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# FISCAL YEAR 2024-CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## Leadership

Department Head: Ray N. Yumul-Secretary of Public Works.

- Administrative Services Division: Peter P. Camacho, Director.
- Building Safety Code Division: Yvonne B. Tenorio, Acting, Building Safety Official.
- Technical Services Division: Anthony A. Camacho, Director.
- Energy Division: Thelma B. Inos, Director.
- Roads & Grounds Division: Michael A. Borja, Director.
- Solid Waste Management Division: Blas T. Mafnas, Director.

### Solid Waste Management Division

is responsible for the proper operation and management of all municipal solid waste disposal in the Commonwealth, ensuring the protection of health, safety and welfare of the general public as well as the preservation of the environment.

Energy Division to help reduce importation of petroleum products into the Commonwealth through efficiency and utilization of local renewable energy source.

## ABOUT DPW

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WAS CREATED BY PUBLIC LAW 1-8 AND IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE SERVICES BY CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC ROADWAYS, PUBLIC SIGNS, TRAFFIC SIGNALS, PROVIDE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENCOURAGING ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENSURING COMPLIANT CONSTRUCTION AND MEETING THE PUBLIC WORKS' NEEDS OF RESIDENTIAL AND GUEST OF THE CNMI.

Administrative Services Division is responsible with the oversight of six (6) divisions within the Department of Public Works. It is responsible in maintaining and updating the department's policies and regulations, personnel management, procurement, public relationships, program development, budget analysis and preparation.

Building Safety Code Division to uphold Public Law No. 6-45 to ensure that all buildings are held to minimum safety standards of the International Building Code by enforcement and inspection. We provide and promote the health, safety and general welfare for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the built environment, through professional services in the plan review and inspection of all Commercial and Residential structures constructed and occupied in the Commonwealth. Additionally, BSC performs partial responsibility in enforcing PL 8-7 for the CNMI Flood Management Insurance Program and PL 8-23, CNMI Developer's Tax.

Roads & Grounds Division to provide quality service to the general public in maintaining primary roads, road shoulder beautification, swale and drainage system (island wide), traffic light intersection and the opening of right-of-way access roads to ensure the public a safe driving conditions.

Technical Services Division is the core operation behind the Contracting Offices Authority to facilitate infrastructure development throughout the Commonwealth. The Division Administers all mandate Legislation Budget Appropriation, Federal Highway Projects (FHWA) and other federal grant funding through using agencies and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Projects in conjunction with natural disasters in coordination with CIP Program Office. The responsibility of the Technical Services Division extends beyond the funding administration. TSD's critical role applies from the inception of a project idea. The division is ultimately responsible to forecast and implement needed and critical projects to enhance the quality of life for the community. The Division oversees the planning stages of studies, designs, architectural, construction implementation and construction Management.

## DIVISIONS/CONTACT INFO/LOCATION

- Administrative Services Division.  
Tel: (670) 235-9570
- Building Safety Code Division.  
Tel: (670) 234-2726
- Technical Services Division  
Tel: (670) 234-9828

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Saipan, MP 96950

- Energy Division  
Tel: (670) 664-4480/1  
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Capitol Hill Asencion Dr. Bldg. 1337 P.O. Box 500340 Saipan, MP 96950

- Roads & Grounds Division  
Tel: (670) 322-9498  
Lower Base Saipan, MP 96950
- Solid Waste Management Division  
Tel: (670) 322-2745  
Lower Base & Marpi Transfer Station Saipan, MP 96950

