

Perkasie Borough PADEP Recycling Technical Assistance Food Waste Diversion

Perkasie Borough
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SCS ENGINEERS

02223021.01 – Task 22 | July 2, 2026

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1 BACKGROUND

Perkasie Borough (Borough) is located in Bucks County and has a population of about 9,000 residents. The Borough is a Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101) mandated recycling community. The Borough manages the curbside collection of trash and recyclables for nearly 3,500 households on a weekly basis.

The Borough's trash and recycling program provides residents with a high level of service. Trash is collected curbside weekly either in a 64-gallon wheeled cart for a monthly fee or through a pay-as-you-go program. Residents may choose to



only use the pay-as-you-go program or a 64-gallon cart issued by the Borough or a combination of the two programs. To participate in the pay-as-you-go program, special garbage bags must be used and can be purchased at Borough Hall or several retailers in the area.

In addition to the unique trash collection program, the Borough also operates a curbside dual-stream collection program for recyclable materials servicing all single-family residential customers. Commingled recyclable materials are collected weekly Monday through Thursday and paper is collected on Fridays. Materials accepted on Fridays include clean newspaper, junk mail, magazines, cereal boxes, and cardboard. The Borough also offers curbside yard waste and appliance pickups once a month. In addition to the curbside programs, residents can drop materials, except appliances, at the Borough Recycling Center. The recycling center is open six days a week for residents to deliver materials.

With costs of the Borough trash and recycling program increasing, in 2022 the Borough used DEP 902 grant funding to purchase and install a baling machine at the Borough Recycling Center for paper and cardboard. The baler allows the Borough to produce a more valuable paper and cardboard product, which resulted in cost savings for the Borough's recycling program.

The Borough requested technical assistance to assess options for food waste diversion that may yield additional environmental and financial benefits to their solid waste program. This report will help the Borough understand if there is an approach, or a combination of approaches, for food waste diversion that is appropriate for their residents and may provide for a more sustainable waste program.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section summarizes the work activities performed as part of this recycling technical assistance project.

Task #1: Project Planning Meeting and Developing Scope of Work

SCS held a project planning meeting with Borough staff to discuss the project in more detail. These discussions helped to direct a scope of work for the project that met client expectations.

Task #2: Site Visit and Community Tour

In December, SCS staff conducted a one-day site visit of the Borough. This visit included a meeting with staff to review the project scope, desired outcomes, and work products. SCS staff visited several potential locations for food waste collection including the recycling facility, farmers market location, community garden plots, and public parks.

Task #3: Identify Potential Food Waste Markets

The observations and discussions held as a part of Task 1 and Task 2 coupled with additional research was used to identify potential markets for source-separated food waste collected in the Borough. SCS assessed each market as an option for the Borough to divert food waste based on capacity, distance, and material collected.

Task #4: Identify Considerations for Successful Program Implementation

For this task, SCS identified potential barriers and considerations to implement a food waste collection system in the Borough. SCS examined several important aspects when designing a successful food waste collection program including collection method (curbside, central recycling drop-off sites, farmers market), collection frequency, processor location, and hauling. SCS staff also identified other municipalities that have successfully implemented residential food waste collection programs to understand operations and important considerations when developing a program. Additionally, State licensing requirements for the collection and transfer of source separated food waste were evaluated.

Task #5: Final Report

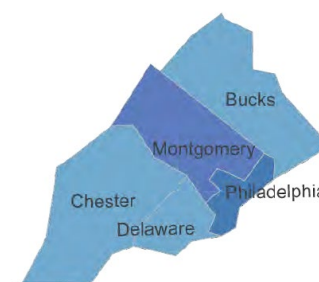
This report represents the final task of this project and includes our findings and recommendations.

3 RESULTS

ESTIMATING FOOD WASTE QUANTITIES

To understand the opportunities and options for food waste diversion and processing, it is important to know the amount of food waste produced by potential residential participants. In 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a comprehensive statewide waste characterization study. The study was designed to analyze the composition of disposed waste in the six Pennsylvania DEP regions of the state. Data from this study was used to estimate the amount of food waste disposed in Perkasio Borough.

According to the DEP waste characterization study, 14.8 percent of the disposed Southeast Region residential waste stream is food waste by weight or approximately 227,000 tons annually¹. This region includes Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties. This total weight accounts only for the residential sector of the region. SCS staff used the Southeast Region food waste composition percentage and applied it to the total amount of residential waste collected and disposed in Perkasio Borough to estimate an approximate quantity of food waste. It is important to note that this calculation does not include food waste collected and disposed in waste streams that the Borough does not manage or have control over. **Table 1** includes the estimated tonnage of food waste disposed in Perkasio Borough between 2020 and 2025.



