



# Earth Day

## April 22, 2015



Each April, in recognition of Earth Day, the Middlesex County Utilities Authority pledges anew to meet its mission of preserving and protecting central New Jersey's environmental resources. It also looks back at the progress made over the previous year toward a healthier, more vibrant local ecosystem.

Fortunately, in 2014 the MCUA moved forward on several initiatives that are directly benefiting the environment. Chief among these has been the application of the Landfill Gas-to-Energy project, which previously powered only the wastewater operations, to the operation of the Middlesex County Landfill. The expansion of this innovative program, which the Environmental Protection Agency hailed as the "Project of the Year" in 2001, means that less electricity will be drawn from the grid, and more greenhouse gases will be captured and beneficially re-used, rather than escape into the atmosphere.

In 2014, the MCUA also initiated several stormwater system upgrades at the Middlesex County Landfill, including the construction of a new Stormwater Retention Pond and a 3,500-foot stone swale around the perimeter of

**Solid Waste Division**  
**March 2015**  
**Tonnage Figures**

	Monthly Tons	Cumulative Tons
<b>2015</b>	<b>45,109</b>	<b>110,222</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>41,072</b>	<b>110,051</b>

**An average of 217 trucks hauled a total of 1,735 tons of waste to the landfill facility each day.**

Cell 7 of the Landfill. The system ensures that water runoff is properly diverted and managed, so as to avoid washouts and other damage to the site's infrastructure and environment.

On a smaller scale, but just as representative of the MCUA's commitment, the Authority last year initiated the Workface Bulky Waste Recycling Operation, which allows for a stockpile of wood waste to be set aside at the Landfill, to be reused as woodchips and in other applications. The wood waste would have

otherwise taken up additional space in the Landfill.

Looking ahead, the MCUA is in the early stages of a solar project, which will tap yet another renewable resource for energy, and further reduce its reliance on costly and less environmentally-friendly power sources.

The MCUA works each day to preserve the region's ecosystem—for our own sake and also for the many species that call it home. Some of the bird species identified at the MCUA include:

- Bald eagle
- Black crow
- Canada goose
- Dove
- Hummingbird
- Mallard
- Red-tailed hawk
- Sandpiper
- Swallow
- Turkey vulture

A hawk identified at the Middlesex County Landfill.

## Wastewater Division

### March 2015 Statistics

- Average Influent flow – 140.49 mgd
- Maximum daily flow – 220.54 mg
- Average Effluent TSS – 27 mg/l
- Average Effluent BOD – 15 mg/l

This is the first time since September 2011 that the monthly average flow has exceeded 140 mgd.

- Biosolids production – 17,049 wet tons, a 10.5% increase over the five-year average. The entire amount was processed through the dryers.

\*Rainfall for the month was 4.19 inches as measured at the plant.

