



## **Allen Township Feasibility of Curbside Yard Waste Collection Project #603**

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SCS Engineers is a waste management, environmental engineering, consulting, and construction firm. Nothing herein shall be considered or interpreted to be the provision of legal services or advice.

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- A – PA DEP Guidelines for Yard Waste Composting Facilities
- B – Residential Yard Waste Collection Survey

## 1 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Allen Township (Northampton County) contracts with a private waste hauler, Advance Disposal Services Lehigh Valley, Inc., to collect waste and single-stream recyclables from 1,660 households. Several private communities located in the Township are also required to recycle, but collection of materials from those areas is not included in the single-hauler contract the Township administers. Solid waste is collected from residents every week while recyclables are collected bi-weekly.

Allen Township is a founding member of the First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA). The FRCA collects yard waste at drop-off locations, processes the materials, and redistributes the finished compost product to participating municipalities. The Township's drop-off facility is located at the Municipal Building and the costs associated with processing and distributing the compost product are covered by the waste and recycling fee charged to all Township residents. In 2017, the annual municipal waste and recycling charge was \$290 for each household.

The Township continues to grow and there continues to be significant interest in the yard waste collection program. As such, the Township is interested in exploring the feasibility of implementing curbside collection of yard waste to either replace or compliment the current drop-off program.

## 2 SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED

The following summarizes the work performed for this project:

### Task 1 – Site Visit

SCS conducted a site visit to Allen Township to observe the yard waste drop-off facility and discuss the logistics and costs of the current program. A better understanding of the Township’s service area was gained and information on yard waste quantities throughout the year was gathered.

### Task 2 –Resident Survey

To better gauge residents’ desire for curbside yard waste collection and participation in the program, SCS designed a short survey for the Township to distribute to residents. Results are summarized later in this report.

### Task 3 – Feasibility Study

SCS analyzed the logistics and costs of implementing curbside collection of yard waste that will include recommendations on whether the program should be limited to certain seasons or year-round. .

### Task 2 – Final Report

SCS developed this report to provide details and results of our analysis of Task 3. The resident survey is included as an appendix and provides background information on this study.



Compost and mulch bays at the Allen Township leaf and brush drop-off site

### 3 RESULTS

#### CURRENT PROGRAM

##### **Trash and Recycling**

The Township contracts with Advanced Disposal for the curbside collection of trash and recyclable materials from residents. Trash is collected weekly and single stream recyclable materials are collected every other week. In 2017, Advanced Disposal reported they collected and disposed of 1,808 tons of solid waste and 258 tons of single stream recyclables.

##### **Yard Waste**

Allen Township operates a residential leaf and brush drop-off collection site adjacent to the Township’s Municipal Building. This facility is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. The materials accepted at the site include leaves, brush, and branches. Grass clippings are currently not accepted at the site. Branches and brush are not to exceed six feet in length or six inches in diameter. The site is designated for the use of Allen Township residents only; however, the site is not manned and there is no screening of individuals to verify they live in the Township despite it being under video surveillance. Lawn service or landscaping contractors are prohibited from using the site. Residents may also use the site to obtain compost and mulch free of charge. The site is paved and includes “bays” for the collection of yard waste materials. Large roll-off containers are used for the separate collection of leaves and brush. Separate bays also exist for residents to pick-up compost and mulch, which is produced from the materials collected at the site. Signs at each bay indicate acceptable materials.

Compost and mulch are delivered to the site by First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA), the entity established to manage and process yard waste generated and collected in Allen Township and nine other nearby municipalities<sup>1</sup>. Residents are also allowed to drop-off yard waste and/or pick-up mulch/compost at the FRCA composting site on Weaverville Road during operating hours.

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<sup>1</sup> Bath Borough, Bushkill Township, East Allen Township, Lehigh Township, Lower Nazareth, Moore Township, Northampton Borough, and Catasauqua Borough



Mulch bay at the leaf and brush drop-off site



Container of brush at the leaf and brush drop-off site

**Table 1** provides the volume of yard waste collected at the Allen Township leaf and brush drop-off site for the last five years by material type. On average, the Township collects 7,660 cubic yards of materials each year at the site.



FRCA composting site entrance



Windrows of compost at FRCA composting site

The Township pays FRCA about \$12,600 annually to collect yard waste from the Township's leaf and brush drop-off site and process the materials into compost and mulch. Fixed quarterly payments (\$3,148.39) are made by the Township regardless of how much material is collected at the drop-off site and transported to FRCA.

**Table 1. Township Yard Waste Collection Volumes**

| Year         | Material<br>(cubic yards) |              |              |              | Total Volume<br>(cubic yards) |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
|              | Brush                     | Leaves       | Grass        | Other        |                               |
| 2013         | 7,752                     | 589          | 1,921        | 236          | 10,498                        |
| 2014         | 4,097                     | 278          | 637          | 340          | 5,352                         |
| 2015         | 4,497                     | 323          | 753          | 97           | 5,670                         |
| 2016         | 6,017                     | 447          | 705          | 168          | 7,337                         |
| 2017         | 7,891                     | 532          | 831          | 191          | 9,445                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>30,254</b>             | <b>2,169</b> | <b>4,847</b> | <b>1,032</b> | <b>38,302</b>                 |

## CURBSIDE COLLECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

### Estimate Potential for Yard Waste Diversion

In order for the Township to understand the impact of curbside collection of yard waste, it is important to estimate the amount of yard waste disposed of in the waste stream. This will provide information on how much material could be diverted through a curbside yard waste collection program. Allen Township has not completed a study specific to measuring the composition of waste generated in the Township.

To develop an estimate of the amount of yard waste in the waste stream, SCS used data from the 2003 Pennsylvania Statewide Waste Characterization Study<sup>2</sup>. This waste characterization study quantified the amount of materials disposed in Pennsylvania by region and by demographic sector (i.e. urban, suburban, and rural). The study estimates that 3.1 percent of the residential municipal solid waste disposed of in the rural demographic sector of Northeast Pennsylvania was yard waste. This includes 1.9 percent that is “yard waste – grass,” and 1.2 percent that is considered “yard waste-other.”

Using a yard waste composition of 3.1 percent<sup>2</sup> and considering Advanced Disposal collected about 1,808 tons of municipal solid waste in 2017, SCS estimates that about 56 tons of yard waste is disposed of with municipal waste in Allen Township annually.

It is important to note that the Township has made some changes to their yard waste management program since the 2003 study that may have influenced the amount of yard waste disposed. In

<sup>2</sup> Statewide Waste Composition Study, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, April 2003, <http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Waste/Recycling/lib/landrecwaste/recycling/documents/wastecompositionstudy.pdf>

2003, the Township only had a brush pile on municipal property where residents could bring branches for chipping. That program was improved with the establishment of FRCA and a more comprehensive Township drop-off collection site that may have increased the amount of yard waste diverted from disposal (reduced the composition of yard waste in the waste stream). Another factor affecting yard waste generation and disposal over the same period since the 2003 study is the increase in population of Allen Township from an estimated 2,630 people in 2000<sup>3</sup> to 4,269 in 2010<sup>4</sup>. SCS recommends the Township meet with representatives of Advanced Disposal to discuss the feasibility of refining this estimate of the amount of yard waste disposed and establish a baseline to measure the impact of a curbside collection program. Another important factor to consider is whether grass clippings will be included as part of a curbside collection program.

### **Establish Program Goals**

Prior to launching a new program, it is important to establish the goals and define how the proposed new program will achieve them. The goals for a curbside yard waste collection program may include:

- Providing a higher level of service to residents;
- Diverting additional yard waste from disposal;
- Reducing solid waste collection costs and disposal fees;
- Increasing the convenience for residents to participate in the Township's yard waste diversion program;
- Complementing the Township's existing drop-off program.

As the program is designed and implemented, the established goals should guide the decisions on how the program should operate.

### **Explore Collection Options**

The Township has two main options to arrange for the curbside collection of yard waste. The Township may contract with a private hauler for the collection service or utilize their own equipment and staff to collect yard waste. The Township currently contracts with Advanced Disposal for the curbside collection of trash and recyclable materials. Incorporating yard waste collection into the suite of services provided by Advanced Disposal would provide for consistency among all the curbside programs provided to residents, but it is unclear whether that option is the most cost-effective.