## OUR PROGRESS

**Technical Services Division Report**

**Conference Participation-Event:** NMTech and CNMI OSHA 2nd Annual Safety Conference; **Attendees:** Nine staff members; **Focus Areas:** Health hazards, fall protection, heat illness, scaffolding, lockout/tagout procedures, noise pollution hazards. **Precinct I:** **Speed Bumps Installed:** 2 on Gulli Street (San Antonio Village) at the request of Rep. Joseph Flores. 2 on Kobler (Tinaktak Drive), 3 at Lower Dandan, 1 at Independent Loop, and 2 on Holiday Drive. 1 on Dandan Village Road. **Ongoing Project:** Obyan Road paving and drainage improvements. **Precinct II:** **Pavement Repairs Completed:** 3 locations on Chalan Kanoa Road (Texas Road near cemetery, Chalan Hagoi, Knight Avenue). Beach Road. **Ongoing Repairs:** Sugar Dock Beach Park. **Speed Bumps Installed:** 3 in front of Tony Cruz Residence. 8 with a pedestrian crossing in Chalan Kanoa. **Drainage Improvement:** Successfully completed. **Precinct III:** **Speed Bumps Installed:** 8 in Garapan, 2 at Alaihai Street, and 8 on Gualo Rai Village Road. **Completed Projects:** Flores Rosa Street and Road Drainage Improvement Project. Change Orders for Route 323 Industrial Drive and Flores Rosa Project. **Precinct IV:** **Road Repairs Completed:** Kalabera, Capital Hill, Mantansa Drive (Marpi), and Santa Remedios Road. **Facility Repairs:** Men's and ladies' restrooms at Capital Hill Baseball Field. Renovation of Paupau Beach Playground. Sidewalk constructed along Route 30 in Tanapag. Chain-link fence replaced at Capitol Hill Baseball Field Park. **Precinct V:** **Perimeter Clearing:** Completed along the ponding basin on Ladda St., Kagman III. **Current Contracts:** Renovation of Marine Beach restroom and replacement of picnic tables and barbecue pits. **FHWA Road & Drainage Improvement Projects:** Pending Approvals: Final designs for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) and Route 205 (Tinian) for anti-skid pavement and traffic signage. **Current Progress:** Route 302 (Naftan Road) at 10% completion. Route 30 (Middle Road) project 90% complete. Route 33 (Beach Road) in Phase 2, 55% complete. Route 36 (Chalan Kalabera) in Phase I, 60% complete. **FHWA Design Projects:** Completed Designs: Route 30 (Middle Road) focusing on hazard elimination. Route 317 (Gualo Rai) with anti-skid pavement. Route 103 (Rota) 90% complete, includes anti-skid pavement and drainage. **FHWA Programs:** **University Participation:** Three students attended the National Summer Transportation Institute at the University of Manoa, Hawaii in June 2024. **Scholarships:** Ten students at Northern Marianas College received scholarships for Fall 2024. **Right-of-Way (ROW) Activities:** **Temporary Occupancy Permits:** 34 issued (Saipan, Tinian, Rota). **Acquisitions:** 25 decertifications completed (Saipan, Rota). **New Road Openings:** 4 completed (Saipan). **Surveys:** 6 identifying public road boundaries (Saipan). **Encroachments:** 8 unauthorized occupations (Saipan). **Inquiries:** 15 public vs. private area verifications (Saipan). **Construction Certifications:** 6 authorizations for beautification/modification (Saipan). **Road Cutting Permit and Traffic Control Plan:** **Road Cutting Permits:** FY23 (190), FY24 (100). **Traffic Control Plans Approved:** FY23 (190), FY24 (100).

**Road & Grounds Division Report**

**Training and Development:** **Vacuum Truck Operation:** Training provided on the use of the Wet and Dry Vacuum Truck, purchased under the Maintenance Assistance Grant from OIA. Eight operators received training. **Equipment Procurement (MAP Grant):** Approval obtained for the procurement of one dump truck and one tractor truck with lowboy under OIA's Maintenance Assistance Program Grant. **Community Engagement:** **Memorandum of Agreement:** Signed between DPW and the Office of Adult Probation, allowing probationers to fulfill court-mandated community service within the Department of Public Works. **Emergency Response:** **RAC Team Activities:** Responded to various weather events including Wind Advisory, High Wind Warning, Flood Watch, and Tropical Storms Bebinca (14W) and Jebi (19W). Actions included debris clearing, fallen tree removal from roadways, and curbside debris collection in accordance with the debris management plan. **Burial Services:** **Grave Site Excavations:** Conducted ten excavations and burials at the US Veterans Cemetery and 37 excavations at the Tanapag Public Cemetery in response to burial requests. **Event Preparations:** **Signature Events Support:** Prepared sites and road shoulder routes for events sponsored by the MVA, including Taste of the Marianas, Hell of the Marianas, Flame Tree Arts & Culture, Marianas Racing Association Cow Town, and March Against Cancer.

