



### *Citizen Involvement*

The people of Maryland are at the heart of the State's environmental management. Each individual citizen influences the success of our programs by participating in public meetings and hearings on critical environmental issues. Encouraging citizen participation to address environmental justice, and developing private and intergovernmental partnerships to solve these challenges is important. Our citizens have a strong environmental ethic, that enables localities to earn credit for recycling and source reduction activities and Maryland to enact electronic collection and recycling legislation. While MDE does its best to specify what people can and cannot do to restore our environment, the key is responsible actions by each and every Marylander.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## *Ensuring*

a clean environment and excellent quality of life for Marylanders



Martin O'Malley  
*Governor*

Anthony G. Brown  
*Lt. Governor*

1800 Washington Boulevard  
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*At the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), our mission is to protect and restore the quality of Maryland's air, water, and land resources. We do this while fostering smart growth, economic development, healthy and safe communities, and quality environmental education for the benefit of the environment, public health, and future generations.*



## *Who We Are*

MDE is a regulatory service agency dedicated to protecting the environment and making science-based decisions to reduce pollution. To protect and restore the environment and safeguard public health, MDE creates regulations, issues permits and assists businesses and jurisdictions with pollution control, growth issues, and environmental emergencies. We also provide compliance assistance to industry and communities who apply for permits, approvals, licenses and when necessary, take enforcement actions for noncompliance. MDE issues about 27,000 permits annually. We track all permits to ensure their timely issuance and diligent enforcement.



## *Air*

To ensure the air is safe to breathe for all who live in and visit Maryland, there are over 100 new regulations to control air emissions, which have decreased by 40 percent. A statewide network of air monitoring systems continuously measures air quality, including ozone and fine particulate matter. MDE also monitors industrial and mobile emissions sources, regulates asbestos, and controls radiation sources.

## *Emergency Response*

Every day, thousands of Marylanders work with substances that are potentially harmful to our environment. When proper care fails and accidents happen, MDE's Emergency Response Team is called into action as Maryland's frontline experts in hazardous materials spills, chemical fires, nuclear power plant incidents and other environmental crises - including terrorist attacks.

## *Water*

Restoring and maintaining the quality of ground and surface waters requires MDE to enforce standards and controls on point and non-point sources of pollution. MDE implements the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, which provides money to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and septic systems to prevent excessive nutrients from reaching the Bay. MDE issues water quality standards to ensure that the Bay and its tributaries are fishable and swimmable. MDE monitors the quality of fish consumed. Water supplies are monitored to ensure they are sustainable.



## *Land & Waste Management*

Responsible waste management protects our state's land resources. MDE works with local governments to implement recycling programs that prevent and reduce the generation of waste. MDE regulates facilities such as landfills and incinerators



that accept waste. We issue standards to protect children from exposure to lead paint. MDE's Brownfields Program works with property owners and developers to ensure land and properties are cleaned up.