To understand if outsourcing the curbside collection of yard waste is feasible and cost-effective, SCS recommends that the Township use the next available opportunity to bid collection services to include the curbside collection of yard waste. Both bundled and unbundled pricing for the

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File

yard waste collection service should be obtained in order to help the Township compare the cost of contracting the service versus providing collection service using their own equipment and staff. The Township should also develop their own financial model to estimate the costs of completing the curbside collection using their own crews and equipment. SCS recommends the Township consider a pilot project for the curbside collection of yard waste (see below). SCS expects the pilot project could be completed using existing Township equipment and staff, so that the financial impacts to the Township could be documented and the financial model refined as appropriate. This will allow the Township to conduct a more thorough and detailed cost-comparison of private versus municipal collection. An important consideration is the effect Township versus private curbside leaf waste collection service will have on the annual waste and recycling charge assessed to residents.

### **Consider Pay-As-You-Throw Program**

One method to manage costs and operation of a curbside yard waste collection program is by implementing a pay-as-you-throw program (PAYT). Although many different types of PAYT programs exist, one option would be to establish a maximum quantity of yard waste that residents can set out for curbside collection each collection day. The cost to collect and compost this set amount of yard waste would be paid for by a portion of the annual municipal waste and recycling charge that all households pay the Township. Residents who require the collection of quantities beyond the limit would be required to purchase bags or stickers to pay for the cost of the collection and processing of the additional materials. Residents could also transport excess materials to the Township's drop-off site. For example, curbside collection of yard waste in Bath Borough is limited to four containers or bags (30 gallon capacity each) or two carts (96 gallon capacity) each collection day. The Borough also specifies weight limits and size restrictions for the containers, bags, carts, and bundles. If the Township were to consider PAYT, SCS recommends limiting residents to no more than two 30-gallon containers of yard waste for curbside collection each collection day.

In order to implement a PAYT program, significant education and outreach would be required to provide specific information and instructions for collection requirements, quantity limits, and excess material disposal.

### **Initiate a Pilot Project**

Prior to implementing a Township-wide curbside yard waste collection program, Allen Township should consider facilitating a pilot project. The pilot project should reveal what approaches to curbside collection of yard waste are likely to work best for the Township. Secondly, a pilot project should demonstrate the program's viability to those in the Township skeptical of it working.

Allen Township's zoning ordinance consists of low-, medium-, and high-density residential areas. The challenges of curbside collection of yard waste in these residential areas may be different and the solutions may vary from one residential area to another. For this reason, implementing a pilot project that cuts across all three of the residential areas in the Township would be important to track participation levels and material diverted. This can help the Township better understand how the program serves residents in different areas of the Township.

For example, low-density residential areas may be less likely to participate as they may have larger properties and may opt to manage yard waste onsite. Areas of the Township with a higher population density may be more likely to participate due to the space constraints of managing yard waste at their property. A first step to selecting an area(s) of the Township to implement a pilot project would be to discuss existing collection routes with Advanced Disposal representatives and explore how a pilot study could “fit” in the existing collection system. In addition, understanding collection challenges and routes can help the Township make a more informed decision on where the pilot project could be implemented.

### **Program Logistics**

The Township’s desire to provide greater service to residents and increase the amount of materials diverted from disposal are important reasons for initiating a pilot project. Adding weight to these arguments is the expected interest and anticipated participation in a curbside yard waste collection program. About 60 percent of respondents to the Township’s residential yard waste collection survey indicated they would “very likely” or “likely” participate in a curbside collection program (see **Resident Survey** section of this report). This section provides some recommendations and parameters for the Township to consider in implementing a program.

### **Seasonality**

Programs that include the curbside collection of yard waste are some of the most widely variable programs in the State of Pennsylvania and around the country. The residential yard waste collection survey provided feedback on the potential seasonality of a curbside program. The duration of the program may also be affected by what materials are accepted as part of the program (see **Materials Accepted** section below). It is recommended the pilot project run for the spring, summer, and fall months. The Township may wish to modify the program to a seasonal spring and fall collection program if grass clippings are not accepted. Collecting data to represent all seasons will allow the Township to better gauge the demand for the program.

### **Collection Frequency**

Curbside collection frequency is another important parameter to establish. In an effort to balance the need for the Township to manage costs and maximize the amount of materials diverted as part of the program, SCS suggests the Township consider a twice per month or every other week (EOW) collection period. The residential yard waste collection survey found that 45 percent of respondents preferred EOW collection. EOW week collection mirrors the frequency of recyclable materials collection in the Township, so residents are already accustomed to that collection schedule. This frequency of collection is a middle-of-the-road approach to ease burdens on residents and municipal staff. EOW collection would potentially reduce the practice of residents comingling yard waste with solid waste and instead encourage them to store the materials for separate collection. This collection frequency may also be sufficient to reduce the burden on municipal collection crews of having to collect yard waste that has accumulated over an entire month, for example. To further control the burden of collection on staff, the Township could establish a limit on the number of bags, containers, or bundles picked-up on each collection day (see **Consider Pay-As-You-Throw Program** section above). A limit on the

amount of materials collected is reasonable considering residents have access to the yard waste drop-off collection site.

### **Materials Accepted**

The Township will need to work closely with FRCA to set the parameters for the types of materials to be accepted as part of a curbside collection program. Crews collecting yard waste will need to screen the materials to confirm they are acceptable.

### **Grass**

Grass clippings pose a challenge to yard waste collection programs. Yard waste collection programs that include grass require a greater degree of management, including collection that is often more frequent. The Township's current drop-off facility is not permitted to accept grass clippings. FRCA is permitted to accept grass clippings and does so from residents of member communities who bring the materials directly to the site in their personal vehicles. The Township will need to coordinate their yard waste collection program with FRCA so that materials are prepared and collected according to their requirements. This may require the Township to not accept grass clippings in their program or implement a separate grass collection program. Regardless of whether the Township implements a curbside yard waste collection program that includes grass clippings, significant public education and outreach will need to occur to provide instructions for how residents are to manage grass.

### **Yard Waste**

The Township's curbside collection program could accept yard waste materials such as branches, shrubs, and leaves. The Township will need to coordinate with FRCA to select what yard waste materials are acceptable and how they are to be prepared for collection and subsequent processing at the composting facility.

### **Containers**

SCS recommends that the Township require residents to supply their own containers for the collection of yard waste at the curb. Residents should be given specific guidelines on the size and shape of the containers to facilitate collection of the materials. Specifications should also be established for the labeling of containers for yard waste. In a PAYT program, residents would be required to place yard waste in excess of the allowable quantity in separate containers with special stickers or Township authorized bags that residents procure on their own.

### **User Fees**

Similar to how residents pay for recycling services, the cost for the curbside collection of yard waste should be incorporated into the municipal waste and recycling fee. This will encourage greater participation in the program than assessing a separate fee for the collection service. In a PAYT program, the cost of the collection and disposal services for a limited amount of yard waste would be established. Residents that produce more yard waste for disposal would pay additional fees to cover the collection and disposal costs of the materials. This usually requires residents to buy stickers to label containers or bags with additional materials.

### Costs at FRCA

The current rate the Township pays to FRCA is based on the number of residents in the Township, not the amount of yard waste generated and delivered to FRCA. Under the current agreement with FRCA, Allen Township costs are related to the population and the type of program where residents self-haul yard waste to a single drop-off site. If a curbside yard waste collection program is implemented, Allen Township will be the only member jurisdiction of FRCA that provides more programs than just a drop-off site. As a result, the increased service may divert larger quantities of yard waste to FRCA for processing. Hence, FRCA may need to reconsider the rate structure that applies to Allen Township if a curbside program is implemented. Prior to launching a curbside collection program, Township officials should meet with staff from FRCA to discuss the impacts the curbside program may have on their rates.

### Site Visit

Implementing a curbside yard waste collection program is complex. One of the best ways to plan and launch a program is by learning from other jurisdictions who have implemented a similar program. SCS encourages Allen Township representatives to visit and tour other local townships that provide curbside yard waste collection services to residents, specifically Whitehall Township. Whitehall Township provides curbside collection of yard waste, grass clippings, and leaves on a seasonal schedule. Whitehall Township contracts with FRCA to provide for the processing and disposal of the source-separated materials. The Township’s residential curbside collection program consists of two programs: 1) Yard waste; and, 2) Grass clippings and leaves:

- **Yard Waste** – Yard waste is collected curbside weekly March through November on the same day as the collection of trash. Yard waste includes shrubs, hedge clippings, weeds, and tree branches. Residents are limited to four bundles or four 50-gallon containers each collection day.
- **Grass Clippings/Leaves** – The Township also provides for the separate curbside collection of grass clippings and leaves on the day after the collection of trash and yard waste. This program starts the beginning of April with the collection of grass clippings and transitions to the collection of leaves in the fall. Materials must be placed in open rigid containers so it can be easily identified and screened by collection crews.

