



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

1800 Washington Boulevard ● Baltimore MD 21230  
410-537-3000 ● 1-800-633-6101

---

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Kendl P. Philbrick  
Acting Secretary

Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor

February 3, 2004

Fellow Marylanders:

In an agency with 950 people and responsibilities that cover nearly every aspect of the environment, a detailed assessment of the year's accomplishments – from vigorous enforcement of the law to innovations that will lead to a cleaner environment – would run to many pages. In this and the next two issues of *EnviroMatters*, we are highlighting some of the Maryland Department of the Environment's most significant accomplishments for 2003. These issues will be published weekly instead of bi-weekly.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. Enjoy this issue of *EnviroMatters*.

Sincerely,

Kendl P. Philbrick  
Acting Secretary

## A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2003 - I

### Working with Maryland Communities

With the passage of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Project, this department will take responsibility for a billion-dollar effort to reduce nutrients in the Chesapeake. But often, the measure of the Department of the Environment is found in work that is far less visible. Examples from 2003:

- Hurricane Isabel caused widespread damage among Chesapeake Bay communities. MDE's primary assignment after the storm was to remove home heating oil from damaged or contaminated tanks, and we pumped approximately 50,000 gallons. But MDE staff also attended numerous community meetings to answer citizens' questions and use their expertise to provide advice on a wide range of subjects.
- Working with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, MDE held three public community dialogue sessions across the state to receive public input on environmental justice-related concerns. In addition, the department launched its Environmental Benefits Districts (EBD) Program and identified two EBDs, one in Central Prince George's County and another in East Baltimore City. MDE will provide funds to retrofit diesel fuel school buses to reduce emissions in Prince George's, Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties and is using Environmental Protection Agency funds to provide clean-burning diesel fuel for 160 MTA buses in East Baltimore.
- The innovative Park Heights Compliance Assistance Project, which offered environmental compliance training to auto body and repair shop operators, reached its goal of providing 60 facilities in the Park Heights community with a compliance workbook. Of those 60 shops, 35 have returned self-certification forms and 20 are participating in the program. The goal of the program is to help shops comply with environmental regulations.
- The department produced and distributed the 2003 Business Guide to Environmental Permits and Approvals and held 20 multi-media meetings with businesses considering locating in Maryland to discuss permitting programs and the most efficient way for businesses to obtain necessary approvals.
- MDE published and distributed the 2003 Enforcement and Compliance Report on all the inspection, compliance assistance and enforcement activity of the 28 MDE enforcement programs across the three major media administrations.
- Finally, the department began working on its Enterprise Environmental Management System (EEMS), which will consolidate its 40-plus databases, vastly improving MDE's ability to provide efficient, effective service to customers. When EEMS is finished several years from now, it will allow the department to reassign as many as 17 staff who now maintain data and other information to such core functions as permitting and inspections.