

summer 2020

BEAUTIFICATION CAMPAIGN



**BE FLOOD READY.
BE FLOOD SMART.
BE FLOOD SAFE.**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN

SCENE 2020

newsletter

SUMMER CAR SAFETY FOR PETS



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The Magic of Everyday Life

Spiritual writer and former psychotherapist Thomas Moore once observed that in our adult years, life can become “an absorbing collection of problems.” “Absorbing” because that is all we think about. A “collection of problems” because we always have them. What can be done?

There is a story about a man who went to see the Buddha because he hoped the wise man could help him with his problems. The man was a farmer. “I like farming,” he said, “but sometimes it doesn’t rain enough, and my crops fail.” “I have children”, he said. “Good kids, too... but sometimes they don’t show me enough respect.” The man went on like this, laying out his difficulties and worries. When he had gotten finished, he had counted out 83 problems. He looked to the Buddha for help. The Buddha said, “I can’t help you with your 83 problems.” “Why not?” demanded the farmer. “Because,” replied the Buddha, “we all have 83 problems. Each one of us. But I can help you with your 84th problem.” The 84th problem?” said the man. “What’s that?” The Buddha replied, “That you do not want to have 83 problems.”

We will always have 83 problems. That’s just the way it is. When one goes away, another one pops up, as though life “were game of whack-a-mole.” So, what shall we do? Moore has a prescription. He calls it the “re-enchantment” of everyday life. Re-enchantment means finding ways to fall back in love with life. We can do this, he offers, through the magic of music, books, gardening, nature, friendship, and the like.

Today’s newsletter touches on this theme. There is a DoE summer environmental reading list. What’s the next book you will read? Check out the summer musical playlist – what’s on yours? See the master gardening tips for the three “H”s of summer – hot, humid, and hazy. Is there a garden in your future? Have you visited a local park, or walked a trail in the woods? Are you connecting with your friends? Work is important, yes, but “The soul has different concerns, of equal value: downtime for reflection, conversation and reverie; beauty that is captivating and pleasuring; relatedness to the environs and people; and . . . [the] rhythm of rest and activity.” As the dog days of summer come to an end, consider the magic of life and re-enchanting your own.

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The Green Scene newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

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environment.mypgc.us

DoE MISSION

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

Summer READING LIST

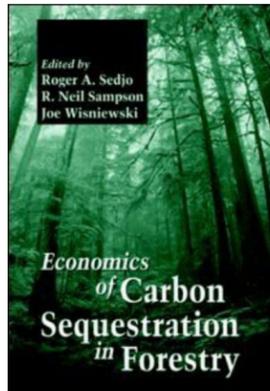
Suggested Summer 2020 Environmental Reading List

GRETA THUNBERG

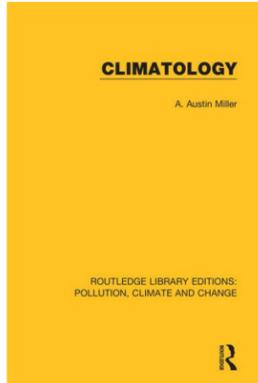


NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

No one is Too Small to Make a Difference
Greta Thunberg



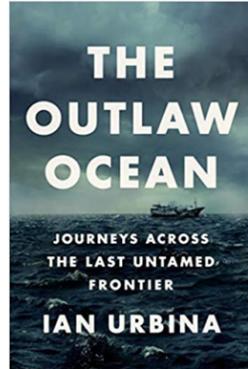
Economics of Carbon Sequestration in Forestry
Roger A. Sedjo, R. Neil Sampson, Joe Wisniewski