Mr. William Bedics of FRCA is interested in coordinating a tour and meeting with Whitehall Township so that Allen Township representatives can observe collection operations and understand how a curbside program can be implemented successfully. Mr. Bedics can be contacted by phone at (610) 262-1000 or by email at [frca6701@frcaweb.org](mailto:frca6701@frcaweb.org).

### DROP-OFF COLLECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Maintain Drop-Off Site

SCS recommends the Township maintain the current yard waste drop-off site at the Township’s Municipal Buildings for residents to use at their convenience. Feedback from the residential

yard waste collection survey established that residents support and use the site. Many residents commented on how they complete yard work and find it convenient to take their yard waste directly to the drop-off site immediately after they complete their project. Residents indicated they are not interested in storing yard waste on their property until it is collected. Some residents indicated that the quantity of yard waste they produce would make it difficult if not impossible to use a curbside collection service. The Township should continually track the amount of materials collected at the drop-off site and consider implementing a program to track the number of residents that use the site in order to evaluate how a curbside collection program may compliment the drop-off site.



Collection container at the leaf and brush drop-off site

**Modify Collection Containers**

The Township uses large roll-off containers provided by FRCA for the collection of yard waste at the drop-off facility. These containers stand approximately four to five feet high making placement of yard waste materials in them challenging. As a result, yard waste materials are often left on the ground next to the containers. The Township and FRCA should consider modifying how yard waste materials are collected at the site either by using containers that are smaller to facilitate placement of materials or by redesigning the site so that residents can place materials in them without needing to lift them over their head.

**Utilize Security Measures**

The Township’s drop-off facility is unmanned and is open to the public 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Although the Township installed a gate as a condition of the site’s permitting requirement, it is often left open to make the site as accessible as possible. A network of security cameras provide 24-hour video surveillance of the property. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has established permitting requirements for operating a permit-by-rule yard waste composting facility less than five acres. The guidelines established for these facilities include provisions for access control. The access controls requirements include the following:

- 1) A gate or other barrier shall be maintained at all potential vehicular access points to block unauthorized access to the site.
- 2) Access to the site shall be limited to those times when an attendant is on duty.

DEP’s guidelines for yard waste composting facilities are provided in **Appendix A**. Of the five municipalities partnered with FRCA to host a yard waste drop-off site, the Allen Township drop-off site is the only one that is open at all times for use. While this provides for convenient access to the site, it goes against the guidelines established by DEP and sets the program up for misuse by residents and non-residents. The Township indicates they have issues with illegal dumping at the site. Illegal dumping increases the costs to the Township to maintain the site due to the labor involved in cleaning up and properly disposing of the illegally dumped materials. Open access to the site also increases the risks for contamination that negatively impact the quality of the yard waste accepted at the site.



Notification posted at entrance to the leaf and brush drop-off site

SCS recommends that the Township close the gates at the drop-off site to restrict access during the evening and overnight hours when no staff is onsite. Additional security measures should be considered if closing the gate does not mitigate the illegal dumping and contamination concerns currently experienced. To maintain convenient operating hours to serve residents, the Township could arrange to have the site open on Saturdays or possibly one evening a week. For example, the Lower Nazareth Township yard waste collection site is open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.

### Update “Brush Pile” Ordinance

In 1995, the Township Supervisors passed the Allen Township Brush Pile Ordinance. This ordinance was implemented to regulate what is disposed of at the Township’s drop-off collection area and to establish a permitting system to use the site. The ordinance simply states that in order to dispose of yard waste at the site, an individual will need to obtain a permit and pay a “permit fee” to the Township. The issued permit will dictate how materials are to be deposited at the site. The ordinance is outdated, as the Township no longer requires a permit or permit fee to use the drop-off location. This ordinance should be modernized to reflect the current requirements for use of the site. Updates to the ordinance should address site operating hours, separation of materials, placement of materials, and a prohibition on illegal dumping. Finally, the ordinance should not refer to the site as a “brush pile” but instead reflect the site’s set-up and use as a yard waste convenience center.

## EDUCATION

Public education and outreach are central to the success of the Township’s yard waste management program. The success of a new curbside yard waste collection program will be tied to the education and outreach efforts of the Township both prior to implementing the program and once it is in operation.

The type of media the Township uses to educate residents should be varied. It should include print materials, announcements in local newspapers or on the local cable channel, social media, website, and face-to-face interaction. Prior to implementing the program, the Township should issue a letter to all households announcing the program and providing details on how it will work and what the expectations will be. Follow-up public meetings and information sessions should be scheduled in order to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification on program logistics. Continual education should occur using a variety of methods in order to increase the visibility of the program and provide information on how to participate successfully.

## RESIDENT SURVEY

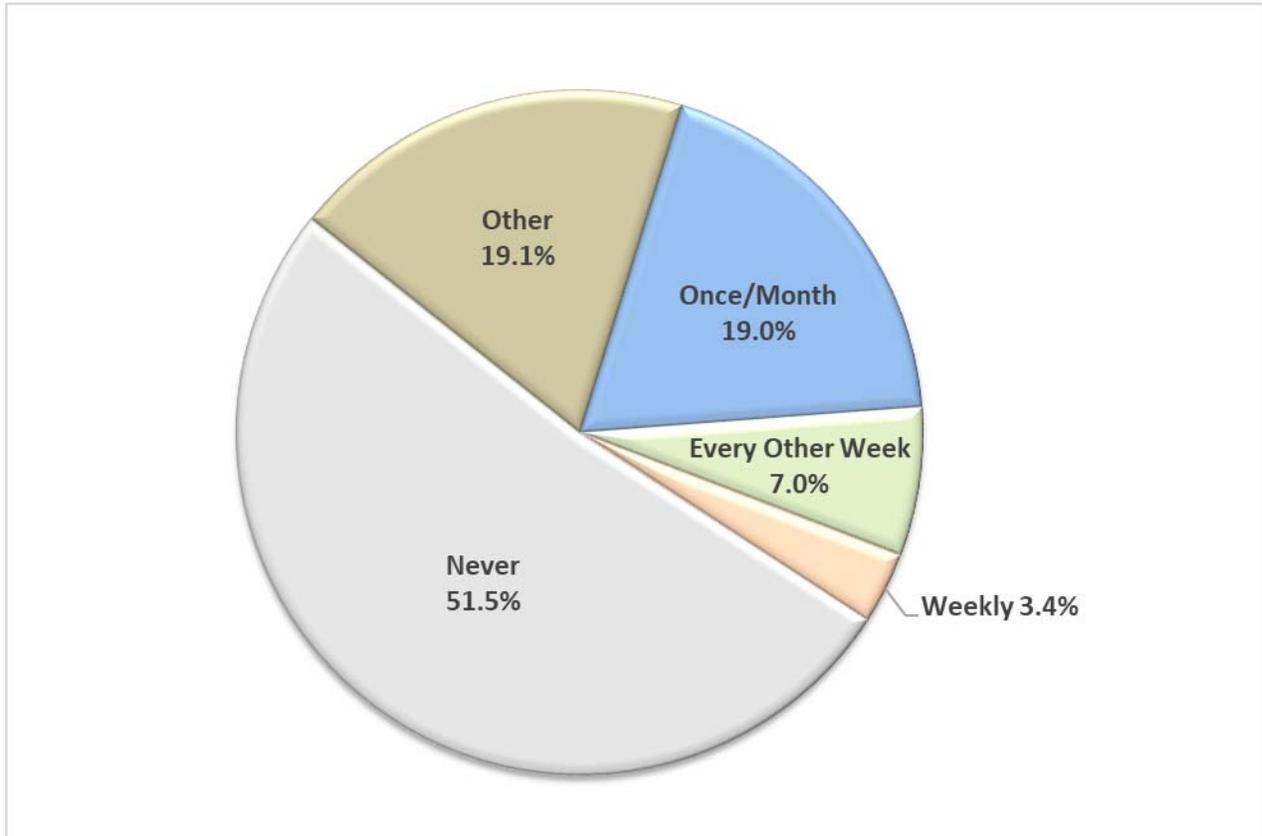
To gauge resident's interest and participation in the curbside collection of yard waste, the Township issued a survey that was developed by SCS Engineers to solicit feedback on program options. Allen Township distributed the survey to 1,900 households in the Township via the U.S. Postal Service and included a postage paid stamped return envelope for residents to mail the survey back to the Township. The Township collected responses over about two months. Nearly 750 residents completed and returned the survey – providing for an astonishing response rate of nearly 40 percent. Results of this unscientific survey are provided in this section. **Appendix B** includes a sample of the survey.

