

2003 Annual Report

MARYLAND USED MOTOR OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM



Submitted by:
Maryland
Environmental
Service



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Environmental Service, administers the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act through an intergovernmental agency agreement on behalf of the Maryland Department of the Environment. The Service is responsible for implementing a statewide program to increase the number of used oil collection facilities, provide public education and outreach programs, and maintain an information center to encourage citizens to recycle used motor oil.

The Service administers a grant from the Carroll Independent Fuel Company through MDE for the purpose of implementing a supplemental environmental project. The grant funding is used to assist in the construction of "rain shelter structures" to help minimize storm water accumulation in existing used motor oil recycling drop-off areas.

Since 1988, more than 9 million gallons of used motor oil have successfully been collected for proper disposal from do-it-yourself automobile enthusiasts.

2003 program accomplishments include:

- Collection of 820,000 gallons of used motor oil from program sponsored locations;
- The number of program sponsored collection locations remained stable over the year at 162;
- Continued collection of used antifreeze, another recyclable petroleum-based automobile fluid;
- Managed grant funding for a supplemental environmental project to construct rain sheds to cover collection tanks;
- Provided all program participants with a quarterly newsletter;
- Provided quarterly reports and program updates to all coordinators;
- Promoted the program at the Maryland Municipal League Conference and the Maryland Association of Counties Conference.

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MARYLAND USED OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2003 Used Oil Recycling Program Annual Report is provided to the Maryland General Assembly as a requirement of Environment Article 5-1001, section (g).

The Maryland Environmental Service, an agency of the State of Maryland, is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program through an intergovernmental agency agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment. Program management includes the designation of used oil collection facilities, technical assistance to establish collection facilities, public education, operation of an information center and implementation of other non-regulatory provisions of the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act.

We are pleased to report on the accomplishments and progress of the Program during the past year and plans for 2004.

INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Used Oil Recycling Law was enacted in July 1978. Initial program start-up funding was allocated from the energy overcharge financial settlement. This funding enabled the service to create a program to assist the home mechanic or do-it-yourselfer, with proper used motor oil disposal, which is nationally unique. The Service purchased used oil collection tanks, collection boxes, hardware and signs. County and local governments were solicited to assist in establishing convenient and accessible used oil collection sites for citizens. A variety of collection sites were established. Most are located at solid waste, public works and road maintenance facilities.

The program has been successful at recruiting and maintaining donor locations for two main reasons: 1) free collection service of used motor oil; and 2) the state assumes the responsibility for disposing of any contaminated used oil.

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Used Motor Oil Collection Program

The Used Oil Recycling Program was established primarily because market forces changed the economic dynamics of automobile service stations. In the past, service stations took used motor oil from individuals that changed the oil in their own cars and trucks. Now, the local service station sells milk and bread—not automobile related maintenance or repair services. Do-it-yourself automobile mechanics and enthusiasts need a reliable and responsible location to recycle used motor oil.

Collection of used motor oil from all state-wide locations yielded approximately 820,800 gallons in 2003. Since its inception in 1988, the program has expanded from 44 collection sites to 162 sites currently in operation and recovered more than 8.2 million gallons of used motor oil.

The program provides participating county and municipal governments and certain organizations the following:

- Tanks (275-gallon above ground tanks, including hardware, program identification decals and accepted material signs);
- Collection service for the used oil (through a contracted hauler) free of charge;
- Disposal of any contaminated used oil;
- Public education brochures for distribution;
- Quarterly used oil collection reports;
- Public outreach.

To serve the Maryland boating community, the Service continues to provide collection sites at designated state-operated marinas. Several private marinas throughout the state also participate in the program.

Good housekeeping practices are important aspects of spill control and contamination prevention. The program continually reminds each recycling coordinator or site supervisor of their pollution prevention responsibilities. A brochure entitled "*Guidelines*

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Used Motor Oil Collection Program (continued)

for Program Participants” is available to all designated program coordinators. The brochure outlines the importance and the need for responsible management of collection sites. There were no contamination incidents attributed to program affiliated tanks during the year. The program requires all sites that host a tank provide day-to-day monitoring of the tanks and communicate with the program office when tanks are three quarters full. The program can then arrange for an unscheduled collection.