Southeast Region Map¹

Table 1. Estimated Food Waste Quantity Disposed (tons)
Perkasio Borough

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Quantity (tons)	2,668.29	2,568.34	2,454.43	2,499.45	2,512.64	2,387.08
Est. Food Waste Quantity (tons)	394.18	379.41	362.59	369.24	371.19	352.64

This calculation will help inform the Borough about their current and future capacity to divert food waste.

FOOD WASTE MARKETS

Several food waste collection and processing companies operate near Perkasio Borough. **Exhibit 1** describes the existing companies and their possible compatibility with the Borough's food waste management needs.

¹ [PA DEP Report FINAL 10-04-2022.pdf](#)

Exhibit 1. Food Waste Markets

Food Waste Collection Company	Current Program Offerings	Material Collected ¹	Proximity to Perkasio Borough	Interest/Program Compatibility
Back2Earth Compost Crew	Residential curbside compost pick-up • Supplies a 5-gallon bucket • Pick-ups every other week Drop-off collection sites for communities • Farmers markets • Parks • Community gardens	Food scraps • Coffee grounds • Fruits and vegetables • Bread Yard Waste • Leaves • Grass clippings Other organic material • Paper napkins, towels, and bags	Serves most of Montgomery County and Northern/Eastern Chester County	• Does not currently service Perkasio Borough but is open to expanding to new areas • Maintains drop-off collection sites at central community locations in nearby counties
Mother Compost	Residential curbside compost pick-up • Supplies a 5-gallon bucket • Pick-ups every other week Bin Swap Program • Drop off a full compost bin and take an empty bin Drop-off location at a nearby farm	Food scraps • Coffee grounds • Fruits and vegetables • Dairy products Household materials • Hair and fur • Pizza boxes • Paper towels, napkins	Serves the Philadelphia Main Line	• Currently operates a pilot community compost program in Lower Merion Township • Compostables are taken to an on-farm composting operation
Kona Compost	Residential curbside compost pick-up • Supplies a 5-gallon bucket • Choice of bi-weekly or weekly collection Bin Swap Program at Wrightstown Farmers Market	Food scraps • Coffee grounds • Fruits and vegetables • Grains Other organic material • Shredded cardboard • Flowers • Pet fur	Serves Bucks County (including Perkasio Borough)	• Services households in Perkasio Borough and visits the Perkasio Farmers Market to increase resident participation • May be interested in collecting compostables at the Farmers Market • Food scraps are transported to a local farm for composting

Food Waste Collection Company	Current Program Offerings	Material Collected ¹	Proximity to Perkasié Borough	Interest/Program Compatibility
BCS Compost	Residential curbside compost pick-up • Supplies a 5-gallon bucket • Choice of bi-weekly or weekly collection	Food scraps • Coffee grounds • Fruits and vegetables • Egg shells Yard Waste • Leaves • Yard Trimmings Other organic material • Cotton rags • Cardboard	Services Bucks County, Montgomery County	• Currently offers residential and commercial curbside pick-up • Does not manage any drop-off locations • Scaling up their program to fit the needs of a locality may be difficult

¹A comprehensive list of accepted materials is maintained on the collection company's website.

PROGRAM MODELS

Table 2 summarizes key characteristics of different types of food waste diversion models used by communities throughout the country. The Borough may consider implementing one or more of these models. Detailed descriptions of each model are provided in this section.

