



Used Oil Recycling Program Status 2025 Report

Maryland Department of the Environment

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Maryland General Assembly

Reporting Period Calendar Year 2025



Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Serena McIlwain
Secretary

Suzanne Dorsey
Deputy Secretary

Adam Ortiz
Deputy Secretary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program (the Program) is administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Maryland Environmental Service (MES). The authority for the Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program is found in Section 5-1001 of the Environment Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, the *Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act*.

MES is responsible for implementing a statewide program for the construction, operation, and routine maintenance of used oil collection facilities; providing public education and outreach programs related to the disposal of used oil; and maintaining an information center to educate citizens regarding the proper disposal of used oil. Additionally, MES utilizes the collection sites for the collection of related recyclables including used anti-freeze and used oil filters. The Program is unrelated to commercially generated oil, but rather to support the do-it-yourself mechanic.

MES also administers funding for the purpose of implementing supplemental environmental projects. Specifically, this grant funding is used to assist in the construction of rain shelters to minimize stormwater contact with the used oil collection tanks and is also used to fund the purchase of above-ground storage tanks for new sites, as well as replacements for older sites.

Since 1988, the Program has resulted in the collection and recycling of over 21.1 million gallons of used oil in the State of Maryland. Similarly, the Program has accomplished the collection and recycling of over 1.1 million gallons of used antifreeze from Maryland do-it-yourself automobile and boating enthusiasts.

In 2025, 459,716 gallons of used oil and 26,877 gallons of used antifreeze were collected from Program sponsored locations. Additionally, during this period, 186 drums of used oil filters were collected for recycling.



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INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program Annual Report is provided to the Maryland General Assembly as required by Section 5-1001(g) of the Environment Article, the *Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act*.

The Maryland Used Oil Recycling Program (the Program) is administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Maryland Environmental Service (MES). MES designates used oil collection facilities, offers technical and financial assistance to establish collection facilities, routinely inspects and cleans Program facilities, provides public education, operates an information center, and implements other non-regulatory provisions of the *Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act*. MDE and MES are pleased to provide the following report detailing the accomplishments, initiatives, and progress of the Program during CY25 as well as plans for CY26.

BACKGROUND

The Program was created by the *Maryland Used Oil Recycling Act*, which was enacted in July 1978. Initial start-up funding for the Program was allocated from energy funds. This funding created a program to support home mechanics with proper used oil disposal opportunities. The agricultural community and recreational boat owners also utilize oil recycling facilities provided under this Program.



MES purchased oil collection tanks, collection boxes, hardware, and signs. County and local governments were solicited to assist in establishing convenient and accessible used oil collection sites for citizens. A statewide network of collection sites was established. Most sites are located at government owned solid waste, public works, and road maintenance facilities.

The Program has been successful at recruiting and retaining locations for many reasons: 1) the Program assumes the responsibility for disposing of any contaminated used oil; 2) there is no cost for collection/recycling; 3) environmental compliance and 4) potential for Program provided financial assistance for tanks and shelters.

2025 PROGRAM UPDATES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception in 1988, the Program has expanded from 44 collection sites to the current 144 operational sites and has recycled more than 21.1 million gallons of used oil over this period. The collection of used oil from all Program locations yielded 459,716 gallons of used oil in CY25. This is a 1.7 percent decrease from the 467,452 gallons collected in 2024. This represents a very modest decline in volume and is not indicative of an overall trend. Historical totals of used oil and antifreeze annual collection results are summarized in graphs at the end of the report. Data summarizing 2025 used oil and antifreeze collection records for the participating Program sites is attached as Appendix A.

