

GUIDE TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCES ON THE SUBURBANIZATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

FINDING AID

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

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Rockville, Maryland;

Telephone: (240) 777-0311; For calls originating in Montgomery County, dial 311.

Website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/DEPcommon/contact.html>

Name of archive/collection/records: Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Date Range of archive/collection/records: Varies by type of information. For Solid Waste records, some landfill siting and design records go back as far as 1978. Aside from design data and monitoring data, most records are only kept seven years.

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Mission: The mission of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to:

- Protect and enhance the quality of life in our community through the conservation, preservation, and restoration of our environment, guided by the principles of science, resource management, sustainability, and stewardship;
- Provide world-class solid waste management for the people living and working in the County, in an environmentally progressive and economically sound manner, striving to reduce and recycle 70 percent of our waste

Background Information: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has existed several decades as part of the Montgomery County Government. The Division of Solid Waste Services was moved from the Department of Public Works and Transportation to DEP in 2008 as part of the County Executives reorganization plan. The County has been providing solid waste collection and disposal services since 1943. DEP has been involved with the construction and management of stormwater management facilities, and the operations of solid waste (including recycling, resource recovery, and composting) facilities. Interested parties should inquire through the MC311 website, or by contacting the Department of Environmental Protection directly with their specific requests for records. The major programs include:

Watershed Management: This program supports watershed-based monitoring, planning, policy development, and project implementation activities designed to achieve County stream protection goals (Chapter 19, Article IV) and comply with the federal Clean Water Act NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4) permit. In combination with the stormwater management projects in the Capital Improvements Program, this program's goal is to provide stormwater treatment for 4,300 acres of impervious area by 2015. Program staff conduct baseline stream monitoring, storm drain discharge monitoring, and public outreach activities that increase awareness and promote citizen involvement in stream stewardship. The program also assesses land development impacts on water resources and the effectiveness of best management practices that mitigate those impacts within the County's four designated "Special Protection Areas" (Chapter 19, Article IV).

Environmental Policy and Compliance: This program develops and implements scientifically-based, integrated programs which protect and enhance the County's environmental resources and promotes sustainable practices by the County government, businesses, and residents. Program staff develop, analyze, and enforce policies, programs, and regulations related to air quality (ambient and indoor), water quality and stormwater management, energy conservation, forest and tree resources, noise control, pollution prevention, and sustainability efforts. They also conduct environmental monitoring of the County's solid waste facilities; coordination of responses on all legislative referrals at the local, state, and federal levels; and participation on local and regional task forces, committees, and various advisory groups.

Solid Waste Management: Montgomery County maintains a comprehensive program to manage solid waste generated within the County. The elements of the program include an integrated system of methods and technologies, including source reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy; contractual out-of-County landfilling, maintenance of closed landfills, and a reserve permitted landfill within its borders. . The operation and funding of Solid Waste Services is governed by (a) Chapter 48 of the Montgomery County Code and (b) the County's covenants contained in the Master Authorization.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: Not provided.

Special Collections: Special records include tonnage data by commodity for materials weighed in and weighed out on the truck scales of the County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Groundwater and gas well monitoring data is also collected.

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, Digital, Maps, Photographs, Microfiche,

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Environmental Management and Protection

Access and Use:

Open: Monday – Friday

Note: The hours of specific facilities (e.g., composting facilities, Transfer Station) are listed on the specific links found at the following website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/>

Copies: Reasonable costs for staff time and copies will generally be charged to interested parties in accordance with Montgomery County regulations providing for the assessment of costs and charges for producing copies of records in response to MPIA requests. This would be especially true for large volume requests. DEP does not have facilities to support walk-in requests for information.