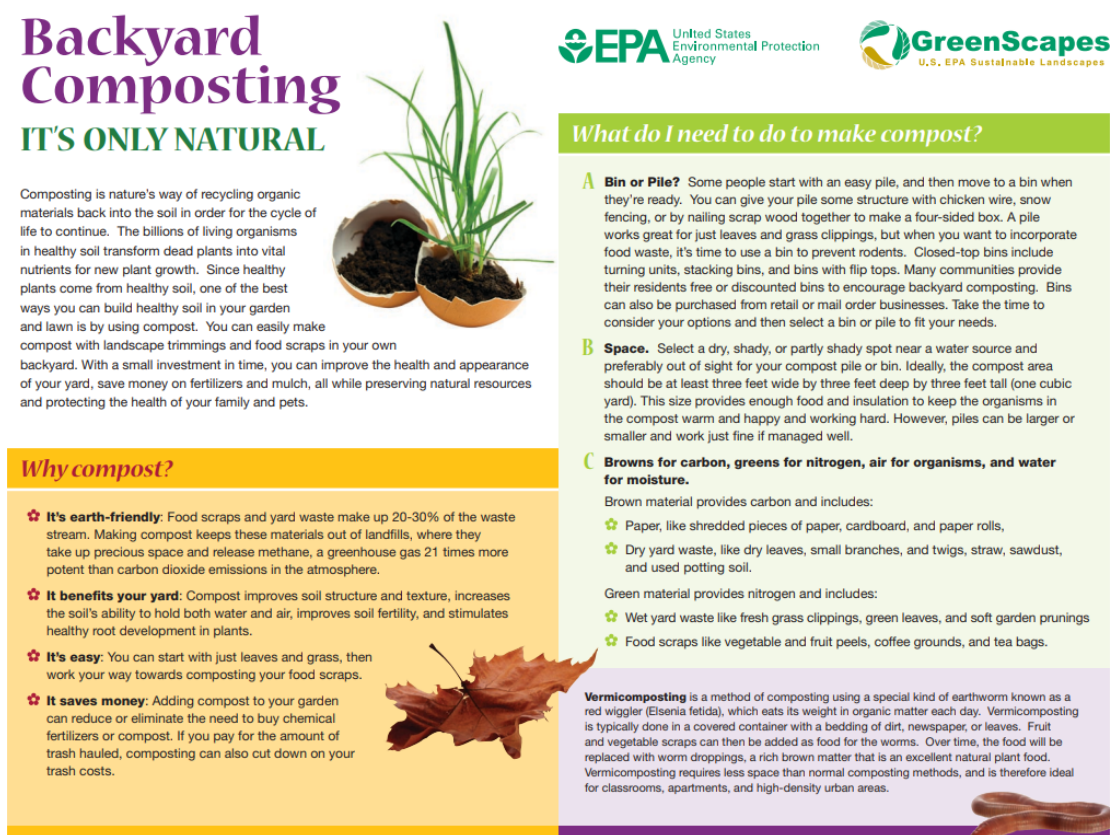
Table 2. Food Waste Diversion Program Models

	Backyard	Drop-off	Curbside	Hybrid
Description	This program educates residents on how to compost in their own backyard. It may also include preliminary supplies for interested residents to get started	This program establishes a centralized collection location for residents to drop off their food waste	This program would offer a voluntary curbside collection service for source separated food waste. Collection could come from a 3 rd party hauler or by expanding the Borough's existing curbside collection system	This program is a combination of the other three discussed. It gives the option for residents to participate in drop-off collection or curbside depending on their interest level and needs
Equipment/Supplies	Optional; the Borough could provide residents with countertop containers or backyard bins to promote backyard composting, educational material would need to be distributed to the community	- Multiple wheeled containers for collection at drop-off site - Small countertop containers for household storage	- Curbside collection containers (type depends on collection company) - Small countertop containers for household storage	- Curbside collection containers - Drop-off collection containers - Small countertop containers for household storage
Staffing	Staff needed to write and publish educational material on backyard composting, possible staff needed to hand out countertop containers or backyard bins	Staff needed to maintain drop-off site, possible security needed	Staff is needed to coordinate with the collection company and answer any questions from residents	Staff is needed to maintain drop-off site, staff is also needed to publish educational materials and answer resident's questions
Cost/Fees	Low ; the borough may need to print handouts or other educational materials	Low ; the Borough already has infrastructure to support a drop-off location, less expensive than curbside	High ; Food Waste collection services typically have a monthly fee, additional equipment is needed for this option	High ; the curbside collection option would require a monthly fee and investment in additional equipment
Compatibility with Existing System	High ; the inclusion of educational materials about backyard composting will not affect the existing solid waste system	High ; the Borough already maintains a recycling convenience center, so residents are used to transporting materials to a drop-off location	High ; participating residents would have to place their food waste containers at the curb for collection, similarly to how other materials are collected in the Borough	High ; residents are accustomed to both collection methods (curbside and drop-off)
Example Communities	- Upper Gwynedd Township, PA - Millcreek Township, PA	- Wood County, Ohio - Montgomery County, MD	- Takoma Park, MD - State College Borough, PA	- Dubuque, IA - Middletown, CT

Backyard

A backyard composting program encourages residents to create their own compost through educational materials. These materials can include flyers, blogs, and even in-person trainings. Many municipalities encourage backyard composting to their residents. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has published backyard composting materials on their website to promote backyard composting and share pertinent information about techniques and supplies needed. The figure below is a composting guide made by the US EPA and published on their website. Guides like this are a great way to share information in a digestible way.

