



## Earth Day 2016



As the country celebrates Earth Day on Friday, April 22nd, the Middlesex County Utilities Authority looks back to its founding mission – *to preserve and protect central New Jersey's environmental resources* – and recognizes how that mission continues to drive so many of its projects today.

Among the MCUA's many achievements during the past year was the installation of 14,000 solar panels across in two locations totaling 25 acres of space. The panels will generate approximately \$1.5 million worth of electrical energy cost savings over their life, and will power the Administration Building, the Edison Pump Station, and the nearby Middlesex County Fire Academy—as well as supplement the power needs of the MCUA's Central Treatment Plant. This energy would have otherwise been purchased from the grid.

As Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald Rios said at the October 2015 ribbon-cutting, “these panels should not only be seen as a source of clean, reliable natural energy, but also as a symbol of the many partnerships between the County and the MCUA. By working together, we can keep the County clean, green, and using its energy wisely.”

### Solid Waste Division March 2016 Tonnage Figures

	Monthly Tons	Cumulative Tons
2016	43,204	114,513
2015	45,109	110,222

An average of 239 trucks hauled a total of 1,600 tons of waste to the landfill facility each day.



Of course, the MCUA's use of solar technology is just the latest in its use of new technologies for environmental benefit and cost savings. The Landfill Gas-to-Energy Project, which now generates enough electricity from methane gas to power most of the MCUA's core functions, was hailed as early as 2001 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an innovative and effective intervention that directly benefits the environment.

The MCUA also understands that effective environmental interventions require the input and collaboration of community partners. That is why the MCUA is an active participant in the New York-New Jersey Harbor

Estuary Program and the Harbor Dischargers Group, through which it identifies the most effective techniques for purifying wastewater within the estuary with minimal impacts.

This work continues to pay off as more aquatic creatures return to the area in and around the Raritan Bay each year. Just this past fall, a humpback whale was spotted in the bay, which today is popular among migratory harbor seals and dolphins, a variety of fish and shellfish, and countless species of birds.

"We never take for granted how important the work we do is for the residents of Middlesex County and the outdoors we all enjoy together," said Richard Fitamant, MCUA Executive

Director. "The technologies we deploy here every day are directly proportional to the enjoyment so many of our residents get in the natural environment that surrounds us."

## Wastewater Division

### March 2016 Statistics

- Average Influent flow – 98.14 mgd
- Average Effluent TSS – 24 mg/l
- Average Effluent BOD – 16 mg/l
- Biosolids production – 14,099 wet tons, a 10.4% decrease over the five-year average. Approximately 12,674 tons were processed through the dryers, and 1,425 tons were lime stabilized and disposed out of state. The dryers had to be shut down from April 4 through April 7 to troubleshoot electrical ground problems.

*\*Rainfall for the month was 1.80 inches as measured at the plant.*