

SOLID WASTE NEWS for Waste Professionals

December 22, 2020

Looking Ahead to 2021

President's Message

By: *Kristyn Oldendorf*
City of Baltimore

As I begin my term as President of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, I feel optimistic about the year ahead and grateful to you all for entrusting me with this position. I greatly value the knowledge, resources and contacts I have gained through SWANA, and I appreciate this opportunity to give back to the organization.

Over the next year, I hope to bring more young professionals into the chapter while also strengthening the chapter's support for current members. Everyone needs support now more than ever. These turbulent times have brought many challenges and changes to the industry. The knowledge and collaboration that SWANA offers can guide us through these difficulties.

Despite the pandemic, the chapter has remained active, holding virtual board meetings and the annual meeting, while providing ongoing resources of guest speakers, legislative updates, conference planning, and more. We are at an opportune moment to reassess the activities of the chapter and determine how we can better serve our members, now and post-COVID. This is a key time for members to get more involved in the chapter by attending a board meeting, participating in a virtual chapter event, joining a committee, writing an article for the newsletter, serving as a mentor or mentee, or participating in other activities. Our industry has experienced many ups and downs this year, and there will be more to come. I hope we can take this moment to support one another and come out stronger.



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SWANA Mission Statement:

“Advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in North America.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Legislative & News Updates</i>	2
<i>Scholarships 2021</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6
<i>Reminders/Wanted</i>	7

Legislative and News Updates

SWANA Mid-Atlantic

November 18, 2020

By: *Jacob Shepherd, P.E.*
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SWANA Updates

SWANA is still accepting comments on the EPA's [National Recycling Strategy](#), which is currently in draft form. The comments will then be compiled and provided to the EPA during the draft comment period. The metrics and associated national recycling goals will represent the first time that the federal government has set an objective for recycling at a nationwide level. They will serve as important metrics for years to come and are likely to influence how recycling is measured at the state and local level. The strategy was also discussed at the EPA's America Recycles Summit held virtually on November 17, 2020.

SWANA will be attending an industry stakeholder meeting on November 18, 2020 to learn about and discuss the recently-signed arrangement for plastic waste and scrap trade between the U.S. and Canada. See also below.

SWANA and Glad have announced an [expansion](#) of the Sanitation Workers Support Fund providing financial assistance to solid waste and recycling workers in the United States and Canada adversely impacted by COVID-19. The eligibility now expands to drivers and helpers (previously it was for front-line collection workers). Workers who have direct interaction with front-line workers may now qualify, including supervisors, maintenance personnel, and administrative staff.

Legislative Updates

Federal

Various bills in Congress related to solid waste and recycling are currently pending. In general, these bills have been pending since before the current public health situation in the country. However, recently there has been impetus to continue to push for legislation to address recycling in the U.S. SWANA continues to watch these pending bills.

The governments of the United States and Canada recently signed an arrangement to continue the trade of plastic waste and scrap between the two countries. The [Arrangement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada concerning the Environmentally Sound Management of Non-Hazardous Waste and Scrap subject to Transboundary Movement](#) preserves bilateral trade in non-hazardous waste and scrap, including non-hazardous plastic waste and scrap, after the effective date of the Plastic Waste Amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention). Canada is a party to the Basel Convention and the United States is not. With new Basel notice and consent requirements governing transboundary movement of plastic scheduled to take effect in January 2021, trade of these materials between the two countries would have been restricted due to the U.S.'s status as a non-party to the Basel Convention. Despite this agreement, there is expected to be major impacts to the U.S. recycling markets, which are already strained due to import restrictions in Asian countries.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Recycling Initiatives

On November 17, the EPA held a virtual [America Recycles Summit](#) that included exhibition booths and speakers throughout the day on topics ranging from recycling markets, national strategies/goals, and marine litter reduction. EPA has indicated that a recording of the summit will be available for those who missed the live event. At the summit, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler [announced](#) a voluntary U.S. national recycling goal of 50% by 2030. This [goal](#) will be complemented by the following selected metrics:

- Contamination Rate – The percentage of materials in the recycling stream that negatively impacts recyclability.
- Processing Yield – The percentage of materials recovered by a materials recovery facility or another processing facility compares to the materials the facility receives.
- Commodity Value – The average price of a ton of recycling materials.