Figure 1. US EPA Backyard Composting Guide



Upper Gwynedd Township and Millcreek Township are two Pennsylvania municipalities that have encouraged backyard composting through their websites. Both townships supply their own information, as well as links to other helpful resources.

Drop-Off Site/Convenience Center

One program model the Borough should consider is the establishment of a drop-off site or convenience center for food waste. The following considerations should be made when choosing an appropriate site for food waste drop-off:

- **Proximity to residents** – The site should be relatively accessible to residents. Longer commutes to the site can deter participation.
- **Traffic control/space** – The site needs to be located somewhere easily accessible by cars and should have enough space for cars to park while residents are unloading materials for disposal. The site also needs to be big enough for a collection vehicle to pick up materials.
- **Containers** – It is best practice to collect food waste in multiple smaller, wheeled containers at a drop-off site. Staff need to be able to move containers easily without compromising their safety. It is also recommended that the containers have lids to assist with odor or other nuisance problems.
- **Permitting** – Establishing a drop-off site may require the borough to obtain a new or modified permit to accept food waste. Additional information on permitting requirements is discussed later in this report.
- **Security** – The drop-off site should have some type of security to prevent illegal dumping. This could include having security staff onsite or having a locked gate guarding the collection containers. Some municipalities give residents who wish to participate a code to unlock the gate or a keycard for access. Security cameras are also recommended to provide 24-hour video surveillance of the property.
- **Environmental concerns** – The accumulation of food waste can cause unwanted odors and attract pests. To mitigate these problems, the drop-off site and collection containers should be covered. The Borough should also consider scheduling frequent collections of food waste, so the material does not sit at the drop-off site for extended periods of time.

Conversations with Borough staff during the site visit revealed potential location options for drop-off sites. These options are discussed below.

Potential Drop-Off Site Locations

1. Recycling Convenience Center

A food waste collection program that includes drop-off site(s) is a great option for municipalities when solid waste convenience center infrastructure already exists, and food waste can be incorporated into the mix of materials already collected at the existing facility. The Borough maintains a recycling convenience center that has the potential to house a food waste collection site. Currently, the recycling convenience center accepts the following materials:

- Commingled recycling in 40-yd roll-offs
- Separated paper and cardboard (baled on-site)
- Yard Waste

The photos below show the collection areas for each of the mentioned materials.

40-yard roll-offs for
commingled recycling
collection



Paper/cardboard
collection area

Yard Waste
collection area



The recycling convenience center currently has the space and capacity to maintain a food waste collection system. This site is a great choice for residents as it is centrally located and is easily accessible by vehicles. Residents are also used to bringing materials to the convenience center so adding a food waste collection site would be an easier transition.

2. Farmers Market

The Borough hosts an outdoor farmer's market every Saturday in the months of June through October. The photo below shows the space the farmers market uses when open. The farmer's



Perkasie Farmers Market

market is centrally located and has a high amount of foot traffic, making it an ideal candidate for a drop-off site. A local composting company, Kona Compost, frequents the farmer's market to educate residents on their curbside collection program. The company will often bring a bin for farmer's market customers to use to dispose of their food waste. This history will make it easier to integrate a permanent food waste collection site for residents' use.

However, the farmers market is seasonal so the drop-off location would have to be moved during the off-season. The Borough does have an indoor farmers market at the Perkasio Fire Department during the colder months. This farmers market

occurs less frequently, happening only once a month. It would be ideal to site the food waste collection containers at a permanent location. The Borough would most likely have to schedule a food waste collection pick up on the Saturday after the farmers market closed so the collection vehicle could have access to that area.

3. Public Parks

Another location the Borough should consider siting the food collection drop-off is at a public park. The public parks maintained by Perkasio Borough include:

- Lenape Park
- Menlo Park
- Kulp Park
- East Spruce Street Recreation Area

A map of these parks can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 2. Perkasio Borough Parks



Public parks are a popular location for food waste collection containers because they tend to have a lot of foot traffic and are easily accessible. To facilitate program success food waste collection containers should be placed near parking areas to be more accessible to collection vehicles.

4. Community Garden

The Jerry D Kratz Community Garden has 12' by 12' plots that can be rented by residents during the gardening season. The community garden is centrally located and has a lot of foot traffic during



Jerry D Kratz Community Garden

gardening season. It would also be useful to gardeners that need to dispose of agricultural materials from their garden. Similarly to the public parks, the community garden does not have a covered space for the food waste collection containers to be located. Overhead cover is ideal to protect the containers from the environment. It would also be difficult to provide

security at this location. The containers would have to be locked and clearly labeled to prevent any illegal dumping. Depending on where the collection containers are located at the garden, there may not be enough space for a collection vehicle. There is also a lack of parking near the community garden, which would make it more difficult for residents to transport food scraps to a drop-off spot by vehicle.