The “Guidelines” brochure reiterates Maryland Department of the Environment concerns about storm water run-off and potential non-point source pollution releases from used oil collection tanks and secondary containment areas located at collection sites. Keeping the surrounding area clean and litter free and minimizing spills are important aspects to the environmental stewardship the sites provide.

The number of program collection locations remained the same this year. In the past locations have withdrawn for various reasons including the public’s abuse of the drop-off locations, people leaving trash and hazardous materials, the public leaving large quantities of material and open buckets full of material, and concern over possible enforcement actions.

Over the years many personnel changes have occurred at county and municipal locations which host program sponsored used motor oil collection tanks. Last year, the program developed a newsletter to help foster communication between all the responsible parties — participating collection locations, program management, and MDE, the regulatory authority. The newsletter highlights program accomplishments and keeps collection locations updated on program activities and important initiatives.

Supplemental Environmental Project Grant Program

The Used Motor Oil Recycling Program was a recipient of one-time supplemental environmental project funding that resulted from an alternative approach to traditional enforcement penalties. The program and Maryland Department of the Environment are concerned about storm water run-off and potential non-point source pollution releases from used oil collection tanks and secondary containment areas.

The program is offering grants to counties and municipalities interested in improving their used motor oil collection sites. The grant funding is being used to assist in the construction of rain shelters and is specifically limited to the reimbursement of material

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Supplemental Environmental Project Grant Program (continued)

used in the construction of rain shelters. Funding from a one time supplemental environmental project for the construction of rain shelter's will directly address these concerns and improve existing collection locations.

Ten grants of a maximum reimbursable amount of \$2,500.00 have been issued. Calvert, Cecil and Frederick counties have completed their projects and received their grant funding. Prince George's and Washington counties have applied and been approved for funding. These two outstanding county projects should be completed by the Spring 2004. The towns of Mount Airy and Walkersville have completed their projects and received their grant funding. The towns of Boonsboro, Cambridge, and Sykesville are currently under construction. The towns will be reimbursed upon project completion and submission of invoices and completed applications.

Public Outreach

The program will submit a paper to the NORA 2004 Annual Recycling Conference and Trade Show. NORA, formerly the National Oil Recyclers Association, is an association of responsible recyclers specializing in waste fluids. If the association accepts the paper it will provide an opportunity to feature Maryland's Used Motor Oil Recycling Program and to network with other state recycling coordinators and managers.

During 2003, the Maryland Used Motor Oil Recycling Program was promoted at the Maryland Municipal League Conference and the Maryland Association of Counties Conference.

The Service maintains a toll-free telephone line to provide information about where and how to properly dispose of used oil as part of our Recycling Information Center. The program received approximately 1,900 calls in 2003 with approximately 60 percent of the callers requesting information on used oil collection locations.

Collection reports, newsletter publications, and supporting documentation are posted, updated and maintained on the Service's Web site—www.menv.com.

The Service supported the Department of Natural Resources Trash-free parks program by procuring trash bags which are distributed to visitors. The bags were imprinted with a recycling message and the program's toll-free phone number.

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Program Administration

The Service has changed the organizational structure of the program during the past year. The program manager position is now assigned to and reports to the director of Communication and Marketing.

Planned Activities for 2004

Planned outreach activities for the new year will be limited due to sparse financial resources available. The following activities already underway will continue.

- Continue updating and linking the used motor oil recycling pages on the Service's Web site www.menv.com
- Submit paper on progress of supplemental environmental project to the 2004 NORA Annual Conference and Trade Show.
- Continue dialogue and outreach opportunities with the private sector and special interest groups.

The Service also will continue to support the Used Antifreeze Recycling Program. In 2003, the Antifreeze Recycling Program collected 37,800 gallons for proper disposal.

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Supplemental Environmental Project Rain Shelter Grant Program



Calvert County



Cecil County



Frederick County



Town of Mount Airy



Town of Walkersville