containers and recovered bicycles, shopping carts and tires. Special thanks to DoE who supported our event by providing dumpsters and other cleaning tools," said Marty Newman, President of the Riverdale Heights/Riverdale Hills/Crestwood (RRC) Community Association.

Briers Mill Run is a free-flowing tributary of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River; the stream joins the Northeast Branch at the confluence with Still Creek in Riverdale Park, MD. The subwatershed is generally bound by Good Luck Road to the north and west, Annapolis Road to the east, and Veterans Parkway to the south. The entire subwatershed is located within Prince George's County.



A DAY OF SERVICE IN EDMONSTON

The Town of Edmonston received a fall facelift during the University of Maryland's Panhellenic Day of Service. Community organizations and 178 women representing 15 sororities participated in the Day of Service, which included the completion of various environmental and sustainability projects. Students picked up trash and planted trees, assisted Eco City Farm with the restoration of a hoop house and worked with Community Forklift to construct Little Libraries for donation and distribution.



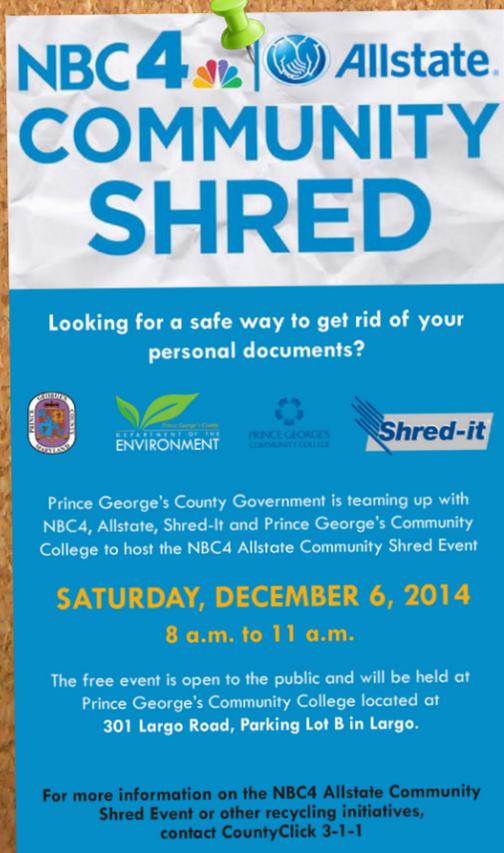
GREEN BULLETIN



Prince George's County
ecycling
electronics recycling

DEC 6
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friendly High School
1000 Allentown Road
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

RECYCLE YOUR OLD
TELEVISION AND
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT



NBC4 Allstate
COMMUNITY SHRED

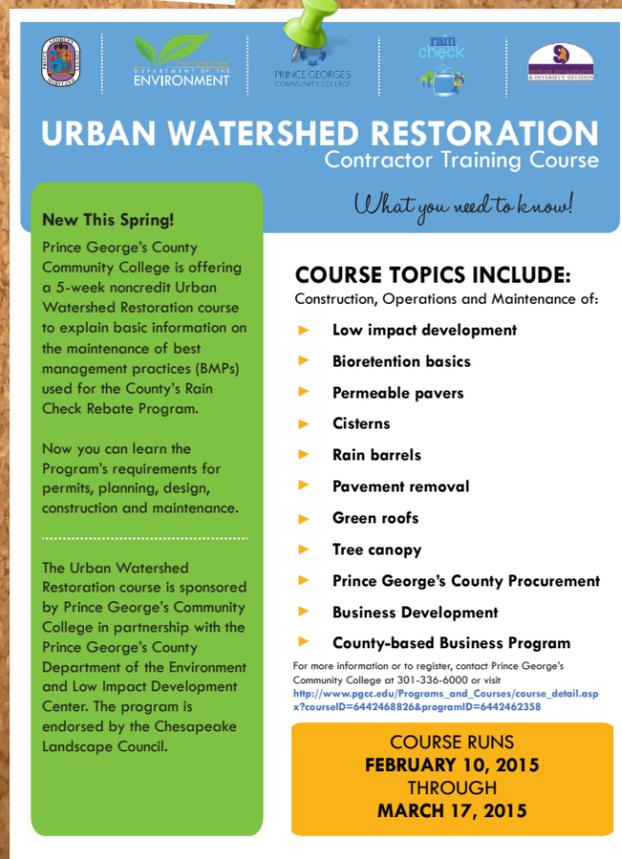
Looking for a safe way to get rid of your personal documents?

Prince George's County Government is teaming up with NBC4, Allstate, Shred-It and Prince George's Community College to host the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The free event is open to the public and will be held at Prince George's Community College located at 301 Largo Road, Parking Lot B in Largo.

For more information on the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event or other recycling initiatives, contact CountyClick 3-1-1



URBAN WATERSHED RESTORATION
Contractor Training Course

What you need to know!

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- ▶ Rain barrels
- ▶ Pavement removal
- ▶ Green roofs
- ▶ Tree canopy
- ▶ Prince George's County Procurement
- ▶ Business Development
- ▶ County-based Business Program

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HR *matters*

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR NETWORK!

Networking is one of the most talked about strategies in finding a job. It is viewed as a process for sharing information among groups with a common interest and an effective strategy used by individuals to advance their career. When opportunities for career advancement arise, you want to be in a position to take advantage of them. Having a wide network of individuals to contact may be the difference in seizing the moment or missing an opportunity. Here are some useful tips for developing your network second career.

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HR Matters

- 1 Contact People You Already Know**
Advance your career search by contacting friends, family, faculty and former employers. These connections might know of existing opportunities or know of people currently working in the career field that is of interest to you.
- 2 Conduct Informational Interviews**
Informational interviews are a great way to connect with alumni from your college as well as professionals currently working in the field. Prepare a list of questions about opportunities in your career field and best practices for building a lasting career.
- 3 Keep Your Search Active**
Although you may be just visiting a friend or attending a neighborhood party, take these opportunities to speak with people about areas of interest to you. These are great settings for meeting new people in a casual and informal environment and sharing that you are searching for career advancement opportunities.
- 4 Join Professional Associations**
Professional associations are a great resource for learning more about your field and meeting people in the same line of work. Most associations hold annual conferences and publish magazines or trade journals that focus on key topics important to the industry.
- 5 Build Relationships**
Developing relationships will keep you in the communication loop and provide you with ties to important contacts and key players. By helping others in their development, you will establish mutually beneficial relationships that can exist throughout your career. This is what networking is all about!
- 6 Send Thank You Notes**
Show your appreciation by sending thank you notes when appropriate. Sending thank you notes as a follow up to informational interviews and career fairs is not only courteous but will also create a favorable impression for the employer and may lead to future opportunities within the organization.
- 7 Maintain Your Network**
Maintain your network by keeping in touch with the people you meet and be sure to update them on your progress. This will help ensure an ongoing mutual relationship where networking becomes beneficial to both parties.