

BSW Facilities and Working Conditions

August 22, 2024



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Agenda



**Training &
Professional
Development**



**Health &
Safety
Programs**



**Solid Waste
Facilities**



Training & Professional Development

Safety & Training Support

Office of Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Safety (ERCS)

- Monitors regulatory compliance activities
- Receives injury/accident reports, conducts investigations and provides policy change recommendations
- Conducts safety site assessments
- Conducts heat illness prevention trainings
- Works collaboratively with OSTPD to ensure that safety training needs are being addressed

Office of Safety Training and Professional Development (OSTPD)

- Conduct and perform monthly skills trainings
- Lead our onboarding programs
- Hold quarterly professional development sessions
- Respond to vehicle accidents

Supervisory and Employee Training



- Collaborating with Department of Human Resources (DHR) to develop customized, mandatory supervisory trainings.
- Introducing periodic mandatory training sessions for all employees.
- Trainings are scheduled to commence in mid-September for Bureau of Solid Waste.



Health & Safety Programs

Heat Illness Prevention Training



- Training conducted by ERCS.
- Purpose of the training is to ensure employees recognize heat stress hazards and act appropriately to address those hazards.
- In 2024, 14 trainings have been held to-date with 517 employees receiving the training.
- Supervisor trainings began as “train-the-trainer” and have expanded to prioritize employees whose main role is to work outdoors.

Heat Illness Prevention Plan & Extreme Weather SOP

- In June 2024, ERCS began work on a heat illness prevention plan.
- A DPW working group has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for work activities when employees are exposed to a heat index of 80 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Both plans are under review and have been shared with Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) for comments
- Both documents follow the proposed guidelines from MOSH which has yet to be adopted/implemented at the statewide level.



Independent Workplace Safety Review

- On August 16, DPW announced the hiring of a firm to conduct a thorough independent review of our existing safety policies, practices, and procedures, specifically as they pertain to heat safety.
- The goal of this independent review process is to generate actionable recommendations that, once implemented, will enhance the health, safety, and overall well-being of our employees.
- Work expected to be finished by the end of September.
- DPW is committed to publicly sharing the results and outcomes of the independent review.





Solid Waste Facilities

Western Sanitation Yard (701 Reedbird Ave.)

Short-Term

- Temporary cooling trailer on-site.
- Portable AC units installed.
- Sink faucets, toilets, lockers, lighting, all received minor repairs.
- Working to address flooring and new window treatments.
- AC in the convenience booth fixed.

Long-Term

- Master Plan near completion.
- Construction anticipated in Summer 2025.
- Existing locker rooms will be gutted and turned into office space.
- Administrative trailers will be removed.
- New building will be constructed for men's/women's locker rooms.

\$8.1 M
CIP
Built in 1977





\$2.1 M
CIP
Built in 1988

Eastern Sanitation Yard (6101 Bowleys Ln.)

Short-Term

- Temporary cooling trailer on-site.
- Sink faucets, toilets, lockers, lighting, all received minor repairs.
- Interior painting completed.
- Working to address flooring and new window treatments.
- AC in the convenience booth fixed.

Long-Term

- Bathrooms and locker rooms all being upgraded (Fall 2025).
- Bathroom trailers will be on-site during renovations.
- Will be the site of the new Eastside Transfer Station (\$16.5M CIP) and is currently under design.

Southeastern Sanitation Yard (111 Kane St.)

Short-Term

- Portable AC units installed.
- Obtaining quotes on minor repairs for the bathrooms and locker rooms.

Long-Term

- Master Plan near completion.
- Major renovation of the existing building including replacement of the roof, AC units, bathrooms, locker rooms, etc.

\$7.8 M

CIP

Built in 1974





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Appendix

Additional CIP

Quarantine Road Landfill Expansion

- \$20.7M CIP
- Project currently underway.
- Increase the landfill's lifespan to 2035.

Health & Safety Improvements

- \$3.2M CIP
- Funding minor repairs, purchasing trailers, regulatory compliance.

Aerated Static Composting Facility

- \$5M CIP, which includes a \$4M EPA grant.
- Construct a solar-powered, scalable composting facility for organic diversion.
- Will be located at the Eastside Transfer Station (6101 Bowleys Ln.)



Additional Resources

**Maryland Department of Health,
Office of Preparedness and
Response, Reports: Heat**

https://health.maryland.gov/preparedness/Pages/Reports_Heat.aspx

**Maryland Heat Illness Prevention
Standard Development, Proposed
Regulations**

<https://www.labor.maryland.gov/labor/mosh/>

https://dsd.maryland.gov/MDRIssues/5115/Assembled.aspx#_Toc172634334

Additional Resources

Since June 20, DPW has completed the following:

General

- Repaired all ice machines
- Procured and delivered five (5) backup freezers with ice
- Distributed 3,700 high-vis moisture wear T-shirts to staff
- Replaced waste bins with covered coolers to keep ice and drinks cold
- Held 14 heat illness trainings for 517 employees
- Created a draft extreme heat SOP and a draft heat illness prevention plan, which has also been shared with MOSH for comment
- Implemented daily photo documentation for ice, water and Gatorade supplies at the beginning, middle and end of shift for all yards since July 25th

Additional Resources

Western Sanitation Yard

- Setup a temporary cooling station for employees
- Upgraded portable AC units in the administrative area, men's and women's locker rooms
- Replaced broken sink and faucets in men's locker room
- Fixed broken locker doors
- Installed new soap and paper towel dispensers in men's and women's locker rooms
- Added privacy dividers in men's locker room
- Cleaned air ducts in men's and women's locker rooms
- Replaced light bulbs in administrative area, men's and women's locker rooms
- Fixed broken door handles
- Installed new furniture in men's locker room
- Performed deep cleaning of the facilities
- Repaired the AC in the convenience center booth
- Prepared building for electrical upgrades to add additional portable AC units

Additional Resources

Eastern Sanitation Yard

- Setup a temporary cooling station for employees
- Installed new soap, hand sanitizer, toilet paper and paper towel dispensers
- Painted the interior of the building
- Fixed broken locker doors
- Replaced broken sink and faucets in men's locker rooms
- Replaced flooring in supervisor areas
- Performed deep cleaning of the facilities
- Repaired the AC in the convenience center booth
- Replaced two kitchenettes

Additional Resources

Southeastern Sanitation Yard

- Installed new portable AC units

Northwest Transfer Station

- Replaced employee tent

Quarantine Road Landfill

- Replaced employee tent
- Performed deep cleaning of the facilities