**Routine Activities:** **Drainage Maintenance:** Cleared debris from all primary and secondary drainages. **Tree Maintenance:** Cut overgrown trees along primary roadways for safe motorist passage. **Vegetation Trimming:** Maintained overgrown vegetation along primary roadways for motorist safety. **Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup:** Conducted regular cleanups. **Road Repairs:** Performed road patching and repairs. **Road Widening:** Executed widening projects on various primary and secondary roads. **Collaboration:** Partnered with the Mayor of Saipan for island-wide cleanup and beautification efforts. **Environmental Cleanup:** Coordinated with BECQ for lagoon outlet cleanup and maintenance of hotel street drainage and culverts.

**Building Safety Code Division Report**

**Regulatory Updates:** **Flood Damage Prevention Regulation:** Updated on February 15, 2024, with amendments adopted in 46 Com. Reg. 50740, marking the first update since October 15, 1993 (15 Com. Reg. 11070). **Ongoing Projects:** **Garapan Flood Mitigation Project, Phase I:** 95% complete; expected completion by January 2025. **Flood Hazard Mapping Project:** Project cost amended and approved by FEMA in September 2024; pending funds allocation from DOF/HMGP. **Dandan Stormwater Design Project:** RFP evaluations ongoing; selected bidder anticipated by November 2025. **Building Code Enforcement Capacity Enhancement:** Approved by AFEMA in June 2024; awaiting fund allocation by DOF/HMGP. **Permit Applications:** **Construction Permits:** Ten projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas have applied for permits. **Training and Capacity Building:** **Staff Training:** One-week training provided to Tinian building code staff assigned for inspections and permitting. **Conference Attendance:** Seven building code staff and three Tinian representatives attended the NMTech and CNMI OSHA 2nd Annual Safety Conference, focusing on safety issues such as health hazards and fall protection. **Permit Issuance Overview:** **Annual Certificate of Compliance:** FY23 (1,128), FY24 (1,127) **Certificate of Occupancy:** FY23 (85), FY24 (64) **Building Permit Residential:** FY23 (185), FY24 (128) **Building Permit Commercial:** FY23 (60), FY24 (41) **Building Permit Government:** FY23 (45), FY24 (70) **Special Permit:** FY23 (40), FY24 (3) **Demolition Permit (Residential/Commercial):** FY23 (10), FY24 (13) **Notice of Violation:** FY23 (16), FY24 (0) **Notice of Stop Work Order:** FY23 (13), FY24 (0) **Revenue Collected Overview:** **Developer's Tax:** FY23 (\$289,469.00), FY24 (\$157,736.00) **Administrative Fees:** FY23 (\$188,960.00), FY24 (\$135,692.00) **Building Permit/Inspection Fees:** FY23 (\$896,487.00), FY24 (\$354,218.00) **Government Permit/Inspection Fees:** FY23 (\$97,489.00), FY24 (\$304,115.00) **Demolition Permit Fees:** FY23 (\$6,750.00), FY24 (\$2,550.00) **Annual Compliance & Final/Inspection Fees:** FY23 (\$78,590.00), FY24 (\$104,490.00)

**Solid Waste Management Division Report**

**Operational Highlights:** **E-Waste Shipment:** A contract has been awarded for the shipment of e-waste from the Lower Base Transfer Station, involving eight 40-foot shipping containers. This project is currently ongoing. **Rehabilitation/Replacement of Gas and Water Well Casings:** Rehabilitation of four gas monitoring well casings and five water monitoring well casings at the Marpi Landfill has been completed. **Multi-Shredder Acquisition:** A multi-shredder has been purchased and delivered for solid waste operations, funded by federal ASADRA funds in September 2024. **Tipping Floor Rehabilitation:** Ongoing rehabilitation work for the tipping floor container bay/room at the Lower Base Transfer Station. **Training Program MOU:** A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by OPD, DPW, and NMTech to implement a Solid Waste Management Training Program, which will offer NMTech-endorsed certification upon completion. **Testing Requirement:** A contract has been awarded for groundwater, leachate, and gas testing, effective for a two-year period and set to be completed by August 17, 2026. **Rehabilitation Roll-Off Container Bay:** A contract has been awarded for the rehabilitation of the Roll-Off Container Bay Dumpster at our Lower Base Transfer Station/Tipping Floor, with a completion date set for November 23, 2024. **Scale Repair:** A contract is currently being routed for the repair and parts replacement of vehicular weight scales inbound and outbound at both the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill. **Material Recovery Facility Contract:** A contract is currently being routed for Material Recovery Facility for recycling processing packaging and Marketing