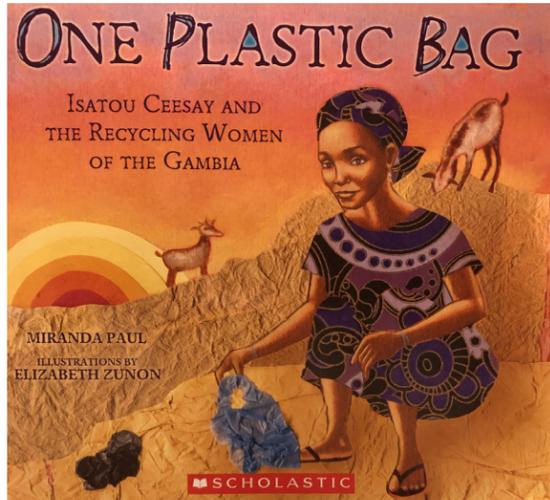
Climatology
A. Austin Miller



Our House is On Fire
Jeanette Winter



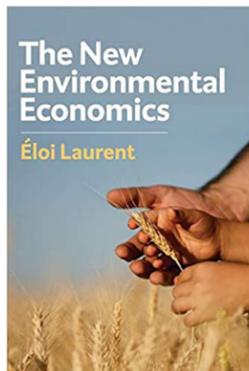
The Outlaw Ocean
Ian Urbina



One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia
Miranda Paul



The Green New Deal
Jeremy Rifkin



The New Environmental Economics
Eloi Laurent



We are the Weather
Jonathan Safran Foer



Summer PLAYLIST

To play DoE's Summer Playlist visit <https://spoti.fi/3g4pS9X>

Summer Breeze

Seals and Crofts/Isley Brothers

Sailing

Christopher Cross

Wipe Out

Fat Boys and Beach Boys

Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days Of Summer

Nat King Cole

Summer Love

Justin Timberlake

California Girls

Beach Boys

Under the Boardwalk

The Drifters

Hot Fun in the Summertime

Sly and the Family Stone

Summertime

DJ Jazzy Jeff and Will Smith

School's Out for Summer

Alice Cooper

COMPLETE YOUR 2020 CENSUS NOW!

The current Prince George's County Self-Response rate as of August 10, 2020, is 65.5%. We still have a way to go!

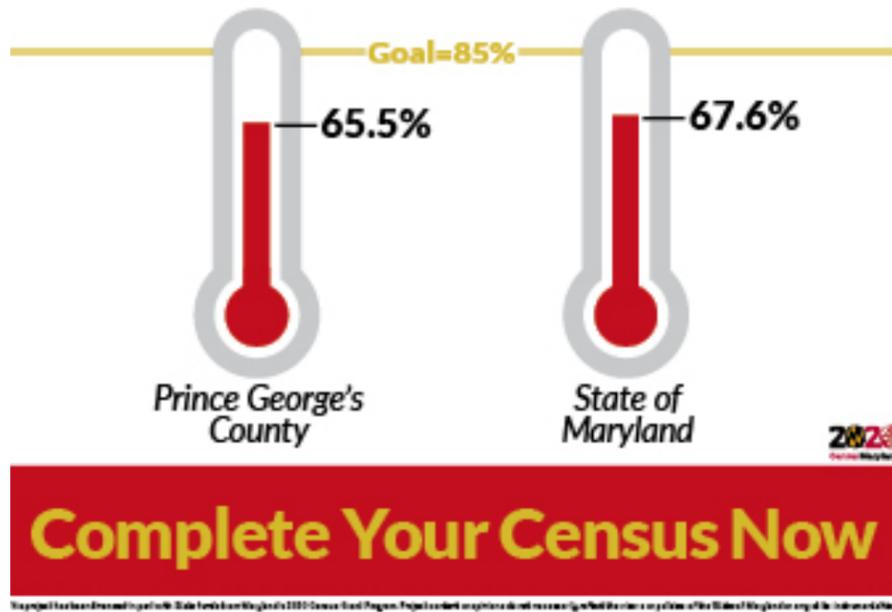
Although some of the activities undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau have been adjusted or delayed, the self-response to the 2020 Census continues.

As a friendly reminder, the U.S. Census Bureau has commenced door-to-door follow-up operations for County residents that have not completed their Census forms.

To minimize door-to-door contact, we are asking community members to call five family members or friends and encourage them to complete the Census online, by phone or via mail!