Legislative and News Updates continues on page 3

By April 2021, EPA intends to develop standards for calculating these measures and establish baselines. This will also be when the [National Recycling Strategy](#) will be finalized. SWANA previously submitted [comments](#) to EPA on the proposed metrics for the goals with input from the Core Advocacy Group and Recycling Task Force.

At the America Recycles Summit, Administrator Wheeler also discussed the new [U.S. Federal Strategy for Addressing the Global Issue of Marine Litter](#), released in October 2020. The strategy represents a partnership between [NOAA](#), EPA, and other federal partners to combat the issue of global recycling, promoting research and development, and removing debris. This strategy is based on four pillars that define the U.S. approach to addressing land-based and sea-based sources of marine litter:

- Building capacity for waste and litter management and removal systems
- Incentivizing the global recycling market in partnership with the private sector
- Promoting research and development for innovative solutions and technology
- Promoting marine litter removal, including litter capture systems in rivers and inland waterways

On Friday, November 13, EPA released the most recent [Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures](#) data on national municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition debris for the year 2018. The new data revealed a 32.1% recycling and composting rate, down from 35.2% in 2017. Recycling alone decreased to 23.6%, down from 24.9%. Slightly more material was recycled in 2018, but generation outpaced it, leading to a decrease in the overall percentage. This is the first year of data that reflects China's imposition of National Sword, which may have contributed to the decline.

EPA MSW Landfill Air Regulations

Emission Guidelines (EG) Current Status – In August 2016, the EPA published an updated EG rule for MSW landfills under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart Cf, which requires implementation by states under EPA-approved implementation plans. For states without a plan, the EPA is now required by the federal courts to publish a federal implementation plan by August 30, 2021 (previously this was mandated by January 14, 2020). Delaware currently has a plan in place, while Maryland anticipates release of a plan in 2021.

Maryland Legislative

The 441st legislative session adjourned early on March 18. The 442nd legislative session will convene on January 13, 2021 in a virtual format.

Maryland MDE

No updates since last meeting, still waiting on staff recommendation document. MDE held a [stakeholders meeting](#) on new landfill air regulations on September 21. During the meeting, MDE discussed their current efforts to develop a state implementation plan for the emission guidelines (EG) under 40 CFR 60 Subpart Cf, which were finalized in 2016. Additionally, MDE is looking at additional requirements for reducing methane emissions from landfills. MDE is currently working on a staff recommendation document (essentially an outline of a draft regulation not yet reviewed by senior staff) planned for fall of this year. A draft regulation is expected by the end of the year and a final regulation is expected in spring of 2021.

Delaware Legislative

The 2020 Delaware General Assembly legislative session convened on June 30, 2020. No updates.

District of Columbia Legislative

Council Period 23 began on January 2, 2019 and will end at 12:00 p.m. on January 2, 2021.

On November 17, 2020, the Council passed the [first vote](#) on the Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2019 ([B23-0506](#)), which would require a plan for comprehensive organics management and recycling infrastructure among other changes to waste and recycling management in the City. The second and final vote is expected at one of the December Council meetings.

Legislative and News Updates continues on page 4

News Updates

[Maryland Will Become the First State to Ban Foam Food Service Products](#)

CNN – Lauren Johnson – September 27, 2020 – Approved during the 2019 Maryland legislative session, a law banning foam carryout containers became effective on October 1. With this law in place, Maryland becomes the first state in the U.S. to ban these materials. Items under the ban include cups, plates, carryout containers, and trays. The law applies to food service as well as business and institutions that use these products.

