

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling

Round 1 Deliverables

PA DEP and PA RMC

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
October 2026



What is SWIFR

- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant
- Noncompetitive EPA grant for funding for states and territories to improve post-consumer materials management programs
- Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Reimbursement grant

Award Structure

Round 1

- PA DEP applied and was awarded \$511,502
- Period of performance was October 2023-September 2026
- PA DEP is the recipient and administrator of this grant
- Recycling Markets Center is a project partner of this grant

Round 2

- PA DEP applied and was awarded an additional \$543,333
- Period of performance extended to September 2029
- PA DEP is again the recipient and administrator of this grant
- Recycling Markets Center is again a project partner of this grant

Focus of Efforts

- Among other sources, data from the PA Waste Characterization Study was used to determine the materials of focus for SWIFR
- Approx... 40% of PA's solid waste stream is organics
- Food waste (approx... 1.6 million tons, or 17%) is the largest single component
 - 72% (1.15 million tons) of that food waste was edible food
- Following food, the top 10 most prevalent materials by weight disposed in Pa landfills and incinerators include:
 - Compostable paper, corrugated cardboard/kraft paper, mixed recyclable paper, unpainted wood, and film plastic.



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SWIFR Tasks

- Assess Pennsylvania's food recovery and recycling infrastructure and its plastics and paper commodity infrastructure
- Develop a best management practices document for the management of donated food and inedible food discards
- Prepare and implement a project communications plan to guide dissemination of deliverables and communication with stakeholders

Potential Impact

- Enhance circular economy of wasted food
- Help people find food wherever they are in PA
- Additional recovery/donation opportunity using BMPs
- Increased partnerships and collaboration between food donors, food recovery organizations, charitable food network, transportation industry, disposal industry, etc.
- Increased awareness and potential use of existing compost/AD infrastructure
- Increased awareness and potential use of existing recycled plastics/paper markets

Deliverables - Map

- **Common Deliverable** - Preparation of GIS mapping layer(s) that graphically depicts the below geocoded data.
- **Task** - Conduct an in-depth inventory of existing Pennsylvania food donation operations and facilities.
 - **Deliverable** - Database containing a compilation of information from Feeding Pennsylvania's nine major food banks and other food recovery/donation organizations
 - Database containing over 4,300 food recovery, donation, and assistance operations across Pennsylvania was created using publicly-accessible information pertaining to the nine Feeding PA food bank-affiliated organizations and non-affiliated organizations.
- **Task** - Conduct an in-depth inventory of existing Pennsylvania food-to animal feed operations and compost and anerobic digester facilities that are permitted to accept food waste.
 - **Deliverable** - Database containing a compilation of information of various sources of waste and recyclable material and facility data
 - Database of existing Pennsylvania food-to-animal feed operations and compost and anerobic digester facilities that are permitted to accept food waste was created using publicly-accessible information
- **Task** - Obtain existing recyclable plastics and paper collection, processing and end-use manufacturing information.
 - **Deliverable** - Database containing a compilation of information from various plastics and paper recycling collection, processing, and end use manufacturing facilities.
 - Database of material recovery facilities (MRFs), interim processing facilities, and manufacturing operations identified through available data sources

Deliverables - BMP

- **Task** - Prepare a digital Best Management Practices (BMP) document for Pennsylvania's food recovery industry that evaluates and summarizes data and findings obtained from Activity 1, Tasks A and B above.
 - **Deliverable** – BMP document for Pennsylvania's food recovery industry
 - BMP completed and has begun to be distributed to stakeholders



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