Complete your Census at [My2020Census.gov](https://www.my2020census.gov).

- #ProudToBeCounted
- #PGCensus2020
- #CountDMVIn
- #CountMDIn



BEAUTIFICATION CAMPAIGN

Prince George's County is making some big changes to reduce litter, increase recycling, prevent illegal dumping, and more. Check out some of the elements of our Beautification Campaign featured throughout the County. Whether it is an ad at a bus stop, digital media, elevator and bus wraps, television commercials or print ads – we are reminding our residents that with their help, we can create a cleaner, greener environment today and for future generations of Prince Georgians.



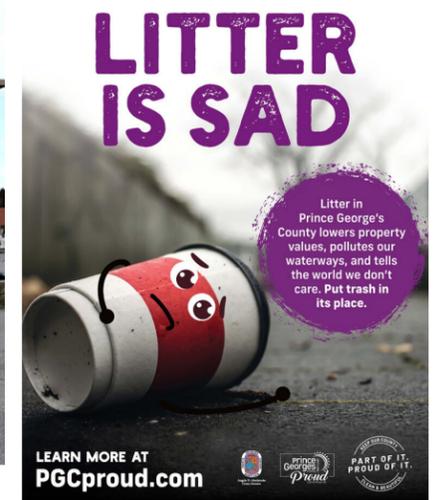
BIG BELLY TRASH COMPACTOR



BUS STOP



THE BUS WRAP



PRINT AD

DOE'S MASTER GARDENER TIPS

As we begin the 3 “H’s” of summer—hot, humid, and hazy— know that your plants can get stressed and be open to disease. Here are some tips from the Department of the Environment’s (DoE) Master Gardener, Esther Mitchell, to keep your plants, yard or vegetables healthy during the summer.



Summer Gardening Tips

Monitor your garden and yard at least once a week for early detection of problems. Water your plants deeply at least once a week in the morning before the heat of the day. Keep plant roots covered with 1 or 2 inches of mulch. Direct downspouts to the garden or lawn areas to avoid stormwater runoff.

Vegetable Gardens

Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, beets, and other fall crops in late July or early August.

Monitor squash and pumpkin vines for squash vine borers. If leaves are wilting or you see holes in the lower stems or droppings around the holes, slit the stem above the hole with a razor and remove the larva. Then mound soil around the injured stem.

If tomatoes or peppers develop blossom-end rot, remove injured fruits, water plants well, and add calcium to prevent this disorder.

Harvest onions when tops die back. Store onions in a cool, dry place. Dig garlic when the tops yellow and die and let the sun dry them before storing in an airy and dry place.

Cut back herbs to keep them bushy and productive.

Pull weeds while they are young. The best time to pull weeds is after it rains.

Plant pollinator flowers near the garden to encourage pollinators and beneficial insects to visit your garden. Pollinators will help with blooming and fruiting and beneficial insects will prey on insects that try to destroy your plants and bounty.

Flower Gardens and Lawns

Japanese beetles are now out and feeding heavily on your plant leaves. To eliminate damage, shake the stems over a pail of soapy water. The soapy water will kill them. Do not use traps, which can draw more beetles to your yard.

Keep your grass around 2 ½ to 3 inches high. If you have fescue grass, it will be going dormant during the heat of mid-July. The grass is not dead. Avoid traffic on the grass during this time. The grass will green up when the rains come in September.

USING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR TREATING STORMWATER POLLUTION

What are Best Management Practices?

Best Management Practices (BMPs), in general, are anything used to control flooding, reduce erosion, and improve water quality associated with new development and redevelopment. BMPs are designed to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollutants and lessen water quality and quantity impacts on local waterways. The purpose of BMPs is to ensure stormwater runoff is treated and increase groundwater recharge before entering the storm drain system, which eventually leads to streams, rivers, and lakes. In Prince George’s County, the Department of the Environment (DoE), Stormwater Management Division’s Inspection and Compliance Section (ICS) performs inspections on privately maintained BMPs.



Stormwater Pond Before

Why does Prince George’s County inspect BMPs?