Key Updates and Accomplishments

- Collected and recycled 459,716 gallons of used oil.
 - Decrease of 1.7% from 467,452 gallons in 2024.
- Collected and recycled 26,877 gallons of used antifreeze.
 - Decrease of 15.8% from 31,134 gallons in 2024. Note that 2024 was an exceptionally high-volume year for antifreeze. The reduced volume of 26.9 thousand gallons is only 2.6% below the 5-year average.
- Collected and recycled 186 drums of used oil filters.
 - Increase of 45% from 128 drums in 2024
- Continued to address the endless but necessary maintenance tasks such as tank painting, repairs to pour boxes, installation of new level gauges and notification signage.
- Performed scheduled inspections and cleanings of Program sites throughout the state.
- Responded to emergency calls for service due to potential for overflow at (6) collection sites. In all cases, MES cleaned the secondary containment areas before there was any release to the environment.
- Placed an order for three (3) replacement oil storage tanks for St. Mary's County, which will be installed in calendar year 2026. The existing tanks are at the end of useful life.
- Identified collection sites with a potentially high population of Spanish speaking customers and installed supplemental signage in Spanish language.
- Continued to monitor a small network of remote wireless level sensors on marina-based tanks to better manage protection of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Welcomed a major new customer location to the Program at Shady Grove Convenience Center to serve the residents of Montgomery County.



Administration

The full cost for MES to implement the program in FY25 was \$219,061. The collection contract provides revenue per gallon for collected oil based on a federal commodity index. In FY25 the program was completely self funded by commodity revenue.



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Operation and Maintenance

Good housekeeping is critical for spill control and to prevent contamination. As part of its management of the Program, MES has conducted on-site audits of all Program-sponsored collection facilities to ensure that sponsors, recycling coordinators, site supervisors, and site operational staff are aware of their pollution prevention responsibilities. Additionally, MES staff conducted routine cleaning and maintenance, as necessary, to assist the site hosts in maintaining environmental compliance. During CY25, MES performed supplementary cleaning and maintenance at the vast majority of Program sponsored locations. Being a mature program,

much of the infrastructure has been in place for several decades, which requires a sustained level of maintenance effort to meet programmatic standards.

MES continually reminds all site hosts that they are responsible for providing day-to-day monitoring and housekeeping of the tanks. MES staff helps with housekeeping and compliance as needed, based on the results of the routine site inspections. MES maintains a small staff of two employees to conduct routine site audits and assist with site maintenance and cleaning. Sites are upgraded, on a case-by-case basis, to improve capacity or operational performance.

Given the concern over proper disposal of used oil, contaminated oil, and unauthorized dumping of trash and hazardous materials, MES continues to urge site hosts to remain in the Program. Because used oil can be easily contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, brake cleaning fluids, and other readily accessible chemicals, MES and MDE believe that citizens are better served by local governments staying within the established Program. In calendar year 2025, there were no participants exiting the Program with Montgomery County joining in December 2025.

Public Outreach

MES and MDE each maintain a webpage with information related to the Program.

MES's webpage: menv.com/service/used-oil-antifreeze-recycling/

MDE's webpage: mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/UsedOilProgram.aspx

From the MES webpage, Marylanders can find the public information number **800-4RECYCLE** (800-473-2925) and an email address to inquire about proper disposal of used oil and antifreeze. MES also has a listing of collection sites by county. Hundreds of calls were made to the public information number in 2025, with most callers requesting information on used oil collection locations and proper disposal/recycling of waste materials.

During CY25, information was provided to the public about the importance of proper handling, disposal, and recycling of used oil and antifreeze via social media and websites.

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PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026

Administration

- MDE will provide partial funding to the Program as oil collection revenue will not fully cover Program costs. This is due to conditions in the domestic base oil market.
- MES will continue to implement the Program.
- MES will manage the environmental services subcontractor to ensure conformance with Program requirements and contract terms.
- MES will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a recycling contractor effective August 2026. The current agreement will lapse at that time, and a new solicitation is necessary in accordance with MES procurement rules.
- MES will continue the grant program providing financial assistance to upgrade existing sites, to the extent funds are available.

Operation and Maintenance

- MES will continue annual inspections of participating sites to ensure continued protection of the environment.
- MES will continue the routine maintenance and cleaning program.
- MES will continue the tank upgrade program by replacing single-wall 275-gallon tanks with new double-wall tanks, to the extent funding is available.

