

New Hours and Prices at the Midshore Regional Solid Waste Facility in Talbot County

On January 3, 2011, the Midshore Regional Landfill located on Barkers Landing Road near Easton closed and the new Midshore Regional Landfill II opened on River Road near the Town of Ridgely in Caroline County. For the first time in 20 years, Talbot County residents and haulers will be required to transfer trash to a regional landfill located outside Talbot County.

In the mid 1980's, Talbot County entered into a service agreement with Maryland Environmental Service (MES), Caroline County and Queen Anne's County whereby it was agreed that Talbot County would host the Midshore Regional Landfill for 20 years. In the early 1980's, Talbot County briefly operated a waste transfer station in the Bay Hundred Area when a private landfill closed. Due to costs and increasing environmental regulations, all transfer operations from the Bay Hundred site ceased after a few years.

Since Talbot County began hosting the Midshore Regional Landfill 20 years ago, MES has operated and maintained a free homeowners' drop-off facility, also referred to as the HODO facility. In the 1990's, MES contracted with Waste Management to construct a waste transfer station. This waste transfer station, operated by Waste Management, allowed the company to move trash from other areas on the Delmarva Peninsula to the Midshore Regional Landfill; trash was then transferred out by Waste Management to their landfills.

The agreement between MES and Waste Management terminated on January 1, 2011 and the landfill operations ceased at the Barkers Landing Road location. As the waste transfer station is already a permitted facility, MES and Talbot County entered into negotiations to re-open the waste transfer station to accept waste from Talbot County residents beginning January 3, 2011. As part of these negotiations, the County Council agreed to keep the HODO as a free service for Talbot County residents for the first six months of 2011, and in mid-July, the County extended the grace period of this free service until August 1, 2011.

During the FY2011-2012 budget process, Talbot County reviewed the option of keeping the HODO (Homeowners' Drop-off) facility as a free service, but budget related issues required that Talbot County assess a fee to cover the personnel and transportation costs. With the closure of the Midshore Regional Landfill, trash needs to be transported a farther distance to Caroline County, necessitating that tipping fees at the Midshore Regional Solid Waste Facility in Talbot County be increased to \$63.00 per ton for solid waste beginning August 1, 2011. The waste transfer station will be open to all private, commercial and municipal trash trucks with MES operating the scale house from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Monday through Friday.

To cover the cost of the HODO, residents may choose one of two options at the facility: pay a disposal fee of \$5.00 each time they wish to dispose of up to 7 bags of trash at the HODO; or purchase punch cards which will be sold at the Scale House at a cost of \$10 for five (5) visits to the HODO or \$20 for ten (10) visits to the HODO. Punch cards will be available for purchase from Maryland Environmental Service (MES) at the HODO located on Bakers Landing Road as of Monday, July 18th. In an effort to extend the grace period to citizens the punch card system will be implemented as of Monday, August 1st. The hours of operation for the HODO will remain 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with Saturday hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; no commercial or municipal waste will be accepted on Saturdays.

The following is a description of the services and the associated tipping fee.

Beginning August 1, 2011

Midshore I Homeowner Drop - Off (HODO) Prices

**Homeowner Drop-Off - \$10 for 5 trips or \$20 for 10 trips
using a punch card OR \$5.00 - cash per trip**

- Trash - Up to seven (7) bags per trip
- Yard Waste – Up to seven (7) bags or small pick-up truck load per trip
- Used Oil and Antifreeze - Free
- Batteries – Free
- Recyclables – Midshore Igloo Service – Free

Homeowners bringing the following items to Midshore I must use the scale and will be charged \$63 PER TON (\$58 Disposal Fee + \$5 Transfer Fee to Midshore II).

CHARGE IS PRORATED WITH A \$7 MINIMUM (160lb) AND WILL APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • TRASH and DEBRIS (more than 7 bags) | • CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS |
| • FURNITURE | • SCRAP METAL |
| • APPLIANCES | • TIRES |

All customers using trailers, box trucks, dump trucks, flatbed trucks, panel vans or any other type of commercial vehicle bringing items to Midshore I must also use the scale and will be charged \$63.00 PER TON (\$58 Tip Fee + \$5 Transfer Fee to Midshore II): CHARGE IS PRORATED WITH A \$7 MINIMUM (160lb).

- **YARD WASTE - A CHARGE OF \$23.50 PER TON (\$18.50 Disposal + \$5 Transfer to Midshore II) FOR QUANTITIES LARGER THAN SEVEN (7) BAGS OR SMALL PICK-UP. Plastic bags must be emptied.**