Under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was created to help address water pollution by regulating pollutants entering the nation’s surface waters - e.g., lakes, rivers and streams. The EPA has delegated authority to States to enable them to perform many of the permitting, administrative, and enforcement aspects of the NPDES program.

In accordance with its NPDES, municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, Prince George’s County must implement, manage, and enforce a stormwater management program. To meet these requirements, the ICS team performs maintenance inspections on private BMPs every three years. For fiscal year 2020, about 1,025 out of about 3,000 privately-maintained BMPs are scheduled for inspection. That number will only continue to grow as BMPs are added to the County’s existing inventory every year because of development and redevelopment activities.



Stormwater Pond Completed

What types of BMPs are inspected by ICS?

Stormwater management ponds, bioretention facilities, underground structural BMPs and drywells are just a few of the BMP types ICS inspectors address. During a typical inspection, ICS inspectors check to see if the facility is functioning as designed. Specific issues requiring maintenance are noted and conveyed to the property owner in an inspection report. Each report details maintenance required to bring a BMP back into compliance. In addition, ICS inspectors recommend ways for property owners to lower the cost of recurring maintenance.

ICS inspectors work with property owners to bring stormwater management BMPs into compliance to avoid any polluted stormwater runoff from flowing into the local waterways. These BMPs play an important role in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.



**BE FLOOD READY.
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Hurricane season 2020 is upon us. It is the time of year when pop-up rainstorms are common. However, some of these events can be intense or endure for hours and cause damage from flooding.

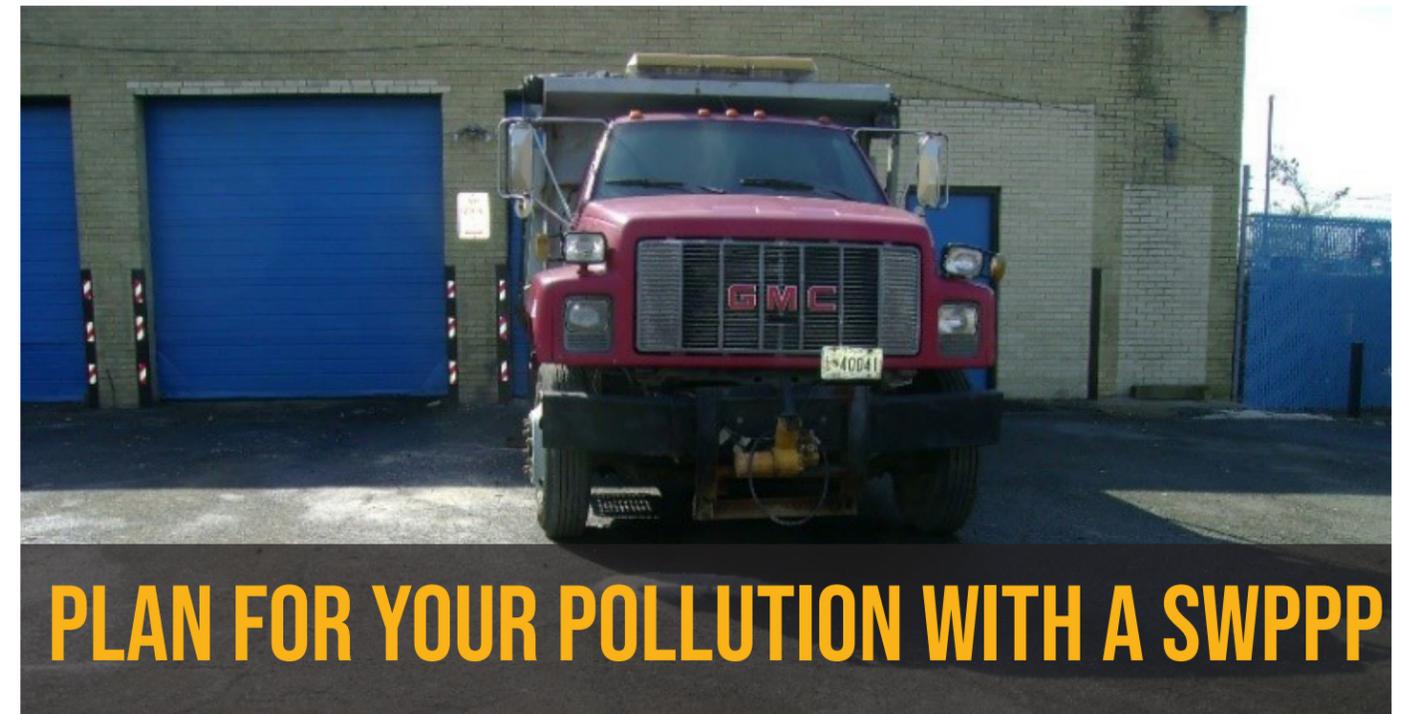
Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster. Flooding can happen at any time and anywhere. Just six inches of moving water can knock a person down, and two feet of water can sweep a vehicle away. Knowing your risk, taking proper precautions, and developing a strategy are key to reducing damage should flooding occur.