Activities for Lower Base Transfer Station. **Types of Recyclables Processed:** **Glass Bottles:** Crushed **Cardboard and Paper:** Bailed **Scrap Metal:** Bailed **Tires:** Bailed

**MSW Tonnages Per Fiscal Year:** **Saipan Municipal Waste Received:** FY 2024 (Oct-Jan) 7770.80 Tonnages=\$320,393.57. **Residential:** 426.53 ton=\$17,964.09 **cost Commercial:** 6199.52 ton=\$17,964.09 **cost Government:** 1000.21 ton=\$561,013.92 **cost Waived:** 144.54 ton=\$5,420.25 **cost.**

**Energy Division Report**

**Weatherization Assistance program (WAP):** The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is actively processing applications from residential homeowners in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The program aims to enhance energy efficiency in homes by providing services such as the replacement of refrigerators, air conditioners, LED lighting, and installation of smoke detectors. Priority is given to income-eligible clients, particularly the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with children. All services are provided free of charge to qualifying households.

**Response to Super Typhoon YUTU:**

With the approval of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Division of Energy continues to offer re-weatherization services to families whose homes were severely impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

**Fiscal Year 2024 WAP Formula Data:** **Applications Received:** Saipan: 49 applications, Rota: 10 applications, Tinian: 9 applications. **Home Audits Conducted:** Saipan: 49 home audits, Rota: 5 home audits. **Pending Applications:** Rota: 5 applications pending home audit, Tinian: 9 applications pending home audit. **Homes Weatherized:** Saipan: 49 homes weatherized, Tinian: 5 homes weatherized.

**FY 2024 WAP Formula & WAP Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA):** With funding from both the WAP formula and the WAP IIJA grant, we will continue to solicit homes for weatherization across the Commonwealth, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Under the IIJA funds, we will hire two new personnel: one for Rota and one for Tinian. They will be responsible for conducting application intakes, assisting with energy audits, and weatherizing homes.

**State Energy Program (SEP):** Our office successfully launched the Energy Education and Conservation Awareness Outreach Campaign on the island of Rota. As part of this initiative, each household received a portable solar-powered tabletop fan to encourage energy conservation and raise awareness. The distribution event, held at the Rota Man Amko Center on March 9, 2024, attracted an impressive 500 residents. This campaign represents a significant step in fostering energy-conscious communities and promoting the use of clean energy solutions.

**SEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):** Under the SEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, our office has received \$2,515,830.00. Following the approval of this grant, we hired four new personnel on January 1, 2024. The project to upgrade the solar-powered street lamps at the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos Memorial Peace Park was completed on February 1, 2024.

We are now moving forward with additional projects, including the purchase of solar-powered fans and portable 50W solar-powered LED lamps for distribution to residential homeowners in Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, scheduled for October and November 2024.

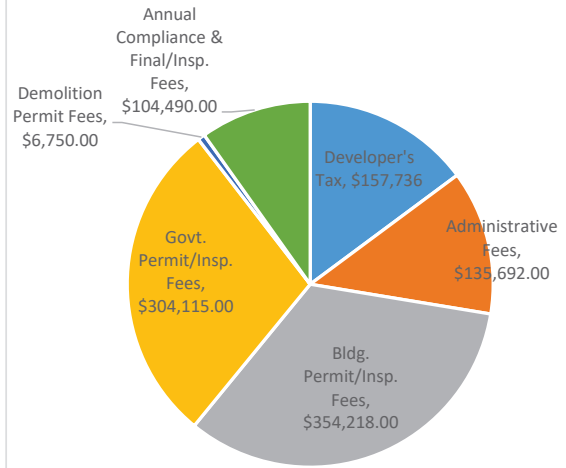
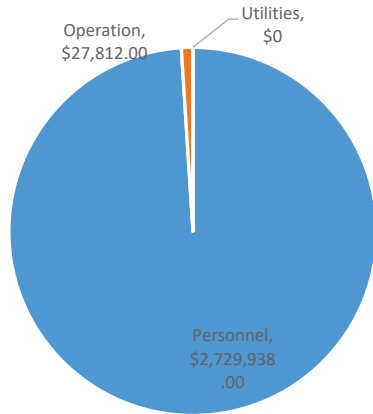
Furthermore, we will be purchasing two electric vehicles equipped with solar-powered charging stations, as well as installing photovoltaics (solar panels) at the beach road pavilions, the Carolinian Affairs Office, and Garapan Park.