[Calvert County Launches App to Help Residents Recycle](#)

Conduit Street – Alex Butler – September 30, 2020 – In September, Calvert County's Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, announced that they will launch an app in partnership with Recycle Coach to help residents recycle. The app will allow residents to find useful information including where local disposal is, costs, and recycling event dates. Residents can also get questions about recycling answered.

[Waste and Recycling Industry Placed on COVID-19 Priority List](#)

NWRA – Brandon Wright – October 5, 2020 – The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NAS) committee included the waste and recycling industry in its list of recommended industries to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2 along with other industries classified as critical workers.

[10 U.S. Cities Representing 1.3 Million Households Receive Grants, Expected to Dramatically Expand, Increase Capture of Quality Recyclables](#)

Recycling Partnership – October 8, 2020 – The Recycling Partnership is partnering with 10 of the 50 select cities that participated in last year's recycling transformation and circular economy summit, including Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. The collaborations are estimated to impact 1.3 million households and focus on implementing recycling infrastructure and anti-contamination programs aimed at improving the quality and quantity of recyclables in their communities.

[Washington County, MD Proposal Requires Large Office Buildings to Have Recycling Plans](#)

Waste Advantage – October 14, 2020 – Washington County is in the process of updating its Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan with a new requirement that large office buildings have a recycling plan (which currently includes 3 buildings). The proposed amendment calls for recycling plans by October 1, 2021.

[Baltimore, MD Spending Board to Extend Agreement with Incinerator Firm with 'Emissions Control' Upgrades](#)

Baltimore Sun – Hallie Miller – November 2, 2020 – Baltimore's spending board will likely approve an extension to its agreement with Wheelabrator Technologies, which will invest in emission controls to significantly lower emissions. The extension and settlement come after a federal judge ruled in March that a Baltimore air quality ordinance passed last year designed to force the city's incinerators to dramatically curb emissions is invalid, and an appeal by the City filed in April. Under the agreement, the firm will invest nearly \$40 million in emission control upgrades.

[America's Plastic Makers Invite Collaboration with Congress to Help Create More Circular and Sustainable Systems for Plastics Collection and Recovery](#)

American Chemistry Council – November 17, 2020 – As part of America Recycles Day, America's plastic makers called on Congress to work with the industry to prioritize recycling legislation in 2021. The American Chemistry Council last month released a [Roadmap to Reuse](#), a framework that outlines steps to grow recycling and recovery in the U.S., and [guiding principles](#) for eliminating plastic waste that can help shape legislation and other actions to help grow recycling and recovery of plastics.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2021 Scholarships

By: *Mehal Trivedi*
Frederick County, MD

In 2020, the Chapter overhauled its scholarship forms to align with the 2020 National scholarship updates. These new forms will be carried into the 2021 Scholarship Program for the Chapter.

Instruction and Application Forms: Full-time Students

- **Category I** - Graduating high school seniors or graduate equivalent certified candidates who have been accepted for enrollment in a junior college, a four-year college, or a university (any program). To be eligible, candidates must be the children or grandchildren of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1 of the current calendar year.
- **Category IA** - Applicants must be either freshmen presently enrolled full-time in a junior college or four-year college or university, or are re-entering college or university as a sophomore.
- **Category II** - Undergraduate juniors or seniors currently enrolled full-time college or university students who are entering their junior or senior undergraduate year and pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering, or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management. To be eligible, candidates must be the children or grandchildren of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1 of the current calendar year or SWANA Student Members in good standing.
- **Category III** - Full-time students who are entering or are in graduate school pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management. Eligible candidates must be sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1 or SWANA Student Members in good standing.

Full-time Employees and Part-time Students Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

Part-time student is a student who is taking < 12 credits per semester. Full-time employee shall be as defined by the employer (for example > 35 hours per week)

Use Category II Form - Mark "II B" on the Application

Use Category III Form - Mark "III B" on the Application

The Chapter typically distributes up to \$6,500 a year in up to six scholarships categories. The Chapter is currently looking for an organization to sponsor the highest scoring candidate. The sponsor could be any organization and can suggest a name to be given to the award. The Chapter will accept an annual sponsorship of either \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000.