Public Outreach

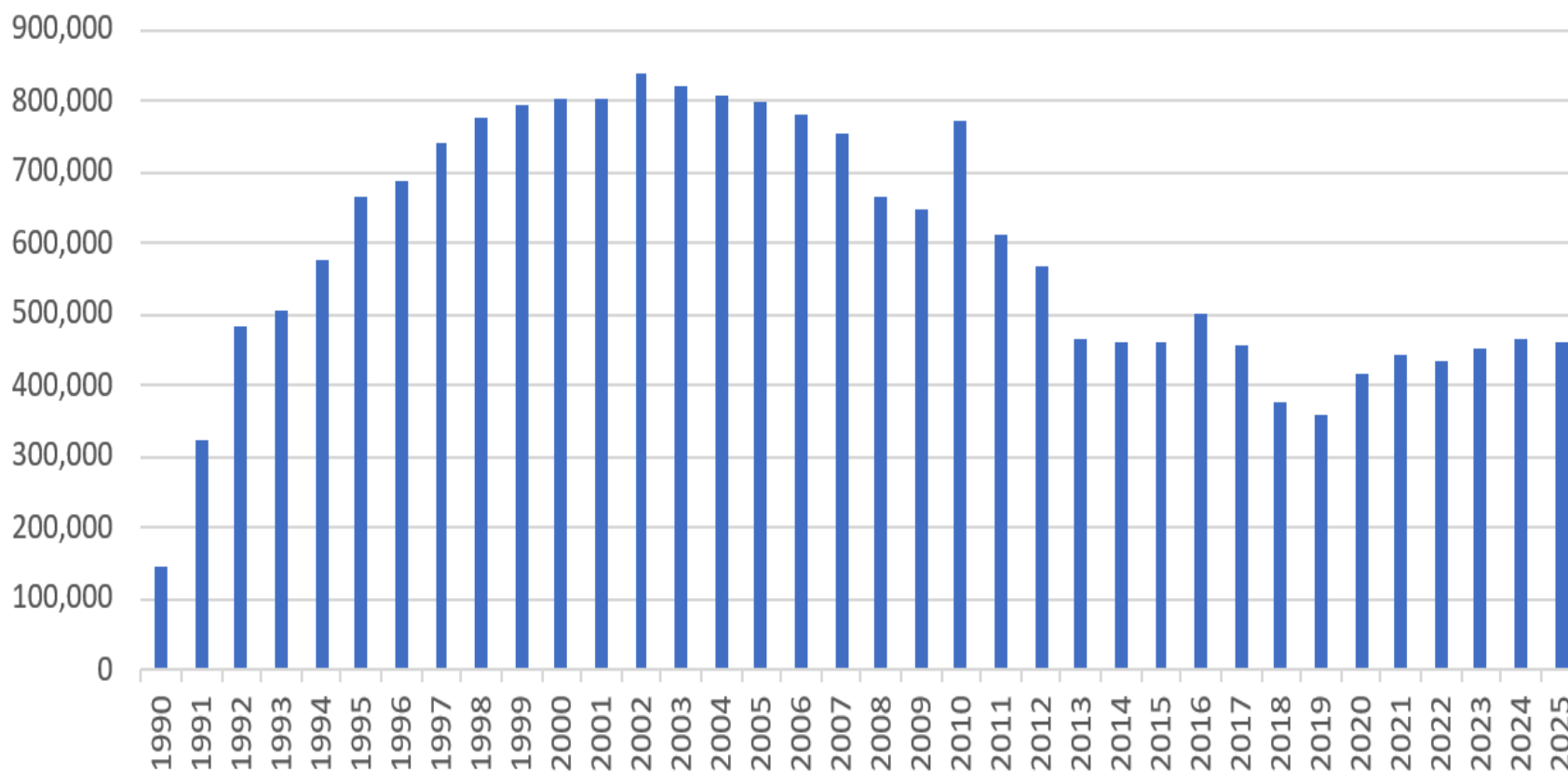
- MES will continue updating and linking the used oil recycling pages at www.menv.com
- MES will continue public outreach and education at local county events.
- MES will send annual program reports to statewide solid waste managers and recycling coordinators.
- MES will continue membership in the Association of Responsible Recyclers while updating Program participants and citizens with current information, issues, and trends within the industry.
- MES will explore additional ways to market the Program to the public.

APPENDIX A

USED OIL and ANTIFREEZE COLLECTION DATA

2025

ANNUAL MES USED OIL RECOVERY DIY Oil Collection Sites



ANNUAL MES USED ANTIFREEZE RECOVERY
DIY Oil Collection Sites
(gallons)