Additionally, the Energy Security Plan has been developed and is currently under review by the U.S. DOE Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER).

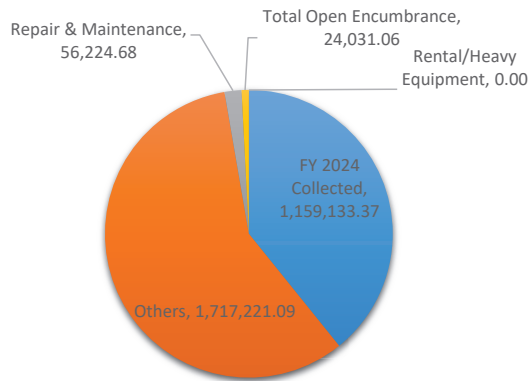
The Energy Division has consistently received federal formula grants for the Revolving Loan Funds (RLF), Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC), Home Energy Rebate (HER), and HOME Electrification Grant.

**Finances and Collection FY 2024**

**General Fund Source PL 23-09**

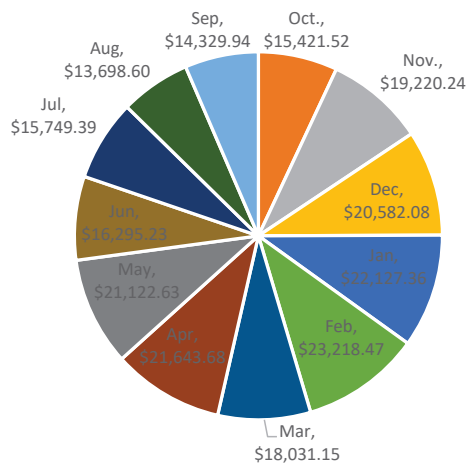


**BSC Permit/Fees Collected FY 2024**

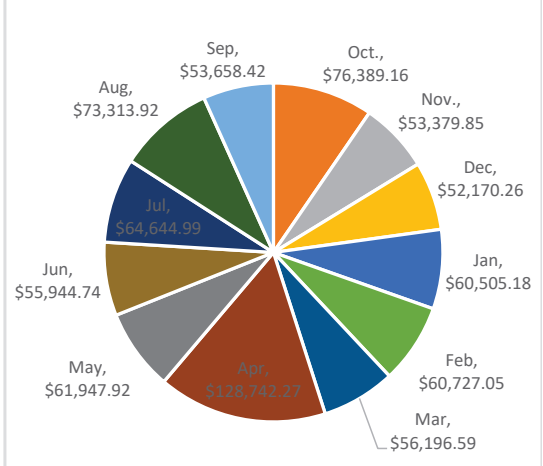


**Road Maintenance PL 20-39**

**FY 2024 Total Tipping Fees Cash**



**FY 2024 Total Tipping Fees Charged**



## Outlook

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The Department of Public Works (DPW) remains dedicated to enhancing the infrastructure of the CNMI, recognizing its vital role in the health, safety, and economic vitality of our community. We are committed to ongoing construction, repair, and maintenance initiatives that foster a robust infrastructure, attract investment, and support the well-being of all residents. Strong infrastructure is the backbone of a thriving community, facilitating safe transportation, ensuring access to essential services, and enhancing the overall quality of life. Our focus on maintaining and improving roadways, drainage systems, and public facilities is essential as we rebuild and adapt to the challenges posed by a changing environment. Below is a summary of the projects and activities the Department of Public Works has undertaken and will continue to pursue moving forward.

The Road & Grounds Division is dedicated to enhancing infrastructure, community engagement, and environmental care in the near future. We will prioritize ongoing training for operators on new equipment, such as the Wet and Dry Vacuum Truck, pursue to acquired dump truck and tractor trucks with lowboy recently approved under the MAP Grant under OIA to boost maintenance and emergency response capabilities. Our partnership with the Office of Adult Probation will expand to create more community service opportunities. Additionally, our Response Activity Coordinators Team will be better prepared for weather-related emergencies. We will continue to provide and support burial services, enhance preparations for community events, and maintain a strong focus on routine activities like drainage maintenance and road repairs. Collaborating with the Mayor of Saipan will support island-wide cleanup efforts, and our partnership with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will protect our natural resources. Through these efforts, we are committed to building a safe, clean, and vibrant community for all.