### Usage of Drop-Off Facilities

The first question asked residents to identify how many times in the last year have they brought yard waste to the Township's drop-off facility. **Figure 1** summarizes the results to this question. Over 50 percent of residents responding to the survey indicated they have not used the Township's yard waste drop-off site in the last year. Few comments were provided by survey participants on this question, but of residents who indicated they have not used the drop-off location some stated that either they were new to the Township or they were not aware the drop-off site existed.

About 20 percent of residents surveyed selected "other" with respect to how often they use the Township drop-off facility. This response could also be defined as the "less than once a month" option as residents selecting "other" indicated they use the site occasionally during specific seasons (usually spring and fall) or just one or two times per year when they clean-up their yard. About the same percentage of respondents (19 percent) use the drop-off location once a month, with a significantly smaller portion of residents using the site on an every other week (seven percent) or weekly (3.4 percent) basis.

**Figure 1. Residents Use of Township Drop-Off Facility**



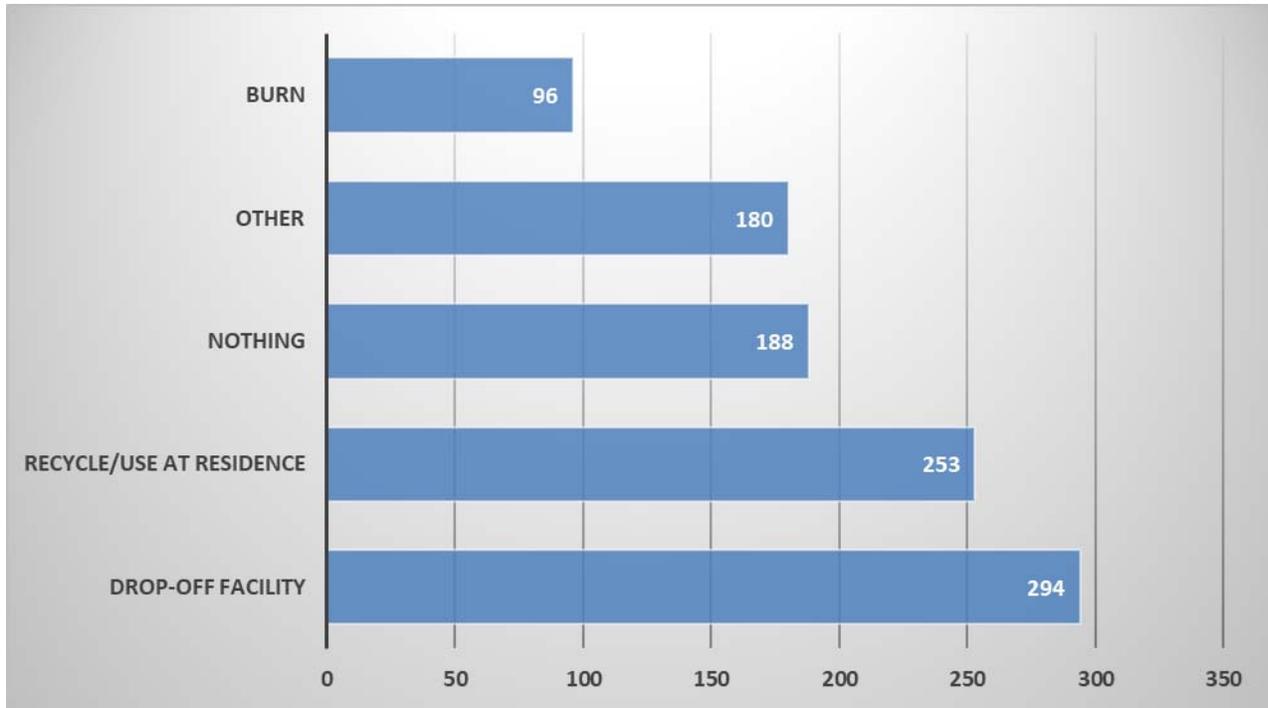
**Management of Yard Debris**

The second question on the survey asked residents what they do with yard waste generated on their properties. This multiple-choice question allowed residents to select all applicable options to account for how they manage and dispose of yard waste. Residents responding to this question often indicated they manage yard waste differently depending on the type of material generated (i.e. leaves, branches, grass, etc.). The results of this question are summarized in **Figure 2**.

Most residents indicated that they either bring yard waste to the Township or FRCA drop-off locations or manage the materials on their own properties (i.e. mulch grass, stockpile trees or branches in wooded areas, etc.). Many survey respondents (188 people) also stated they do “nothing” with their yard waste, indicating that grass, leaves, and/or branches on their property are not collected and processed. A significant number of people (180) stated that they manage yard waste in “other” ways. The predominant way yard waste is managed by these individuals is through disposal with their household trash. Although the amount of yard waste disposed of in trash cannot be estimated from this survey, it is clear yard waste is placed with trash and a potential curbside collection program could focus on diverting this material. Some residents also indicated they have landscaping or lawn companies provide services on their property. Yard waste generated by the lawn service company’s activities is removed from a residents’ property

and handled/managed by the company. Nearly 100 people also indicate they burn yard waste as a method managing the materials.

**Figure 2. How Residents Manage Yard Waste on their Property**



**Participation in Curbside Yard Waste Collection Program**

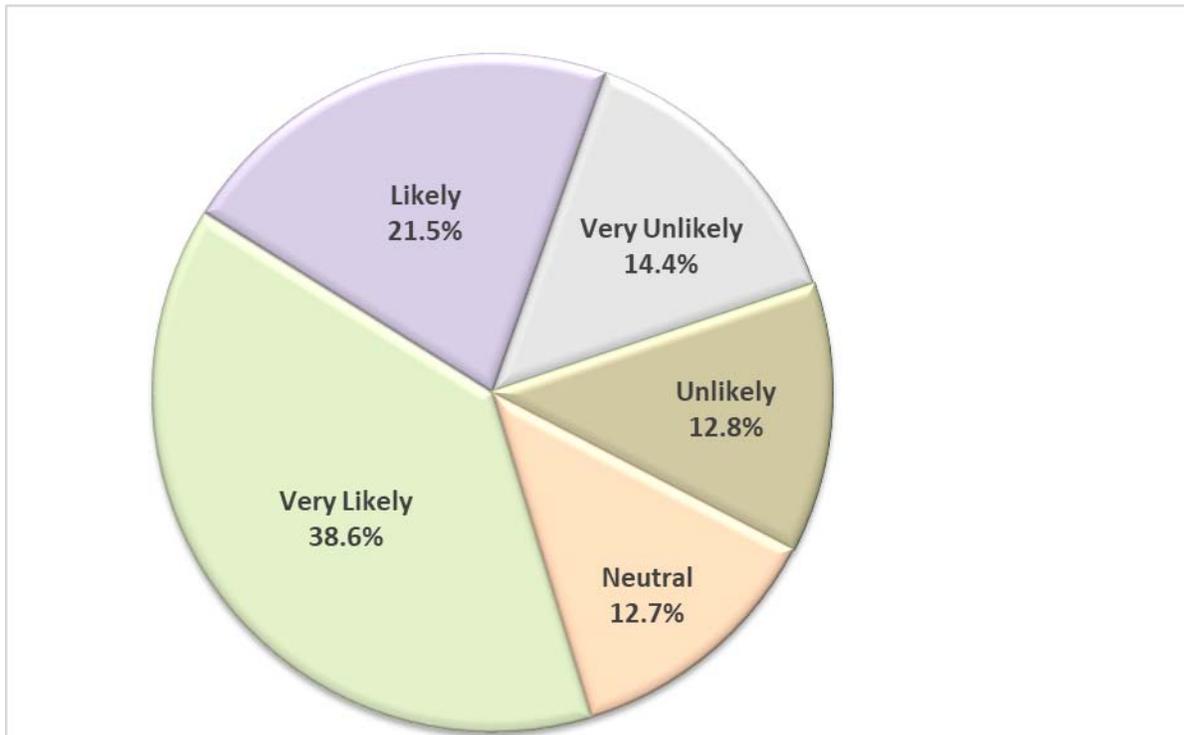
The survey asked residents to rank their likelihood of participating in a curbside yard waste collection program should one be implemented in the Township. The survey did not provide details on a conceptual design of a program or address program costs. The question sought to gauge residents’ interest in such a program. The results to this survey question are provide in **Figure 3**.

About 60 percent of survey respondents indicated they would “likely” or “very likely” participate in a curbside yard waste collection program. Residents who indicated their anticipated participation in such a program stated the following reasons for the participation:

- Convenience;
- Unable to transport yard waste to the drop-off sites;
- Produce significant quantities of yard waste needing disposal;
- Use to service as they lived in other municipalities/locations where this service was provided.