Consider these safety tips when a flood watch or warning alert is issued for Prince George's County and know what to do when encountering flooding:

- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground.
- If flood waters rise around your car, but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

Be flood ready. Contact the Department of the Environment (DoE) to find out if flood hazard areas have been identified in your community. Make a flood plan and prepare to protect your home and family early. Sign up with Alert Prince George's to receive emergency alerts whenever you need them, wherever you are.

Do not wait for a disaster to happen. Purchase flood insurance now. The County participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. This participation entitles residents to receive up to a 25% reduction on flood insurance premiums.



PLAN FOR YOUR POLLUTION WITH A SWPPP

What is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan?

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is a site-specific, written document that identifies all the activities and conditions at an industrial site that could cause stormwater pollution. This plan also details the steps a facility will take to prevent the discharge of any unpermitted stormwater pollution from being discharged from the property and into the local waterways.

Why Does a Facility Need a SWPPP and What is its Purpose?

SWPPPs are required for a facility to obtain a Maryland General Permit No. 12-SW – General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity. A facility that discharges pollutants directly into a Water of the United States must obtain a 12-SW permit. For a facility to get a permit, they must submit a Notice of Intent to the Maryland Department of the Environment describing the types of pollutants they will discharge and the names of the receiving waters. Once notice is given, a facility must then submit a SWPPP.

What Should a SWPPP Include?

The intent of a SWPPP is to document proactive measures a facility will take to prevent stormwater pollution. The plan must also include procedures and lists of equipment that will be used in the event of a spill or leak. All SWPPPs must consist of: a site description, names and duties of a pollution prevention team, descriptions of activities that could cause stormwater pollution, control measures for preventing spills or leaks and minimizing hazards, spill or leak response plans, procedures for conducting inspections and monitoring, and provisions for employee training.

Reviewing and Updating a SWPPP

If processes, procedures, or other changes are made that affect a facility's SWPPP, the SWPPP must be modified. Even if nothing changes, SWPPPs should be reviewed each time a facility's 12-SW permit comes up for renewal. Plans must be signed and dated by a corporate officer, and the current copy must be kept onsite for review.

Like other plans, all procedures and control measures that are delineated in a SWPPP should be accurate and easily understood by all employees. When a facility follows a SWPPP, it helps to preserve and improve water quality for all of us. Prince George's County has 10 facilities that require a SWPPP and the county regulates nine SWPPPs held by various municipalities.

ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICE/ PROGRAM UPDATES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



To continue essential services while keeping the health of staff and the community in mind, Prince George's County Animal Shelter has changed some of its programs and services.

Currently, the Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center is closed, and the following information will be in place until further notice.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

- Return-to-owner: If your pet is at the Shelter, please call 301-780-7241 to make an appointment to reclaim your pet.
- Pet surrenders: Currently, we are only able to accept owner surrenders in emergency situations; under this circumstance, please call 301-780-7242 to schedule an appointment.

