



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# Maryland Department of Aging



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<https://aging.maryland.gov/pages/DME.aspx>  
State Government  
Member since October 2020

## Management and Leadership



### Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

*The Maryland Department of Aging operates a program that promotes the reuse of Durable Medical Equipment (DME). DME Donations are first collected at our warehouse and at county landfills (rather than entering the landfill), then sanitized, repaired, and distributed to individuals in need. To date, after only 6 weeks of DME collection, we have collected nearly 300 DME items. That is, 300 DME items (weighting 7.5 tons and taking up 5,200 cubic feet of space) have been diverted from landfill. With an estimated 2,500 items to be collected this year, this will total 62.5 tons or 43,300 cubic feet of DME diverted from landfill.*

## Waste



### Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

*The basis of our DME Program is to Re-Use DME. However, beyond reuse itself, devices that are seemingly irreparable or useless are broken down for parts (arm rests, chair backs, wheel bearings, nuts and bolts, etc.) to be reused to build and repair other DME devices – thus reducing the amount of wasted metal material. It is estimated that 5 irreparable wheelchairs can be stripped down for parts to completely rebuild 3 useable wheelchairs, thus avoiding the waste of 2 total wheelchairs. Our service forecasts to collect 2,500 items of DME and distribute/reuse 2,000 items in FY 2021.*

**Recycling**

*All decommissioned DME, after being stripped of useful parts for repair of other DME items, is recycled. It is estimated that 1,000 lbs. per week, or 52,000 lbs. per year, of bent metal from devices will be recycled. As we accept used electronic DME, we receive a surplus of broken, damaged, or non-functioning lead-acid batteries. These “Spent” power wheelchair and scooter batteries are responsibly recycled after being removed. It is estimated that 3-5 batteries per week, or 152 per year, are to be recycled via MK Battery.*

## Transportation

**Efficient Business Travel**

*The Department of Aging prioritizes teleconferencing using Google Meets whenever possible in order to reduce vehicle miles travelled and gallons of fuel used. The MDoA has two vehicles assigned to the department and over the past 8 months, one of the vehicles has only been used for 0-1 trip per week. It is estimated that through teleconferencing, and by participating in virtual conferences, the MDoA avoids using 10-20 gallons of gas per week.*

## Water

**Water Conservation**

*In order to ensure safety for our DME program clients, all devices must be thoroughly sanitized. Since we receive and sanitize hundreds of DME items per month, we could be using upwards of 200 gallons of water per day. However, to reduce water use, we have attained specialized HubScrub DME sanitation machines with UV light sanitation capabilities. By sanitizing via UV light, we can avoid using the water/detergent cycle which uses 4 gallons of water per cycle. With each Hubscrub running an estimated 50 cycles per day, using the UV cycle to sanitize will save 200 gallons of water per day, totaling 4,400 gallons of water per month or 52,800 gallons of water per year.*



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