Just over 27 percent of residents who completed a survey indicated they were “very unlikely” or “unlikely” to participate in such a program. Many residents who specified they were not likely to participate in the program were concerned about increases to taxes and/or solid waste fees. Some respondents suggested a program could work if residents who wanted the service paid a user fee while residents that did not think it was necessary were not forced to pay for the service. Several residents also indicated that the Township’s drop-off program served their needs as yard waste could be brought to the site at any time. Those respondents noted curbside service would actually be less convenient for them since they would have to store yard waste on their property until the next curbside collection day.

**Figure 3. Curbside Yard Waste Collection Program Participation**



**Curbside Program Design**

The survey asked residents who indicated they would be “very likely” or “likely” to participate in a curbside yard waste collection program to select their preference for program availability and frequency.

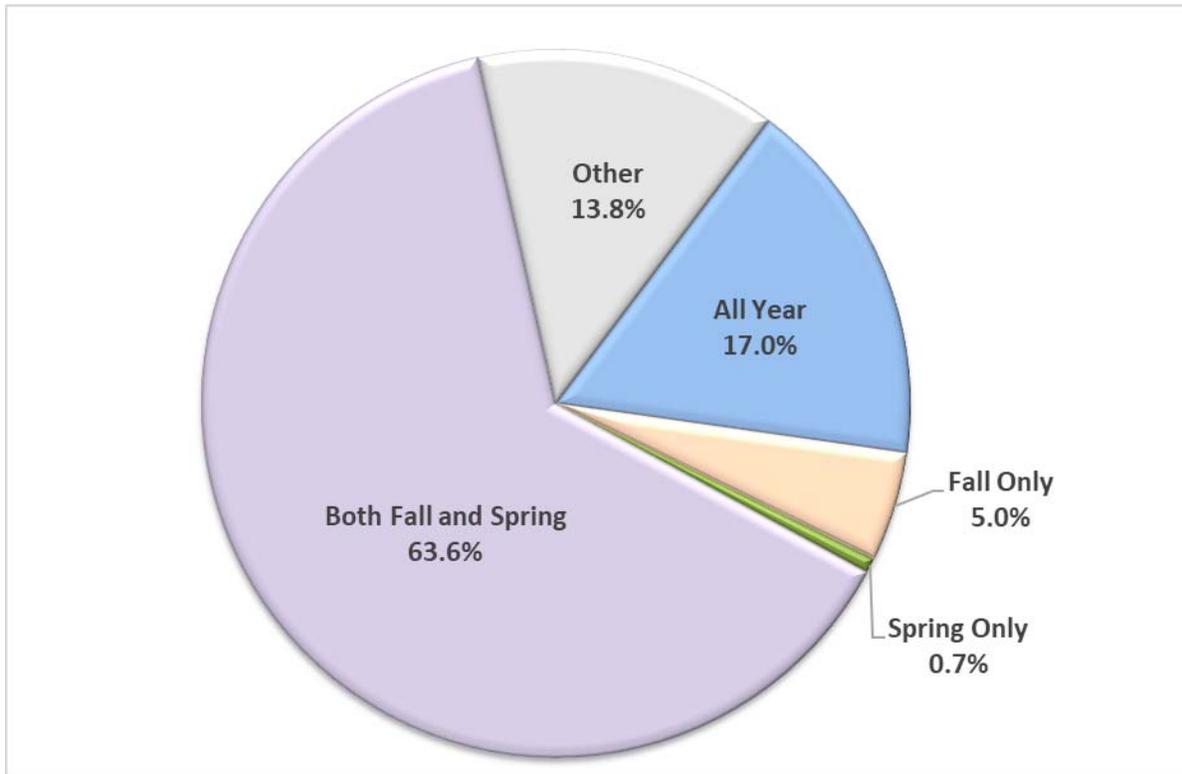
**Seasonal Collection**

The types and quantities of yard waste generated at households can vary from season to season. In Northeast Pennsylvania where Allen Township is located, four distinct seasons affect the generation of yard waste. The survey requested feedback on which seasons should be considered for providing curbside collection of yard waste. The results are summarized in **Figure 4**. Overwhelmingly, nearly 64 percent of respondents thought that a curbside yard waste collection

program should be in place for the spring and fall months. Another 17 percent preferred that the program be in place all year.

About 14 percent of respondents indicated “other” for their preference in offering yard waste collection. Most people who selected “other” indicated the curbside program should be in place during the spring, summer, and fall. A small number of residents who selected “other” indicated curbside collection of yard waste should be done for a short period after a significant storm event damages vegetation in the Township. Small numbers of residents indicated that a fall only (5 percent) or spring only (<1 percent) curbside collection schedule would suffice to adequately serve residents.

**Figure 4. Seasonal Collection of Yard Waste**

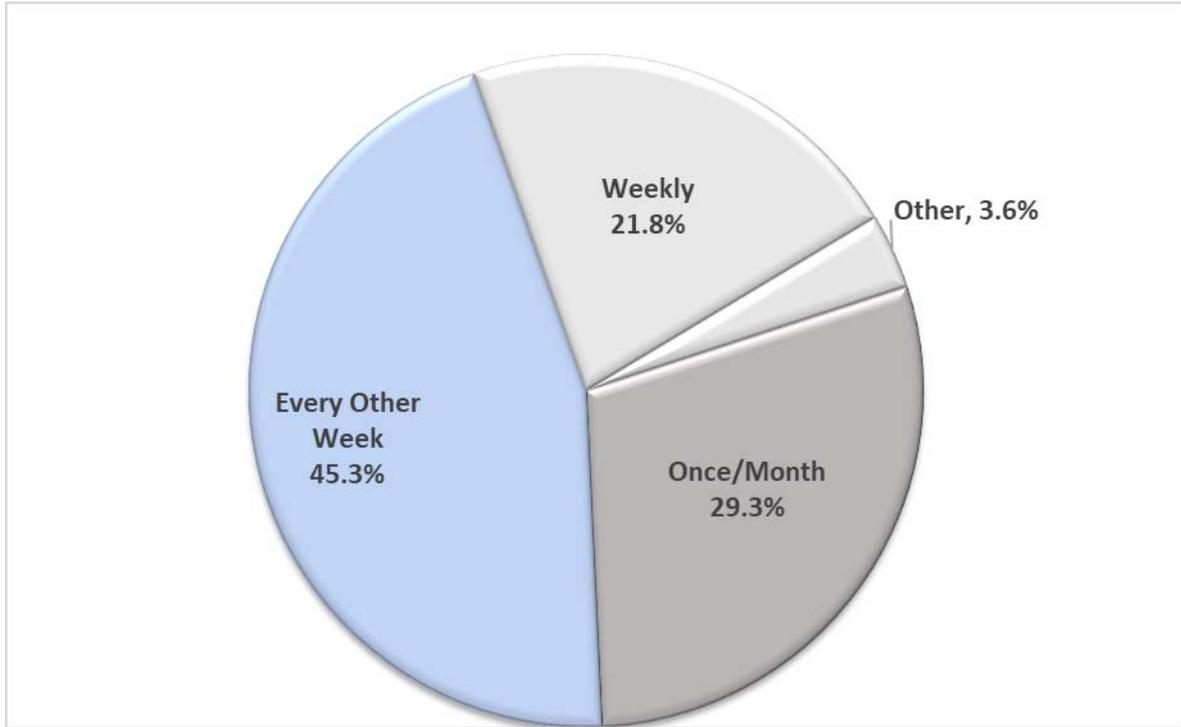


**Frequency**

The survey also asked residents to indicate their preference for the frequency of a curbside collection program. **Figure 5** provides the results of the survey.

Residents had a more varying opinion on how often yard waste should be collected curbside. Just over 45 percent of residents indicated that every other week collection is sufficient. About 29 percent of residents indicated that once a month curbside collection is desirable while about 22 percent of residents requested weekly collection. A small number of residents (3.6 percent) indicated another collection frequency such as quarterly or bi-annually.