PAUSED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

- Volunteer Program: For the safety of our volunteers and our staff, we have paused the in-house volunteer program and only staff will be allowed into our building.
- Donations: Support shelter operations by donating needed equipment at bit.ly/pganimalshelterdonations.
- Pet licenses: No pet licenses will be sold at the Shelter. License renewals can be mailed or purchased online at bit.ly/pgcpetlicense.

Many of our shelter pets have been placed into foster homes. Those pets who remain for various reasons will be, of course, cared for and loved by our amazing and hardworking shelter staff. We will continue to post updates and share stories as usual on our social media!

We thank you for your patience as we navigate this situation while balancing the needs of the shelter pets in our care with the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and community.

SUMMER CAR SAFETY FOR PETS



When it is just 72 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car can quickly soar to 116 degrees, even with the windows open and even in the shade. Every year in communities across the country, untold numbers of pets suffer brain damage, heat stroke and even death while their owners run “a quick errand.”

The Prince George's County Animal Control Ordinance Section 3-180 titled Animal Cruelty and Neglect says all domestic animals except livestock are prohibited from being kept outdoors when the heat index is 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, as determined by the National Weather Service. Any person who inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon the animal; may be charged in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (b). For more information or to view a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance, visit bit.ly/pganimalcontrolcode.

IF YOU SEE A PET IN A HOT CAR:

- Write down the car's make, model and license plate number.
- Ask nearby businesses to make an announcement to find the car's owner.
- If the owner can't be found, call your local police or animal control and wait by the car for them to arrive.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Ask local store managers, shopping malls, restaurants, and other businesses to post signs asking customers not to leave their pets in cars while shopping or dining. You can download a flyer at www.humanesociety.org/hotcar.
- Be prepared to help. Keep phone numbers for your local animal control agency, police department, and emergency veterinary clinic in your wallet or phone.

CURBSIDE BULKY TRASH COLLECTION RESUMED AUGUST 3

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Schedule appointments for curbside bulky trash collection starting **Thursday, July 23, 2020.**

To view a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, visit bit.ly/PGCbulyacceptable.

To schedule an appointment, contact 311. Appointments can be scheduled online at bulkytrash.princegeorgescountymd.gov/

Programe citas para la recolección de basura voluminosa en la acera de su casa a partir del **jueves 23 de julio de 2020.**

Para ver una lista de artículos aceptables y no aceptables, visite bit.ly/PGCbulyacceptable.

Para programar una cita, comuníquese al 311. Citas pueden ser programadas en línea en bulkytrash.princegeorgescountymd.gov/

COLECCIÓN DE BASURA VOLUMINOSA EN LA ACERA REANUDADO EL 3 DE AGOSTO

SOLO POR CITA



BROWN STATION SANITARY LANDFILL NOW FULLY REOPENED

FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Vertedero Sanitario
Brown Station Road
11611 White House Road,
Upper Marlboro

Lunes - Sábado Cerrado los domingos
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

AHORA DISPONIBLE
(reabierto el 11 de junio)

Desechos peligrosos del hogar
Sitio de aceptación de residuos

Aceptación de Electrónicos
Sitio de reciclaje

Jueves, viernes y sábado
SOLAMENTE de 8 am - 3:30 pm

Se requiere que los clientes sigan todos los protocolos obligatorios de distanciamiento social COVID-19 y que usen una mascarilla o máscara facial en el sitio.

Brown Station Road
Sanitary Landfill
11611 White House Road,
Upper Marlboro

MONDAY - SATURDAY
Closed Sunday
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

NOW AVAILABLE
(reopened June 11)

Household Hazardous
Waste Acceptance Site

Electronics Acceptance
Recycling Site

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
ONLY

8 am – 3:30 pm

Customers are required to follow all mandated COVID-19 social distancing protocols and to wear a face covering or mask onsite.

PARA CLIENTES RESIDENCIALES

VERTEDERO SANITARIO BROWN STATION ROAD AHORA COMPLETAMENTE REABIERTO