



## Maryland Department of the Environment

### “Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest

#### **“Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest:**

The fifth annual sculpture contest will be held on November 17, 2006 at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD from 10 a.m. until noon. High school students have been invited to create sculptures made of recycled materials. Light fare and beverages will be served. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend the event.

#### **The MDE Recycling Program:**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) promotes and encourages recycling and source reduction across the State. This is accomplished by partnering with Maryland’s local governments and the public and private sectors to develop markets for recyclable materials, and by working with other State agencies to increase the volume of materials they recycle.

In 1988, the Maryland Recycling Act authorized MDE to reduce the disposal of solid waste in Maryland through management and education. MDE encourages the recycling of all materials because of the environmental and economic benefits that recycling provides and emphasizes public education about recycling through outreach efforts such as classroom instruction, community events, and advertising. MDE promotes "MDE in the Classroom" as part of the Governor's education initiative and offers various displays, presentations and demonstrations that travel to schools and events throughout Maryland. In the 2004-2005 school year, MDE reached 1,000 students and teachers at 20 Maryland schools.

America Recycles Day (ARD) is a national event that unites business, environmental and civic groups, and local, state, federal government agencies to promote recycling, source reduction and buying products made from recycled materials as means to a more sustainable society. In celebration of ARD, MDE has created the “Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest and judging ceremony to display students’ creativity and promote recycling.

#### **Goals of the Sculpture Contest:**

The sculpture contest helps MDE achieve the goal of promoting and encouraging waste reduction in the State of Maryland. We are able to educate and empower students and the general public to reuse and recycle materials that would have otherwise gone to disposal. The Sculpture Contest and judging ceremony is a great opportunity for celebrating efforts of the student artists, for media exposure, and for promoting waste prevention to the general public. Past events have received recognition in local, state and national publications.

**Contest Judging:**

Sculptures are judged on creativity, workmanship and use of recycled materials. The variety of recycled materials is also considered in the judging. Prizes will be provided from corporate and non-profit organization sponsors.

**Student Objectives:**

The Sculpture Contest challenges students to innovatively and artistically use recycled materials as a solution to waste reduction. Students will use problem-solving skills to create a sculpture made of recycled materials. Students will be able to work hands-on with recycled materials and explore an environmental issue through art. The Sculpture Contest will allow students to understand that there are many opportunities to reduce waste in our everyday activities and to express their creativity.

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