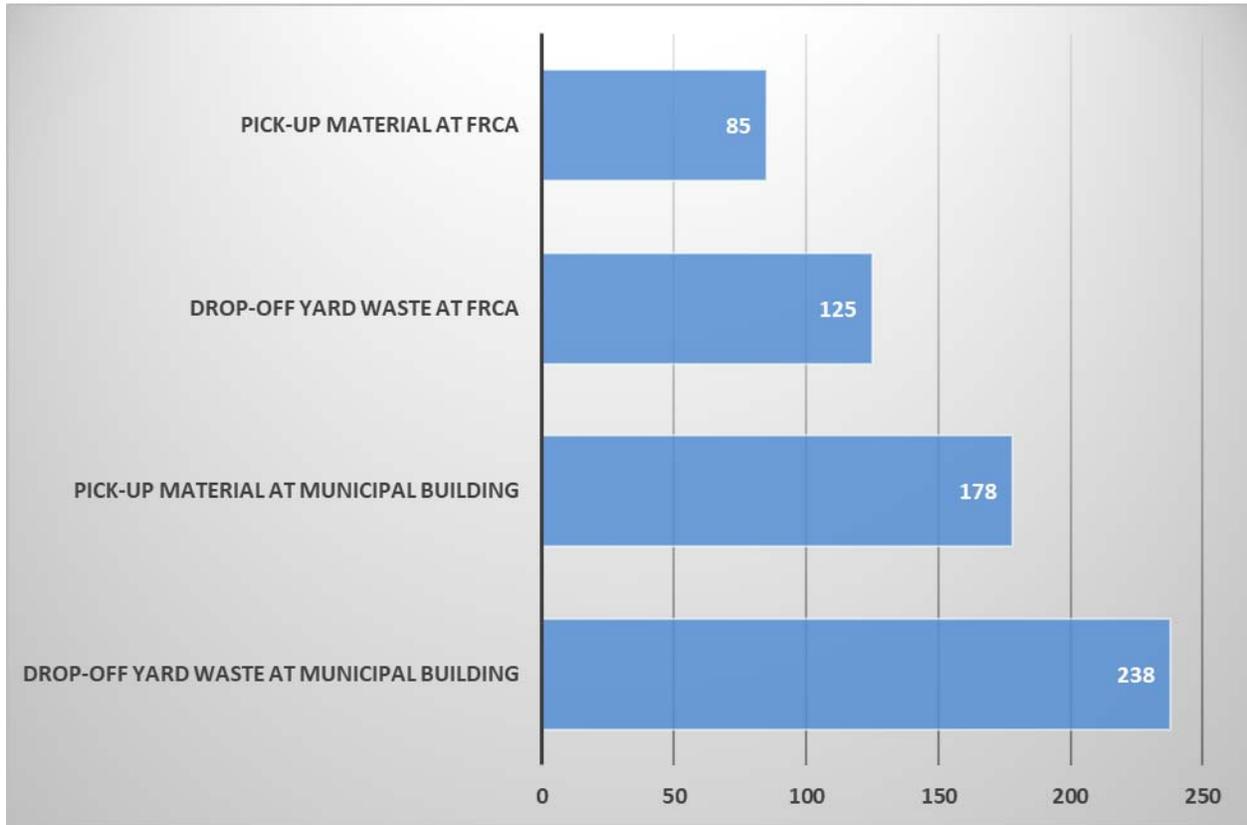
**Figure 5. Frequency of Yard Waste Collection**



**Use of Drop-off Locations**

The final question of the survey asked residents to indicate if they drop-off yard waste or pick-up mulch/compost at the Township’s drop-off site or the FRCA’s composting site on Weaversville Road. The number of residents responding to the survey that utilize each site for dropping-off or picking-up materials is summarized in **Figure 6**.

**Figure 6. Use of Township or FRCA Drop-Off Sites**



**Additional Considerations**

The survey provided residents the opportunity to share their additional thoughts on the curbside collection of yard waste. Although most of the notes and observations made by residents are discussed above to explain responses or preferences to individual survey questions, some additional comments made by residents included:

- Desire to have weekly collection of recyclable materials over the curbside collection of yard waste.
- Concern that curbside yard waste collection could result in materials blowing on roads or streets.
- Interest in the Township implementing/expanding programs to divert hazardous waste and electronics.
- Convenience of curbside collection as some residents do not have access to trucks or vehicles that can transport yard waste to the drop-off site.
- Consider a vacuum collection program each fall for leaves.

## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

SCS recommends the Township carefully consider implementing a pilot project for the curbside collection of yard waste. The pilot project should run from the spring through the fall or if grass clippings are not included in the program, just the spring and fall seasons. SCS recommends an every other week collection period that limits residents to two containers or bundles of yard waste per collection day. Details of the pilot project should include consideration of the requirements for preparing and packaging yard waste materials for collection and coordination with FRCA to confirm the materials collected are of acceptable quality for processing. The pilot project should include a cross-section of residents from low-, medium-, and high-density population areas. The Township could meet with Whitehall Township representatives to discuss their curbside program and use their experience to make decisions on how the program could be set-up.

It will be important for the Township to collect data during the pilot project on material quantities, resident participation, and equipment and labor costs to evaluate further the viability of the program. Throughout the pilot project, the Township should encourage participants to provide feedback on how the program could be improved and serve residents better. Near the conclusion of the pilot project, residents should be asked to complete a more formal survey that will help the Township make decisions on whether the program should be implemented Township-wide, and if so, what changes should be made.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Curbside collection of yard waste provides an opportunity for the Township to divert additional materials from disposal while providing a greater service to residents. The Township will need to find the right balance between providing this service with its costs. Equally important will be implementing a program that provides feedstock for FRCA to process into quality compost and mulch products.

Appendix A  
PA DEP Guidelines for Yard Waste Composting Facilities

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**Bureau of Waste Management**

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** 254-5403-100

**TITLE:** Guidelines for Yard Waste Composting Facilities

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 1997  
Minor changes made January 6, 2009

**AUTHORITY:** Solid Waste Management Act (35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 et seq.) and regulations at 25 Pa. Code Chapters 271, 281, and 285 (the “municipal waste regulations”).

**POLICY:** It is the Department’s policy to provide a person, municipality, or county with the information necessary to operate a yard waste compost facility.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this document is to provide instructions and operating procedures for the operation of a yard waste composting facility operating under permit-by-rule.

**APPLICABILITY:** This guidance applies to all persons, municipalities, and counties who own or operate a yard waste composting facility operating under 25 Pa. Code Section 271.103(h) Permit-By-Rule.

**DISCLAIMER:** The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DEP to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

**PAGE LENGTH:** 19 pages

**LOCATION:** Volume 6 Tab 27

**DEFINITIONS:** The definitions listed below are found in 25 Pa. Code Section 271.1.

**“Yard Waste”:** Leaves, grass clippings, garden residue, tree trimmings, chipped shrubbery, and other vegetative material.

**“Yard Waste Composting Facility”:** A facility that is used to compost leaf waste, or leaf waste and grass clippings, garden residue, tree trimmings, chipped shrubbery, and other vegetative material. The term includes land affected during the lifetime of the operation, including, but

not limited to, areas where composting actually occurs, support facilities, borrow areas, offices, equipment sheds, air and water pollution control and treatment systems, access roads, associated on-site or contiguous collection and transportation activities, and other activities in which the natural surface has been disturbed as a result of or incidental to operation of the facility.

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## INTRODUCTION

Composting has been demonstrated to be an effective waste management technique that can produce a useful end-product while diverting a portion of the wastestream from disposal. It has been estimated that yard wastes--including leaves, trimmings, grass, and related yard debris--can comprise up to 18 percent of the municipal waste stream, with a greater percentage realized in some municipalities on a seasonal basis.

Certain yard waste composting facilities are eligible for permit-by-rule under Section 271.103(h) of the municipal waste regulations if they comply with these guidelines. Section 271.103(h) provides that a person, municipality, or county that operates a yard waste composting facility that is less than 5 acres, other than an individual backyard composting facility, shall be deemed to have a municipal waste processing permit-by-rule if the person, municipality, or county meets the requirements of Subsections 271.103(a)-(c)(relating to storage, PPC plan, daily records, financial assurances, and inappropriate activity), and the facility is operated in accordance with these guidelines on yard waste composting.

These guidelines have been established to promote yard waste composting and reuse in the Commonwealth while providing protection to human health and the environment. Health or environmental problems, resulting from the improper operation of a yard waste composting facility operated under Section 271.103(h), will be treated in the same manner as health or environmental problems at other solid waste management facilities.

More than 450 municipalities and counties in the Commonwealth are conducting yard waste collection and composting programs. In an effort to increase awareness of the benefits of composting and to promote the proper environmental and technical practices involved, the Department has designated several of these facilities as yard waste composting demonstration sites. Many of the other sites also present backyard composting demonstrations for homeowners. The Department has developed a reference manual, brochures, and educational videos to provide further information. To learn more about these and other related resources, contact your DEP regional office or the Web site at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us).

Yard waste composting operations must comply with these guidelines to comply with Section 271.103(h) of the municipal waste regulations. Please contact your DEP regional office for further information.

