



**Department of the Environment**

---

# Overview of the Maryland Department of the Environment

**Presented to Senate Education, Health, &  
Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Acting Secretary  
January 18, 2011**





# Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

MDE--Maryland's environmental protection agency

Created in 1987 through consolidation of public health and environmental programs from DHMH and DNR

A dedicated staff of 1,000 scientists, engineers, other environmental and public health professionals

Field offices in Annapolis, Salisbury, Cambridge, Frostburg and Hagerstown





# Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

MDE comprised of four scientific and technical Administrations:

- Air and Radiation Management
- Land Management
- Water Management
- Science Services

Coordinating Offices:

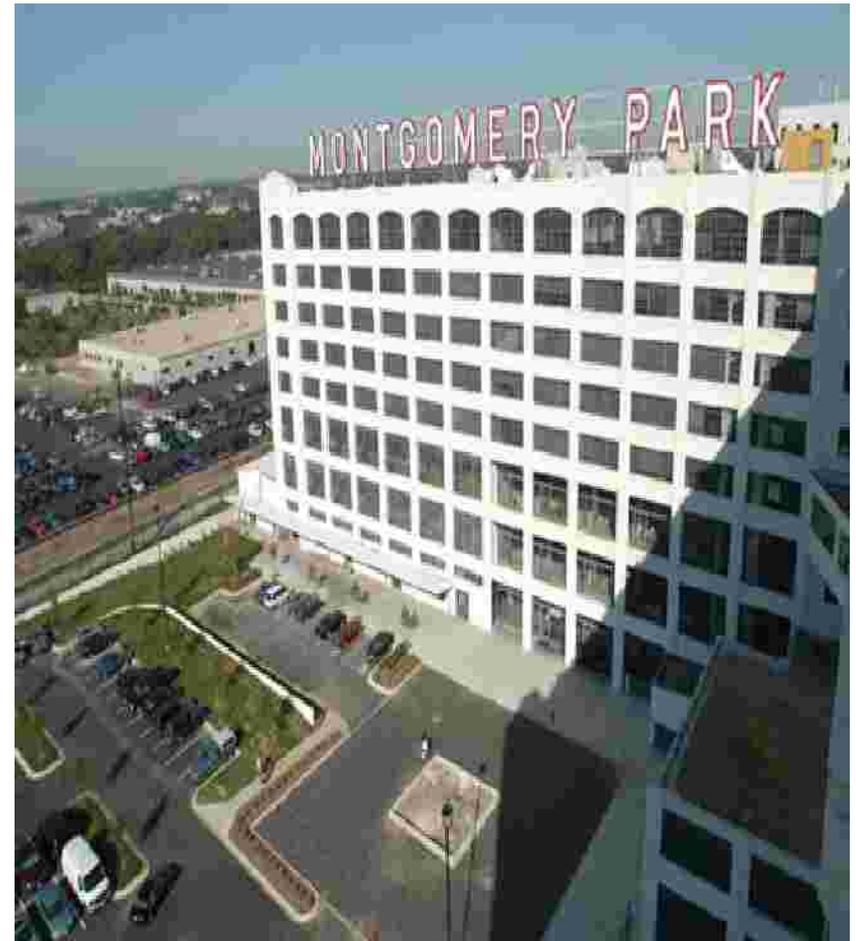
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Communications
- Legislation and Policy
- Internal Audit
- Fair Practices





# Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

- **All supported by:**
  - Office of Budget and Infrastructure Finance
  - Administrative Services
  - Office of the Attorney General





# Air & Radiation Management Administration

- Safeguards air quality and administers State and federal air pollution control requirements through the following programs:
- Air Quality Planning & Monitoring Program
  - Develops plans and regulations to meet national air quality standards
  - Operates statewide air sampling and monitoring network
- Air Quality Permits Program
  - Issues preconstruction and operating permits to sources of air pollution.





# Air & Radiation Management Administration

- **Air Quality Compliance Program**
  - Conducts inspections and enforces air pollution laws and regulations
  - Responds to citizen complaints
  - Regulates and trains persons who work with asbestos.
- **Mobile Sources**
  - Implements the *Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program* with the MVA
  - Implements Diesel Smoke Inspection Program with the DOT and Maryland State Police
  - Works to expand the use of alternative fuel vehicle.
- **Radiological Health**
  - Licenses, registers and inspects users of radioactive materials and radiation sources
  - Responds to radiation emergencies