The Technical Services Division is dedicated to enhancing public safety and infrastructure while actively engaging with the community. Recent participation in the 2nd Annual Safety Conference has equipped our team with crucial safety knowledge, which we are implementing in our operations. We have installed speed bumps in multiple precincts and are making significant improvements to Obyan Road, alongside completing road repairs on Chalan Kanoa Road and in Garapan. Community facility upgrades include renovated restrooms at the Capital Hill Baseball Field and new sidewalks along Route 30 in Tanapag. Our FHWA Road & Drainage Improvement Projects are progressing well, focusing on hazard elimination and anti-skid pavement. We also support education by facilitating student participation in the National Summer Transportation Institute and awarding scholarships at Northern Marianas College. Additionally, we are actively managing right-of-way activities to ensure responsible use of public land. Through these initiatives, the division aims to create a safer and more connected community for all residents.

The Building Safety Code Division has made significant strides in regulatory updates and ongoing projects aimed at enhancing community safety. A notable update is the revised Flood Damage Prevention Regulation, amended on February 15, 2024, which is the first change since 1993. Key projects include the Garapan Flood Mitigation Project, nearly complete at 95%, and the Flood Hazard Mapping Project, which has received FEMA approval for cost amendments, pending further funding. The Dandan Stormwater Design Project is also in the RFP evaluation stage, with a bidder expected by November 2025. Permit applications are active, with ten projects in Special Flood Hazard Areas currently seeking permits. Training initiatives for building code staff have been implemented, and participation in the NMTEch and CNMI OSHA 2nd Annual Safety Conference highlights our commitment to safety. Permit issuance remains steady, with over 1,100 Certificates of Compliance issued annually, and revenue from developer taxes and fees shows a varied but significant contribution to local finances. Overall, the division is dedicated to improving safety and compliance in the community.

The Solid Waste Management Division has achieved several operational highlights aimed at improving waste management and recycling efforts. A contract for the shipment of e-waste from the Lower Base Transfer Station is currently in progress, involving eight 40-foot shipping containers. We have successfully rehabilitated four gas monitoring well casings and five water monitoring well casings at the Marpi Landfill. Additionally, a new multi-shredder has been purchased and delivered, funded by federal ASADRA funds. Ongoing rehabilitation work at the tipping floor container bay at the Lower Base Transfer Station is also underway. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to implement a Solid Waste Management Training Program in collaboration with OPD, DPW, and NMTEch, providing certification upon completion. Contracts have been awarded for groundwater, leachate, and gas testing, as well as the rehabilitation of the Roll-Off Container Bay at the Lower Base Transfer Station, expected to be completed by November 2024. Repairs to vehicular weight scales are also planned, and we are in the process of establishing a Material Recovery Facility for recycling operations. Our recycling efforts include processing glass bottles, cardboard, paper, scrap metal, and tires. Saipan received 7,770.80 tons of municipal waste from October 2023 to January 2024, generating revenue for that period. Overall, these initiatives reflect our commitment to enhancing efficient solid waste management and sustainability practices.

The Energy Division is actively implementing various initiatives to enhance energy efficiency and support the community in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is processing applications from homeowners in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, offering free services like refrigerator and air conditioner replacements, LED lighting, and smoke detector installations, prioritizing income-eligible clients, especially the elderly and disabled. In response to Super Typhoon YUTU, the division continues to provide re-weatherization services for impacted families. As of Fiscal Year 2024, 49 applications were received in Saipan, with 49 homes weatherized and ongoing audits in Rota and Tinian. Funding from both WAP and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will allow for further outreach and hiring of new personnel to assist with weatherization efforts. Additionally, the State Energy Program (SEP) launched an Energy Education and Conservation Awareness Campaign in Rota, distributing solar-powered tabletop fans to promote energy conservation. With over \$2.5 million received from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the division has upgraded solar-powered street lamps and is planning to distribute more solar-powered devices while also investing in electric vehicles and solar panel installations. The Energy Security Plan is currently under review by the U.S. Department of Energy, reflecting the division's commitment to enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability across the CNMI.