Curbside

The curbside collection of food waste provides a convenient collection option for residents. A successful curbside program requires significant planning and preparation. The Borough should consider the following key program characteristics:

- **Timing of implementation** – It is recommended that the Borough implements the food waste collection program during the fall or spring to avoid extreme temperatures. The high heat of summer could contribute to a foul odor or attract unwanted pests. Winter temperatures could freeze food waste on the side of containers, making collection difficult. The Borough should try to avoid these complications while residents are getting used to the program.
- **Containers** – The size and type of containers used for collection is dependent on the collection frequency, participation levels, and type of truck used for collection. All the collection companies analyzed in **Exhibit 1** supply residents with small kitchen pails to collect food waste in residences. Residents are then directed to place the contents of the kitchen pail in another container that is suitable for curbside collection.
- **Fees** – One major deterrent for residents participating in a new program is the cost. If possible, SCS recommends the Borough incorporates the cost of the program into the refuse fees already charged to residents. A separate fee would discourage participation.

- **Stakeholder Engagement** – It is important that the Borough surveys participating residents while maintaining the curbside collection program to receive important feedback that could improve the program. Consistent engagement with stakeholders is pertinent to a successful collection system.

If the Borough implements a curbside collection program, collection could either be operated by the Borough or by a contractor hired by the Borough. **Table 3** provides a comparison between each option.

Table 3. Borough vs Contractor Food Scraps Collection Management

Borough Collection	Contractor Collection
• The Borough already provides residential waste collection • This option would require a significant capital cost including additional equipment (truck, containers, staffing) • Time would be needed to start up the program whereas a contractor may already be providing the service • Ability to control and maintain a set fee for curbside collection for Borough residents	• The Borough would not control collection operations, which may not align with their current waste management system • No capital costs associated with additional equipment or staff • The Borough will be required to meet contracted conditions and may be subject to contamination fees

It is recommended that the Borough partner with a contractor with experience and expertise in collecting food waste curbside (discussed in **Exhibit 1**). One of the collection companies discussed already services residents in the Borough for a monthly fee. If the Borough were to partner with a collection company, they could negotiate a fair price for their residents.

Hybrid

A hybrid system would combine the three food collection models mentioned above so residents have options for food waste disposal that best fit their individual needs. A drop-off collection site would be chosen from the options discussed in the above section and maintained by the Borough. The Borough would also allow residents to sign up for curbside collection if that better suits their needs. This system is more expensive than choosing between drop-off sites and curbside collection, but it is ultimately more suitable for residents. Depending on participation rates and stakeholder feedback, the Borough could focus more time and resources on the aspects of the program that are working the best.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides recommendations about which food waste collection model the Borough should consider implementing and next steps for planning this program. A review of the solid waste code is also discussed in this section to identify potential legal barriers to food waste collection in the Borough.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The table below describes the pros and cons of each food waste diversion model discussed in the section above.

Table 4. Comparison of Food Waste Diversion Models

Model	Benefits	Drawbacks/Risk
Backyard Composting	• Low/no cost for equipment • Can be implemented alongside other diversion models	• Has the least impact on food waste diversion out of the models • Difficult to measure how much food waste is being diverted • Staff needed to write and publish educational materials
Drop-off Site	• High compatibility with the existing solid waste management system • Infrastructure already in place at a central location • Likely increased impact on food waste diversion (over backyard composting)	• Possible ick factor for residents because they must transport food waste materials to the drop-off site • Some capital costs required (containers, collection, education) • Some permitting requirements
Curbside Collection (third-party company)	• Most convenient collection model for residents • Third-party collection companies are already operational, so little start-up time • Compatible with existing curbside collection system	• Some capital cost (containers, education) • Needs additional cost/benefit analysis • Fee structure for residents needs to be negotiated and may deter participation

After reviewing the Borough's current solid waste management system and its possible compatibility with food waste diversion models, SCS has the following recommendations for the Borough:

- **Encourage backyard composting.** The Borough should encourage residents to compost in their own backyard. This is a low-cost way to promote food waste diversion that can be combined with other diversion models if the Borough decides to pursue any in the future. Backyard composting is most successful when the Borough provides community members the support and supplies to compost in their backyard. The Borough may offer residents countertop containers or backyard bins. The Borough may also consider hosting in-person and/or virtual trainings and workshops to help residents do backyard composting and give them a forum to answer questions. .
- **Implement a drop-off program pilot study.** A drop-off pilot program will give Borough staff the information to tailor an expanded program to the goals and needs of its residents. Since the drop-off program model is already compatible with the existing system, it is recommended that the Borough add a food waste collection bin at the existing recycling facility to assess the feasibility of a full-scale system. This will provide the Borough with an opportunity to

collect data on program participation, diversion impacts, costs, contamination, and community concerns.