Do not wait until graduation to sign up for FREE SWANA Student Membership.

The deadline for student applications to be submitted to the chapters is May 3, 2021. Please check the Chapter website for the most up-to-date criteria.

The chapters will send details about chapter winners (one eligible nominee at each level) on for consideration by the International Scholarship Committee before June 1, 2021. The scholarship page on SWANA's website, <https://swana.org/Awards/ScholarshipsInternships.aspx>, now provides a link to the email for each chapter's scholarship chair(s) and to the chapter websites. Applicants are to submit Category II and Stearns applications to the Chapter where their university/college is located. Applicants who are student members are "to be in good standing in the Chapter where their college/university is located."

For additional information on the Mid-Atlantic Chapter's Scholarship program, or if you have problems downloading any of the documents, please contact Mehal Trivedi at 301-600-3043 or mtrivedi@frederickcountymd.gov.

Upcoming Events 2021



JAN 26-28, 2021
Virtual WASTECON

SWANA VIRTUAL WASTECON[®]
EMBRACING DISRUPTION

WASTECON.org | #WASTECON



SOAR
SUSTAINABILITY. OPERATIONS. ACTION. RESOURCES.
Technical Solutions for Resource Management

June 14-17, 2021
Kansas City, MO

SOAR is SWANA's new technical conference. SOAR is built on the essence of SWANApalooza, driving the power and connection of the entire solid waste community.



REVISION 2021

2021 MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Annual Conference

June 24, 2021

"Virtual or In-Person to be determined"



SWANA 2021 WASTECON
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

WASTECON 2021
Orlando, FL

November 1-3, 2021

2021
Mid-Atlantic
Regional Road-E-O

to be determined...

2021
Mid-Atlantic
Training Sessions

to be determined...

Reminders / Wanted

- ◆ “Reporters”/writers for our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Important Websites to Remember: www.swana.org, www.swana-midatl.org and www.mdrecycles.org.
- ◆ Training the Trainers: Contact a Board member if interested in being trained to be a trainer for a SWANA course.
- ◆ SWANA Web Sessions: If your organization presents web sessions, make them a Chapter event so that all attendees can get CEU’s. Contact Steve Lippy, Dana Murray or Shirl Wright.
- ◆ Job Vacancies in your Organization: Contact swright@nmwda.org for inclusion in our Chapter newsletter and website.
- ◆ Articles, information, recent/on-going projects of interest, active purchase orders, etc.: Contact swright@nmwda.org to be placed in our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Scholarship Sponsors: The Chapter is currently looking for an organization to sponsor the highest scoring candidate. The sponsor could be any organization and can suggest a name to be given to the award. The Chapter will accept an annual sponsorship of either \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000. Please contact Steve Lippy or Mehal Trivedi.
- ◆ Name(s) of Prospective SWANA Members: Contact either our Chapter Membership Chair, Deji Fawole dfawole@scsengineers.com or direct the prospective member to our Chapter website www.swana-midatl.org or SWANA’s website www.swana.org.
- ◆ Newsletter Ads: These are business card size ads only (2” x 3.5”); \$100 for 4 issues. Send your ad in a JPG or PDF file to swright@nmwda.org. Please make check payable to: **Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA** and mail to the attention of Shirl Wright at NE MD Waste Disposal Authority, 100 S. Charles Street, Tower II - Suite 402, Baltimore, MD 21201-2705.
- ◆ American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists: If you are an environmental engineer or environmental scientist, you are eligible to become a member or to be certified in solid waste management by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. See www.swana-midatl.org or www.aees.org.



SWANA Guiding Principle:

“Local government is responsible for municipal solid waste management, but not necessarily the ownership and/or operation of municipal solid waste management systems.”

SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

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We’re on the Web!
www.swana-midatl.org