## DEP REGIONAL OFFICES

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>REGION 1:</b> | DEP SOUTHEAST REGION<br>2 East Main Street<br>Norristown, PA 19401<br>Telephone: 484-250-5960                  | Counties Served:<br>Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia  |
| <b>REGION 2:</b> | DEP NORTHEAST REGION<br>2 Public Square<br>Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790<br>Telephone: 717-826-2516              | Counties Served:<br>Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming                             |
| <b>REGION 3:</b> | DEP SOUTHCENTRAL REGION<br>909 Elmerton Avenue<br>Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200<br>Telephone: 717-705-4706         | Counties Served:<br>Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York  |
| <b>REGION 4:</b> | DEP NORTHCENTRAL REGION<br>208 West 3rd Street, Suite 101<br>Williamsport, PA 17701<br>Telephone: 717-327-3653 | Counties Served:<br>Bradford, Cameron, Center, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union |
| <b>REGION 5:</b> | DEP SOUTHWEST REGION<br>400 Waterfront Drive<br>Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745<br>Telephone: 412-442-4000           | Counties Served:<br>Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland                                 |
| <b>REGION 6:</b> | DEP NORTHWEST REGION<br>230 Chestnut Street<br>Meadville, PA 16335-3481<br>Telephone: 814-332-6848             | Counties Served:<br>Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren                                  |

## **TECHNICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE OPERATION OF A YARD WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY UNDER PERMIT-BY-RULE**

A person, municipality, or county that operates a yard waste composting facility under permit-by-rule shall comply with these guidelines, as required by 25 Pa. Code Section 271.103(h).

### **General Requirements**

The following operational information must be submitted to the Department on the attached Yard Waste Composting Facility Application Form:

- a. The name, address, and telephone number of the operator of the facility.
- b. The sponsoring municipality or county (where applicable).
- c. The location of the facility, including identification of the site by outlying perimeter site boundaries on a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic map.
- d. Proof that the operator has the legal right to enter the land and perform the approved activities.
- e. A general site plan drawn to scale for the facility indicating the following:
  - i. The location of access roads and gates in relation to public and private roads, wells, and property lines.
  - ii. The location of the tipping area.
  - iii. The location of the processing area, including compost piles and windrows.
  - iv. The location of storage and curing areas.
  - v. Surface water controls.
- f. The operational narrative describing:
  - i. The yard waste collection methods that will be employed by the facility.
  - ii. The methods that will be utilized at the facility to construct compost piles.
  - iii. The proposed dimensions of compost piles and windrows at the facility.
  - iv. The source of supplemental water that will be used to maintain an optimal 50 percent moisture content of compost piles or windrows at the facility.
  - v. The proposed method of turning windrows, the turning frequency for composting at the facility and the method for determining that frequency.

- vi. The proposed duration of the composting process, including curing time, storage time, and the proposed term of compost distribution.
  - vii. A plan for the marketing and distribution of the finished compost.
  - viii. A residue disposal plan, including the location of disposal sites.
  - ix. Provisions for emergency response.
  - x. A public information and education program.
- g. The projected volume of material that will be processed by the facility during the calendar year.

### **Siting Restrictions**

Yard waste composting operations, including storage, composting, and curing, shall not occur in the following areas or the following distances, unless the operator takes special precautions and receives written authorization from the Department:

- a. In a 100-year flood plain.
- 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 300 feet measured horizontally from an occupied dwelling unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.
- f. Within 50 feet of a property line, unless the operator demonstrates that only curing of compost is occurring within that distance.
- g. Within 300 feet of a water source.
- h. Within 3.3 feet of a regional groundwater water table.
- i. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream.

### **Access Control**

- 1. A gate or other barrier shall be maintained at all potential vehicular access points to block unauthorized access to the site.
- 2. Access to the site shall be limited to those times when an attendant is on duty.

## Operational Requirements

1. No person, municipality, or county shall bring to or receive any material at a yard waste composting facility other than shrubbery and tree trimmings that have been shredded or chipped, unless shredding or chipping is provided at the facility, leaves, grass, and similar related yard debris.
2. The Department may prohibit the use of grass clippings at a yard waste composting facility if the grass clippings cause or contribute to nuisances, or if the site is adversely affecting, or has potential to adversely affect, the citizens or environment of the Commonwealth. Grass clippings shall not be brought to or received at a yard waste composting facility unless:
  - a. Grass clippings delivered to the yard waste composting facility in bulk, bags or other collection containers are emptied of all grass clippings within 24 hours of delivery to the facility.
  - b. Grass clippings are incorporated into the windrows of partially composted leaves or other yard waste within twenty-four (24) hours of delivery to the facility.
  - c. Grass clippings are incorporated into the partially composted windrows of partially composted leaves or other yard waste at a ratio not to exceed one part grass clippings to three parts yard waste, by volume.
3. No more than 3,000 cubic yards of yard waste shall be placed, stored, or processed on any acre of a facility where composting activity occurs or is planned to occur.
4. A person, municipality, or county operating a yard waste composting facility shall, for the duration of yard waste composting activities, identify the operation by posting and maintaining signs that are clearly visible at the junction of each access road and public road. The signs shall be easily seen and read. They should be constructed of a durable, weather-resistant material. The sign wording shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s), municipality(ies), or county(ies) operating the facility, the operating hours, and the materials that can be received by the facility.
5. Each yard waste composting facility shall be operated in a manner which results in the active biological decomposition of the vegetative material received.
6. Yard waste compost piles or windrows shall be constructed and maintained as follows:
  - a. The compost area shall be constructed in a well drained area with a workable surface and slope of 2-4 percent to prevent ponding and control surface water.
  - b. The size of the compost piles or windrows should not exceed eight feet in height or sixteen feet in width unless the composting technology can adequately manage the compost piles, and is approved by the Department.
  - c. Compost piles or windrows shall be constructed within one week following receipt of compostable material at the facility.

- d. During the active composting process, the optimal moisture content of the windrows or compost piles shall range from 40 to 60 percent to promote decomposition.
  - e. All surface water shall be diverted away from tipping, processing, composting, curing and storage areas. Surface water controls shall be based on a 24-hour precipitation event to be expected once every 25 years. Proper drainage must be maintained to prevent ponding and excessive moisture.
  - f. To promote decomposition, compost piles and windrows shall be turned and reconstructed at least once every three (3) months. A higher turning frequency may be required, depending on the composting technology unless the composting technology requires more intensive management.
7. The operator shall maintain sufficient distance between windrows or piles to allow the proper use of equipment during the deposit, removal, and turning of the compost.
  8. The operator shall establish an adequate frequency for inspecting the facility to detect hot spots in any composting, curing or storage areas, dust or litter accumulation, surface water accumulation, erosion or sedimentation, vectors, odors, and other problems. The operator shall take prompt, necessary corrective actions.
  9. The operator shall not allow compostable materials or residues to be blown or otherwise deposited offsite.

### **Residue Disposal**

1. The operator shall not allow non-compostable residues or solid waste other than yard waste to accumulate at the facility, and shall provide for proper disposal or processing.
2. Yard waste and other municipal waste received at the facility that are not suitable for composting shall be removed weekly and disposed or processed at a permitted municipal waste facility.

### **Nuisance Control**

1. The operator shall not cause or allow the attraction, harborage, or breeding of vectors.
2. The operator 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.

### **Emergency Response**

1. Adequate space shall be maintained to allow the unobstructed movement of emergency personnel and equipment.
2. The operator of each yard waste composting facility 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, and welfare, or the environment, and whenever necessary in the event of personal injury.

**Air Resources Protection**

1. The operator shall implement fugitive dust control measures.
2. No person, municipality, or county shall cause or allow open burning at the facility.

**Water Quality Protection**

1. The operator shall manage surface water and control erosion and sedimentation in accordance with the requirements of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102, Erosion Control.
2. The operator shall not cause or allow a point or non-point source pollution discharge from or on the facility to any surface waters of the Commonwealth.



## YARD WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY APPLICATION FORM

Please familiarize yourself with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection GUIDELINES FOR YARD WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITIES prior to filling out this form.

1. Operator (Name and Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of Facility \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of Facility \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(include Access Road Name and Legislative Route Number)

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 City-Borough-Township \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsoring Municipality (where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic map identifying the yard waste composting facility site boundaries outlined on it.

Provide proof the operator has the legal right to enter the land and perform the approved activities.