- **Continue with a cost/benefit analysis for curbside collection.** The Borough should consider performing another study that specifically focuses on implementing a third-party curbside collection system. A further understanding of the cost and subsequent pricing of curbside collection is recommended if the Borough is considering contracting with a third-party hauler for curbside collection.

REFUSE CODE REVIEW

SCS staff reviewed the solid waste code of Pennsylvania and the local Borough code to identify any legal barriers to food waste collection and transportation.

Solid Waste Code of Pennsylvania

The solid waste code of Pennsylvania is much more explicit defining the permitting requirements for facilities that accept and compost food waste than the actual collection or transportation of these materials. Establishing a drop-off site may require the city to obtain a new or modified permit to accept food waste. DEP General Permit WMGM052, Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting, may be applicable for a potential food waste drop-off site. The requirements for this permit are included in **Appendix A**.

The Waste Transportation Safety Act (Act 90 of 2002, Chapter 62) requires all waste transportation vehicles transporting municipal or residual waste to processing or disposal facilities in Pennsylvania to have a valid Waste Transporter Authorization. However, the Act 90 Authorization requirements do not apply to Composting facilities. Composting facilities do not need to verify that collection vehicles have a Waste Transporter Authorization for the materials to be accepted.

Perkasie Borough Code of Ordinances

Chapter 96 of the Borough's Code describes refuse storage, collection, and disposal. This chapter does not explicitly mention food waste, but there are some articles that may apply to a food waste collection program.

1. Code §96-8 Method of storage and accumulation; composting (b)

"Material being composted shall be stored in such a manner as not to create a nuisance or to endanger the public safety. Given this condition, material being composted may be stored for more than seven days."

2. Code §96-25 Licensing and registration requirements (a)

"No person shall collect or remove any municipal waste from within Perkasie Borough without first obtaining written authorization from PADEP in accordance with the provisions of Act 90 and providing a copy of such written authorization to Perkasie Borough. This section shall not apply to private individuals (e.g. homeowners) who wish to transport their own household waste to PADEP approved facilities or recyclables to appropriate recycling centers, nor to farmers, landscapers or nurserymen who collect, remove, haul or otherwise transport agricultural or other organic waste associated with their respective business activities."

3. Code §96-25 Licensing and registration requirements (b)

“For a collector or waste hauler to collect and transport municipal waste within Perkasio Borough a collector or waste hauler shall submit a registration form to Perkasio Borough which shall include a copy of their state issued written authorization, and a copy of their municipal and residual waste transporter authorization application (DEP form 2500-PM-BWM0015) along with any of the following information that may be deemed appropriate by the municipality...”

5 CONCLUSION

Food scraps diversion is an important initiative to reduce the amount of waste disposed. There are several food waste collection models to consider based on a municipality's needs. SCS recommends that the Borough implements a backyard composting education program and considers a food waste drop-off pilot study at the existing Recycling Convenience Center. An additional study focusing on a drop-off program is encouraged to understand specific equipment needs, permitting requirements, and other logistical details. The Borough should also consider executing an additional study that discusses the specific cost/benefit analysis of implementing a curbside collection system.

After deciding whether to provide this service to residents, it is essential to reach out to stakeholders and get their feedback. It is important to not only inform residents of the program before implementation but continue to engage citizens once it is in operation. The Borough should consider using print materials, announcements in local newspapers, social media, and face-to-face interaction to promote participation. After implementing the program, it is necessary to maintain a dialogue with residents so they can ask questions, and the Borough can update them about the program.

