



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

April 25, 2007

Fellow Marylanders:

Welcome to *EnviroMatters* – MDE's hot topics monthly e-pub, covering our agency's position on policy issues and initiatives to protect and enhance public health, our environment and the treasured Chesapeake Bay.

April's edition features environmental decisions made in the Maryland legislature as three months of exciting hearings addressed environmental issues that affect our state, its citizens and our future.

This month, we celebrated many important environmental observances: MDE's 20 years of service, Earth Day, pioneer ecologist Rachel Carson's birthday and the close of a successful 2007 session. With stricter car emission standards, important new stormwater and water pollution changes, and intensified recycling measures, we move forward by working with policymakers to continue our mission to protect Maryland's public health and restore the environment.

As always, your comments and ideas are welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIROMATTERS

April 25, 2007

Legislative Wrapup 2007 - Green is Growing in State's Favor

When the gavel struck its final bang at Maryland's 2007 General Assembly session on April 9, efforts toward cleaning the air, protecting the Chesapeake Bay and doing our part to mitigate global warming were victorious. While a bill to create a dedicated Chesapeake Bay "Green Fund" to clean up the Bay passed in the House, it did not make it through the Senate. Overall, there was a marked effort of unity in protecting public health and the environment.

Environmental Successes

I join Governor Martin O'Malley in his enthusiasm for this year's environmental successes. The final bills, when signed into law, will greatly support our efforts at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE):

HB 131/SB 130 - Clean Cars Act - requires Maryland to adopt California's car emissions standards that are more stringent than current federal standards. The bill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are a major cause of global warming. The greenhouse gas standards will be phased-in between 2009 - 2016, to achieve 30 percent less carbon dioxide emitted from new vehicles.

SB 970 - Water Appropriation - Exempts users of less than 5,000 gallons per day (comprising two-thirds of MDE permits issued) from a water appropriation permit requirement and enacts civil penalties for violations of groundwater appropriation regulations.

SB 784/HB 786 - Stormwater Management Act of 2007 - Stormwater runoff is a major cause of disrupted shoreline and Bay overnutrification. This bill requires MDE to revamp technical stormwater management manual requirements to help ensure their non-structural best-management practices are frequently implemented.

HB 1131/SB 766 - Phosphorus - as of Jan. 1, 2010, only minimal phosphorus, a nutrient pollutant, will be allowed in dishwashing detergent sold in

Maryland. Reducing phosphorus loadings is a goal of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement (C2K).

HB 488 - Electronic Recycling - makes this pilot program permanent law, increases the initial manufacturer registration fee, expands the definition of "electronic device" to include not just computers but televisions, and gives the State Comptroller enforcement power over retailers who sell manufacturer's products that are not registered with MDE.

HB 1215 - Community Right-to-Know - federal law requires companies to report to MDE chemicals and the quantities housed on their property so that fire departments and emergency management can respond to emergencies. A simple change in the bill allows an extended fee paying period.

SB 975 - Oil Pollution & Tank Management - adds ethanol and biodiesel as a fuel, regulated in the state just like other fuel sources. It also provides MDE with clear authority to stop fuel from being shipped to non-compliant underground storage tanks.

While there is still much to accomplish in the coming legislative sessions, such as establishing a Green Fund to bridge the monetary gap in reaching our C2K goals, reducing greenhouse gasses and increasing our dependence on cleaner, renewable fuels, we can be proud of the significant steps we took during the 2007 session. The groundwork has been laid for equally successful sessions in the years to come.

MARYLAND

www.mde.state.md.us 800.633.6101