# Land Management Administration

---

- **Protecting public health from exposure to hazardous substances**
- **Regulates Hazardous substances:**
  - Lead poisoning prevention
  - Underground storage tanks
  - Cleanup of chemical contamination in groundwater like MTBE
- **Administers Voluntary Cleanup Program for Brownfield sites**
  - Redevelopment and revitalization of formerly used properties
- **Oversees waste recycling and disposal**
  - Including solid waste management and waste source reduction, management of coal ash, CAFOs, and sewage sludge
- **Regulates Mining Activities**





# Water Management Administration

---

- **Ensures Public Drinking Water systems meet water quality standards under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act**
- **Issues Permits under the federal Clean Water Act to control pollution from:**
  - municipal and industrial wastewater discharges
  - erosion and sediment control from construction sites
  - stormwater management from developments
  - wetlands and waterway construction
- **Oversees Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Programs in Maryland's counties**
- **Protects Wetland Resources to ensure that these critical natural resources remain healthy to provide wildlife habitat and filter out sediment and nutrient pollution runoff from the land**





# Science Services Administration

---

- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan – Leads Maryland’s multiagency implementation plan development effort with MDA, DNR and MDP**
- **Establishes water quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads – TMDLs to assure standards are met**
- **Protects Maryland’s high quality waters from degradation**
- **Monitors the quality of shellfish harvesting waters, issues fish consumption advisories for recreationally caught fish**





# Science Services Administration

---

- **Works with the county health departments to monitor water quality at Maryland beaches and coordinates on environmental health issues**
- **Community-Right-to-Know – compiles and disburses information on use of chemicals for benefit of communities and first responders**
- **Performs Environmental Assessments across the state to support regulatory programs**
- **Coordinates with other State agencies on redevelopment of military bases (BRAC)**





# Coordinating Offices

- **Emergency Planning and Preparedness**
- **Legislation and Policy**
- **Communications**
- **Fair Practices**
- **Internal Audit**





# Administrative Services

- **Human Resources**
- **Fiscal Services**
- **Procurement & Contract Management**
- **Central Services & Facilities Management**
- **Operational Services**
- **Planning & Project Management**
- **Office of Information Management & Technology**