Appendix A

DEP General Permit WMGM052

GENERAL PERMIT WMGM052

Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL AND RESIDUAL WASTE**

Issued: February 27, 2015

Amended: July 23, 2015

Expires: February 27, 2025

Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting

A. Description.

1. The approval herein granted is limited to self-contained organics collection systems per the terms and conditions of this permit. The waste streams accepted for collection in the organics collection and recycling system shall be non-liquid waste¹ and limited to the following categories of uncontaminated wastes: source separated food scraps, fruit, vegetables, breads, meat, fish, soiled cardboard, waxed cardboard, paper cups, paper towels, garden clippings, manure, wood chips and shavings, hay and other organic materials.
2. The approval herein allows for no more than five (5) self-contained organics collection systems to be placed at each location unless approved in writing by the Department.
3. The permittee shall comply with the fugitive emissions regulations under 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 123 (Standards for Contaminants) issued under the Air Pollution Control Act, the Act of January 8, 1960, P.L. 2119, 35 P.S. §4005 and shall comply with all the applicable provisions of the Fugitive Emissions Sections 123.1 and 123.2.

B. Determination of Applicability Requirements.

Persons or municipalities that propose to operate under the terms and conditions of this general permit, after the date of permit issuance, must apply for and obtain a "Registration" from the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A completed application on forms available from the Department must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. The application shall include information on the sites where the storage vessels will be placed and a detailed operating plan that describes the organics collection and recycling activities including types and volumes of collected organic waste that will be stored and transported to a composting facility and the screening of incoming waste for acceptance or rejection. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania". No activities shall commence unless specifically authorized by the Department in writing.

C. Operating Conditions.

1. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to supersede, amend, or authorize a violation of any of the provisions of any valid and applicable local law, ordinance, or regulation, providing that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §6018.101 et seq; and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §4000.101 et seq.

¹ EPA Method 9095 (Paint Filter Liquid Test) as described in the EPA Publication No. SW-846

General Permit Number WMGM052

Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting

2. As a condition of this permit and of the permittee's authority to conduct the activities authorized by this permit, the permittee hereby authorizes and consents to allow authorized employees or agents of the Department, without advance notice or search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials and without delay, to have access to and to inspect all areas on which solid waste management activities are being, will be, or have been conducted. This authorization and consent shall include consent to collect samples of waste materials, compost material, soils, water, or gases; take photographs; to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; inspect any monitoring equipment; to inspect the methods of operation and to inspect and/or copy documents, books, and papers required by the Department to be maintained. This permit condition is referenced in accordance with Sections 608 and 610(7) of the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. Sections 6018.608 and 6018.610(7). This condition in no way limits any other powers granted under the Solid Waste Management Act.
3. The activities authorized by this permit shall not harm or present a threat of harm to the health, safety or welfare of the public or environment of this Commonwealth. The Department may modify, suspend, revoke and reissue the authorization granted in this permit if it deems necessary to prevent harm or the threat of harm to the public health, and the environment or if they cannot be adequately regulated under the conditions of this permit.
4. The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of this general permit and with the environmental protection acts to the same extent as if the activities were covered by an individual permit. The Department may require an individual permit be obtained if the permittee cannot comply with the conditions of this general permit or is conducting an activity that harms or presents a threat of harm to the health, creates a nuisance, safety or welfare of the public or the environment.
5. Failure of measures herein approved to perform as intended, or as designed, or in compliance with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations and terms and conditions of this permit, for any reason, shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the permittee's approval to operate under this permit.
6. Hazardous waste, special handling waste, and other waste may not be received, mixed and/or stored or beneficially used with the organic material.
7. All activities conducted under the authorization granted in this general permit shall be conducted in accordance with the permittee's application. Except to the extent that the permit states otherwise, the permittee shall operate as described in the approved application.
8. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of activities authorized under this permit shall be subject to compliance history review by the Department prior to performance of any activities, as specified by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980.
9. This permit does not authorize and shall not be construed as an approval to discharge any industrial wastes, wastewater, leachate or runoff the waters of the Commonwealth.

General Permit Number WMGM052

Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting

10. The maximum holding time for organics accumulation in the in-vessel composting bins will not exceed six weeks from the first placement of the waste.
11. In-vessel composting bins will be cleaned and re-conditioned in accordance with manufacturer's instructions after each trip to the recycling facility. Cleaning and re-conditioning will consist of containers and associated aeration piping cleaned with mild cleaning solution of a type recommended by the manufacturer, and a new layer of wood chips placed over the aeration header. Wood chips may be obtained from commercial composting facilities, local landscaping contractors or other sources approved by the Department. Engineered, treated or painted wood shall not be used to re-condition the vessel.
12. Upon cessation of the use of the organics collection system at the facility, the operator shall notify the Department, remove any wastes, or other materials which contain or have been contaminated with waste and shall provide for the processing and disposal of the waste or material in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, the environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
13. Any waste generated from the collection, storage or transport of organic material prior to composting shall be managed in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act of July 7, 1980, as amended, P.L. 380, No. 97, 35 P.S. §§6018.101 et seq. and the regulations promulgated there under.
14. The organics collection system shall incorporate an in-vessel composting bin which includes a biofiltration system using carbon to create an aerobic environment and designed to initiate composting.
15. A financial bond as specified in Chapter 287, Subchapter E is not required for organics collection systems operating in conformance with this general permit.
16. Rejected wastes and non-compostable materials shall be separated from the incoming wastes intended for composting, and shall be managed properly at a permitted disposal facility or recycled on a weekly basis.
17. An operational plan must be developed and implemented at the facility. The operational plan must include the following information:
 - a. A general site plan must be included which contains the following information for organics collection and storage:
 - (i) Access road
 - (ii) Tipping area
 - (iii) Location of composting vessels
 - (iv) Location of fences and gates limiting access to the facility
 - b. A narrative indicating the operational hours for receiving waste.