3. The proposed composting method \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Acres of the composting facility \_\_\_\_\_  
 The maximum quantity of yard waste and composted materials to be on the site at any one time:  
 Yard waste in cubic yards \_\_\_\_\_  
 Finished compost in cubic yards \_\_\_\_\_

4. Prepare and include in this application a general site plan\* for the facility which illustrates the location of the following items:  
 Access roads in relation to the nearest public road and private roads, wells, and property lines  
 Tipping area  
 Gate location  
 Surface water controls, erosion and sedimentation controls  
 Processing area including location, orientation, and size of compost piles or windrows  
 Curing or storage areas  
 North arrow scale of drawing

*\*Please note that a hand drawn sketch that includes site dimensions is acceptable. An engineer's drawing is not required.*

5. Please address the following items: (attach additional sheet(s) if necessary)

- Provide a complete list of source(s) of yard waste to be received.

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- Describe how the yard waste will be collected and received at the facility.

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- Describe the method for inspecting incoming yard waste and for removing unacceptable material.

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- Describe the windrow construction methods including equipment to be used.

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- Describe the windrow size: Initial dimensions will be \_\_\_\_\_ wide x \_\_\_\_\_ high x \_\_\_\_\_ long.

- Describe the source of supplemental water which will be used to maintain an optimal 40 to 60% moisture content of compost piles or windrows.

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- Indicate the frequency of windrow turning. \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate the temperature range to be maintained. \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate the method of windrow turning. \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe method for determining turning frequency.

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- Describe the approximate duration of the composting cycle (in days). \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe the composting process. \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe the curing period for compost. \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate the time required for storage and distribution. \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate the total time required for the composting operation. \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the marketing and distribution plan for the finished compost product.

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- Describe the residue disposal plan and identify the disposal or processing site(s) to be used.

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- Describe the plan for emergency response (fire, police, etc.).

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- Outline the public information and education program (attach samples of literature if available).

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## LAND APPLICATION OF YARD WASTE

A municipality or county that collects yard waste and delivers it to any person to land apply as part of a normal farming operation, shall comply with the following guidelines in order to comply with the permit-by-rule requirements of 25 Pa. Code Section 271.103(h).

### General Requirements

1. A municipality or county must notify the Department with the following information:
  - a. Sponsoring municipality or county.
  - b. Responsible official/contact person, including name, address, and telephone number.
  - c. Location, including identification of the site on a U.S.G.S. 7.5' topographic map.
  - d. Operational plan:
    - i. A general site plan must be included which contains the following information for land application sites:
      - A. Access road
      - B. Tipping area
      - C. Surface water controls (tipping area only)
      - D. Farm soil conservation plan and nutrient management plan.
    - ii. The operational narrative must include a description of each of the following:
      - A. Operational hours for receiving yard waste
      - B. Land application and incorporation frequency
      - C. Plan for removal of yard waste from bags
      - D. Spreading and incorporation methods and frequency
      - E. Source of leaves and grass clippings.
    - iii. Volume of yard waste processed during the previous year or expected to be processed during the first year of operation.

### Operational Requirements

1. All surface water shall be diverted away from the tipping or storage area. Proper drainage must be maintained to prevent ponding.

2. Yard waste should be delivered to the farm in bulk. Where bags or other containers are used for collection, the bags or containers must be emptied of all yard waste delivered to the farm by the end of each day.
3. The Department may prohibit the use of grass clippings at the farm if the grass clippings cause or contribute to nuisances, or if the site has the potential to adversely affect the citizens or environment of the Commonwealth. Grass clippings shall not be brought to or received at a farm unless:
  - a. The grass clippings are delivered to the farm in bulk. Where bags or other containers are used for collection, the bags and containers must be emptied of the grass clippings delivered to the farm by the end of each day.
  - b. The grass clippings are to be spread in layers not to exceed six (6) inches in depth within one (1) week of delivery to the site.
  - c. Grass clippings mixed with manure and stored in an acceptable manure storage facility may be stored for up to 120 days, provided the storage of the material does not create a nuisance or environmental impact.
4. The operator shall not allow compostable materials or residues to be blown or otherwise deposited offsite.
5. No yard waste may be disposed of in waters of the Commonwealth.

### **Residue Disposal**

1. The operator shall not allow non-compostable residues or solid waste other than yard waste to accumulate at the farm, and shall provide for proper disposal or processing.
2. Yard waste and other municipal waste that is received at the farm, that is not suitable for land application, shall be removed weekly and disposed or processed at a permitted municipal waste facility.

### **Nuisance Control**

1. The operator shall not cause or allow the attraction, harborage, or breeding of vectors.
2. The operator shall not cause or allow conditions that are harmful to the environment or public health, or that create safety hazards, odors, noise, and other public nuisances.

### **Air Resources Protection**

1. The operator shall implement fugitive dust control measures when necessary.
2. No person, municipality, or county shall cause or allow open burning at the facility.

## **Water Quality Protection**

1. The operator shall manage surface water and control erosion and sedimentation in accordance with the requirements of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102, Erosion Control.
2. The operator shall not cause or allow a point or non-point source pollution discharge from or on the facility to any surface waters of the Commonwealth.



## LAND APPLICATION OF YARD WASTE APPLICATION FORM

Please familiarize yourself with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection GUIDELINES FOR LAND APPLICATION OF YARD WASTE prior to filling out this form.

1. Sponsoring Municipality or County (Name and Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of Farm \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person at Farm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of Facility \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
(include Access Road Name and Legislative Route Number)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 City-Borough-Township \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a U.S.G.S. 7.5" map identifying the farm and the yard waste site boundaries.

3. Total acres for farm land application area: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Volume of yard waste to be received annually in cubic yards: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Prepare and include in this application a general site plan\* for the facility which illustrates the location of the following items:

- Access roads in relation to the nearest public road
- Tipping area
- Surface water controls (tipping area only)
- Fields proposed for land application.

\* Please note that a hand drawn sketch that includes site dimensions is acceptable. An engineer's drawing is not required.

6. Please address the following items:

- A complete list of source(s) of yard waste to be received.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Describe the method for inspecting incoming yard waste.

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- Describe the plan for rejecting or disposing of unacceptable materials and residuals.

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- Provide the name and location of the disposal or processing site for unacceptable materials and residuals.

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- Attach the farm soil conservation plan and nutrient management plan.
- Describe the volume of yard waste processed during the previous year or expected to be processed during the first year of operation.

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- Please provide an operational narrative which includes a description of each of the following:

- Operational hours for receiving yard waste
- Land application and incorporation frequency
- Plan for removal of yard waste from bags
- Spreading and incorporation methods and frequency
- Source of leaves and grass clippings.

Appendix B  
Residential Yard Waste Collection Survey

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# Allen Township Supervisors

4714 Indian Trail Road

Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067

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## Allen Township – Residential Yard Waste Collection Survey

Allen Township has a drop-off facility where residents can bring yard waste, leaves, grass clippings, and branches for composting. The Township is evaluating whether or not implementing a curbside yard waste collection program can better serve the needs of residents. The Township appreciates your feedback to the following questions.

- 1) How many times in the last year have you brought yard waste to the Township's drop-off location at the municipal building?
  - Once/month
  - Every other week
  - Weekly
  - Never
  - Other (please specify)
  
- 2) What do you do with yard waste (leaves, branches, grass clippings, etc.) generated at your residence (check all that apply)?
  - Bring it to the Township's drop-off facility
  - Recycle/use it at your residence (i.e. mulching, home composting, etc.)
  - Burn it
  - Nothing (leave it on your lawn)
  - Other (please specify)
  
- 3) How likely would you participate in a curbside yard waste collection program if implemented by the Township?
  - Very Likely
  - Likely
  - Neutral
  - Unlikely
  - Very unlikely

Please provide additional comments on your selection to this question.

- 4) If you answered “likely” or “very likely” to question #3, please provide your thoughts on the frequency of a curbside yard waste collection program would best suit your needs?

**Seasonal Collection:**

- a. Year-around
- b. Fall only
- c. Spring only
- d. Both fall and spring
- e. Other (please specify)

**Frequency:**

- a. Once/month
- b. Every other week
- c. Weekly
- d. Other (please specify)

- 5) Do you currently drop-off yard waste and/or pick-up mulch/compost at any of the following locations (please check all that apply):

- Drop-Off Yard Waste at Allen Township Municipal Building
- Pick-up Mulch/Compost at the Allen Township Municipal Building
- Drop-Off Yard Waste at the First Regional Compost Authority Site (Weaversville Road)
- Pick-up Mulch/Compost at the First Regional Compost Authority Site (Weaversville Road)

- 6) Please provide any additional thoughts you would like the Township to consider in evaluating the feasibility of implementing a curbside yard waste collection program.

**Your Contact Information:**

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Thank you for providing your feedback! The Township will use this information to make decisions on how best to serve residents with respect to yard waste collection. Please return the completed survey in the enclosed stamped, self addressed envelope.