# Office of Budget and Infrastructure Financing

---

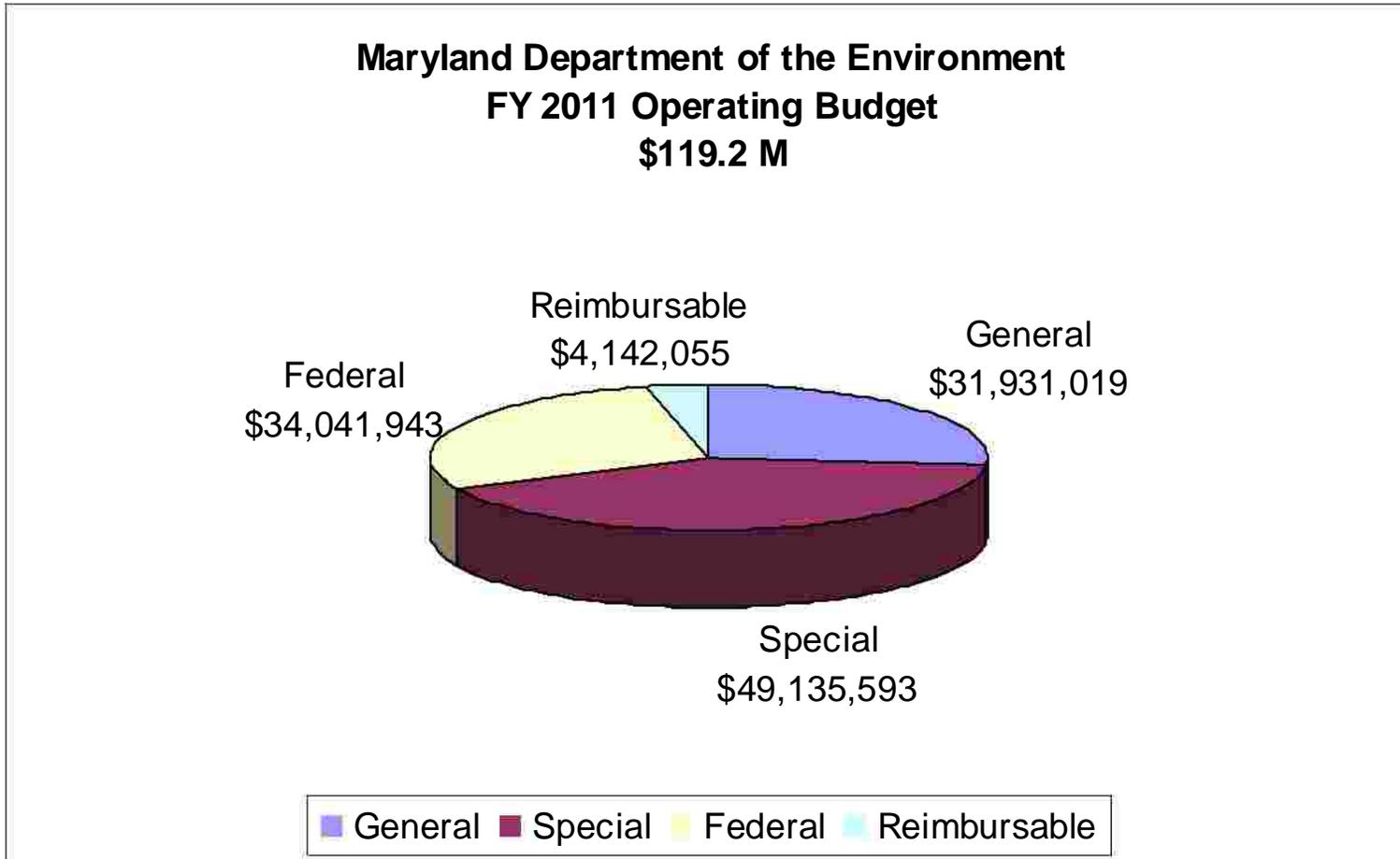
## Responsibilities

- **Oversight of all phases of MDE's operating and capital budgets**
- **Provides technical and financial assistance to local governments and eligible applicants for capital projects financed by MDE's capital programs:**
  - Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund,
  - Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund
  - Biological Nutrient Removal Program
  - Bay Restoration Fund
  - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act





# MDE Budget Overview



**MDE's capital budget is \$454.2 million in grant and loan funding for environmental improvement projects**





# Accomplishments

---

- Led development of the Watershed Implementation Plan, as part of EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) pollution diet
- Enacted new regulations to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff, the fastest-growing source of Bay pollution, by requiring "environmental site design" on new development and re-development
- Oversaw \$121.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for 82 water quality, drinking water, and "green infrastructure" projects that created and saved jobs across the State
- Achieved a 98 percent reduction in number of children with lead poisoning since 1996 when Maryland's Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law was implemented





# Accomplishments

---

- Adopted new regulations for coal combustion byproducts to protect ground and surface water quality
- Established 2020 waste diversion goals and oversight of recycling programs for electronics, fluorescent bulbs, mercury switches, aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper to conserve energy and landfill space
- Achieved compliance with air quality standards for fine particulates and ozone and significant reductions in nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury from the State's power plants
- Led MD's action on climate change: chaired the Maryland Climate Change Commission, joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the country's first cap-and-trade program, and supported Clean Cars legislation and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009





# Efficiency Measures

---

- Created MDEStat to increase transparency and accountability and improve performance--winner of the 2009 Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Innovation Award.
- In FY10, issued 95 percent of permits within published standard turnaround times
- Prioritized resources to improve enforcement, resulting in a 54% increase in enforcement actions since 2007, without additional resources
- Completed two major information technology projects:
  - improving regulatory data management and permit tracking and
  - upgrading web content and its management





# Initiatives

---

- Continue to lead the regional Bay restoration effort by:
  - funding state-of-the-art wastewater treatment technology upgrades
  - utilizing environmental site design to control stormwater pollution from new development and redevelopment
  - establishing new stormwater control requirements for existing urban and suburban lands
- Continue to work with the other Northeast states to:
  - strengthen State programs and push the EPA toward stronger federal controls to meet air quality goals
  - strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
  - implement the recommendations of Governor O'Malley's Climate Change Commission





# Initiatives

---

- Continue to work with businesses and citizens to restore to productive economic use of contaminated land and put in place the protective regulations necessary to prevent future contamination
- Continue MDE's leadership in protection of public health by ensuring MD's water supplies are clean, that businesses and industries meet all environmental requirements to protect air and water quality and that MD's housing stock is free of lead paint and MD's children are no longer poisoned by lead
- To facilitate and encourage the emerging green job market, MDE will work to identify and facilitate permitting of new and emerging technologies





# Maryland Department of the Environment

---

**For Questions Contact:**

**Lisa Nissley  
MDE Legislative Liaison  
410-260-6301**

**Heather Barthel  
Director, MDE Legislation and Policy  
410-537-3056**

1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718  
410-537-3000 | TTY Users: 1-800-735-2258  
[www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