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- c. The volume of waste which is anticipated to be processed during the first year of operation.
 - d. A detailed description of the in-vessel compost system to include all piping, motors, blower units and control panels.
18. The operator of the facility where the organics collection and recycling system is located shall not cause or allow conditions that are harmful to the environment or public health or which create safety hazards, odors, noise, or other public nuisances or cause or allow the attraction, harborage, or breeding of vectors.
19. Surface water runoff from the organics collection and recycling system shall be controlled and not cause surface water pollution or groundwater degradation and shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder and Chapter 102.
20. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to supersede, amend or authorize to discharge any industrial waste, wastewater, leachate or runoff from the waste storage areas or enclosed vessels to the waters of the Commonwealth.
21. The permitted facility shall not be located within the following siting restrictions:
- a. In the 100-year floodplain of waters of this Commonwealth;
 - b. In or within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland;
 - c. In or within 100 feet of a wetland other than an exceptional value wetland;
 - d. Within 100 feet of a sinkhole or area draining into a sinkhole;
 - e. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream;
 - f. Within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.
 - g. Within 3.3 feet of a perched, seasonal or regional ground water table.
22. Equipment used for the collection, storage and transportation of the collected organic material shall be maintained in good operating condition. Weekly inspections of each storage area including the in-vessel collection bins and associated mechanical aeration and filtration system and their surrounding environs are to be conducted to determine compliance of the terms and conditions of this general permit, and for evidence of failure.
23. The operator of each facility where the organics collection and recycling system is located shall immediately contact local police or fire departments or other appropriate state or local emergency response agencies in the event of fire, spill, or other hazards that threaten public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

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24. Any person operating under the provisions of this general permit must notify the Department, in writing, if the organics collection and recycling system facility is relocated or if new location(s) are to be included under this general permit. The information is to be submitted on a form provided by the Department 60 days prior to relocation. This notice is to be sent to the appropriate Department Regional Office.

D. Recordkeeping.

1. The facility operator shall maintain records of all material received at the facility for placement in the self-contained organics collection system. Records will include the name and facility address of off-site waste generators and haulers, the types of waste meeting condition A-1 and waste quantities expressed in either weight or volume. The facility will record the name of the permitted composting facility that receives the organic material for composting.
2. The facility operator shall maintain records of unacceptable wastes that are disposed of from the facility. The records shall include the disposal location and volume or weight of the waste that is disposed.
3. Records shall be maintained on site for five years and made available to Department representatives upon request.

E. Renewal.

1. A person or municipality that plans to continue the collection, storage and transportation of organic material prior to composting under this general permit, after the expiration date indicated on the approval for coverage page, shall file a complete application for permit renewal at least 180 days before the expiration date of this general permit unless permission has been granted by the Department for submission at a later date. The renewal application shall include a check made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" for the renewal application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20 and must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. (see attached list)
2. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the Department is unable, through no fault of the permittee, to reissue the general permit or approval for coverage before its current coverage expiration date, the terms and conditions of the approved coverage will automatically continue and will remain fully effective and enforceable pending the issuance or denial of the renewal for permit coverage, provided the permittee is, and has been, operating in compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit.

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Annex A

**Department of Environmental Protection
Regional Offices
(and Counties Served)**

- I. Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia.
Southeast Regional Office
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: (484) 250 – 5960
- II. Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
Phone: (570) 826 – 2511
- III. Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York.
Southcentral Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Phone: (717) 705 – 4706
- IV. Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.
Northcentral Regional Office
208 West 3rd Street - Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: (570) 327 – 3653
- V. Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.
Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 442 – 4000
- VI. Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren.
Northwest Regional Office
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335-3481
Phone: (814) 332 – 6848