

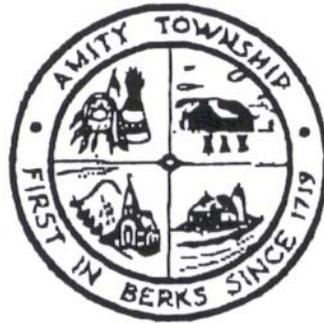
**SWANA RECYCLING
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STUDY**

AMITY TOWNSHIP

**EVALUATION OF RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM
AND ALTERNATIVES**

Prepared for:

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SWANA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STUDY
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AND ALTERNATIVES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Through the partnership with the Solid Waste Authority of North America (SWANA), the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Amity Township in Berks County was awarded \$6,000 in technical assistance to be provided by Gannett Fleming, Inc.

The following three tasks were outlined through meetings and conversations with Township officials:

- Task #1** Review and evaluate the Township's existing recycling program. Identify specific Township needs and/or problems associated with the current program to be incorporated into the report.

- Task #2** Develop residential survey questions to be distributed by Amity Township residents in order to gather feedback on existing recycling services. Survey results will also help determine the needs for future recycling services or changes to the existing program.

- Task #3** Provide Amity Township with recommendations, additions, and alternatives for the existing recycling program and identify opportunities to reduce existing program costs.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Amity Township presently contracts with J.P. Mascaro's Pioneer Crossing Landfill (Mascaro) in adjacent Exeter Township to provide weekly curbside recycling collection for residential properties. The existing curbside recycling contract with Mascaro services 3,219 units at a cost to Amity Township of \$102,000 per year. This is equivalent to \$31.68 per household per year, which the Township pays for through the general fund. In the previous recycling contract (with Waste Management), the annual contract costs were \$66,000. This significant price increase and cost burden under the new recycling contract prompted Amity to evaluate their existing recycling program and investigate alternatives to reduce recycling program costs.

3.0 RECYCLING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The following sections describe the success of recycling in Amity Township in both the residential and commercial sectors. While these sections present data in terms of the tonnage of materials, taken from Township records, most of this report will focus on recycling on a

per-household basis. As previously indicated, residential recycling is the primary focus of this evaluation. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Amity recycling program will provide information to use in determining the most feasible alternatives to the existing program.

3.1 Residential Curbside Collection

As required by Act 101, Amity Township is a mandated recycling community. The Township has 8,867 residents (in 3,219 households) based on Year 2000 Census data, and a population density of 485 people per square mile. Residents contract for municipal solid waste (MSW) in the Township using private subscription, in which each household contracts with any of several local haulers for waste disposal services. Residential recycling services are provided by Mascaro and are paid for by the Township.

In 1991, a Resolution (Resolution 91-3) was passed in the Township to create a recycling fee that would support a general fund to pay for a recycling contract. The fee was set at \$28 per household to be paid annually to the Township by each resident. This fee was retracted after the Township realized that it cost more to administer the fee, bill residents, and attempt to collect the fee than it actually received in payments. The current recycling contract is now supported solely by earned income taxes and property taxes, the Township's budget general fund, and annual recycling performance grant funding.

Based on the Township Recycling Coordinator's observations and experience, the large majority of residents participate in the curbside recycling program. Resolution 91-127 established requirements for collection of recyclables. Comingled recyclables are currently collected on a weekly basis by Mascaro and include:

- Plastics (#1 through 7)
- Glass (all colors)
- Aluminum, steel
- Bi-metal cans
- Newspaper (must be kept separated from the comingled materials)
- Cardboard (must be kept separated from the comingled materials)

After collection, Mascaro takes these curbside materials to Cougles Recycling in Hamburg, PA.

The tonnage of comingled materials collected in 2001 is down to 632 tons from 652 tons, as demonstrated in Table 1. The Township Recycling Coordinator attributes this decrease in tonnage to:

- Thinner aluminum, which decreases the weight of the volume collected.
- Production of smaller and more compact newspapers has decreased the weight of the volume collected.

It should be noted that the fraction of glass in the municipal waste stream has decrease in recent years. Glass containers are continuously being replaced by plastic containers, and refined glass container production often creates thinner, lighter glass containers. Because glass is one of the

heaviest components of the waste stream, this trend to replace glass with plastics will impact recycling program collection totals.

3.2 Leaf Waste

The Township is also required by the State to collect leaf waste. The leaf waste materials (including leaves from trees, bushes, and other plants) are currently utilized by a farm within the Township. Township officials indicate that this location is adequate to satisfy anticipated disposal needs of the municipality for the near future, but are interested in exploring other disposal options in the longer term. Information and alternative disposal methods for yard waste will be dealt with separately. Therefore, for this study, little attention has been paid to yard waste.

4.0 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

Businesses and institutions contract privately for recycling services and are reimbursed for materials through the hauler or disposal facility, such as Cougles, Mayer Pollock Steel Corporation (in nearby Pottstown, which is where many commercial recyclables are taken) or seven other buy-back centers nearby.

There are 129 commercial establishments of varying sizes located in Amity Township (most already documented and reported to PADEP in the Annual Recycling Report). Mascaro and the majority of other haulers that collect recyclables from commercial units take the collected recyclables to Cougles Recycling. The materials taken to Cougles and other commercial establishments include:

- Glass
- Phone Books
- Plastics #1 through 7
- Catalogs
- Aluminum
- Magazines
- Bi-metallic cans
- Junk Mail
- Newsprint
- Ferrous metals
- Cardboard
- Office paper
- Paperboard
- Steel Drums
- Motor Oil
- Transmission Fluid
- Appliances

Cougles pays the hauler for these materials at market rates, and sells them to various wholesalers and end users. Plastic #2 is made into plastic lumber on-site.

Based on year 2001 annual recycling data for Amity Township, 3,491 tons of rubber tires were collected, which accounts for 78 percent of the total tonnage collected and reported by commercial establishments. This percentage appears excessively high when compared to historical data for the municipality. The anomaly can be explained by Township records, which indicate that 3,445 tons of the tires were from a single source. Cardboard accounted for 658 tons, or 15%, of the total volume.

A portion of Amity Township's commercial recycling tonnage may not be reported. Of the 129 commercial establishments in the municipality, it is known that 36 do not contract for recycling services. It is likely that many of these establishments are recycling, but not reporting recycled quantities. This may occur when employees and owners take the materials home and put them in bins at their own residences for collection (in which case the material would be counted in residential recycling reporting). A small quantity of other materials, such as newspapers, are still bagged by residents and/or businesses and donated to local farms for bedding material or donated to non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts. When this occurs, neither commercial nor residential reports would account for these materials. Some of this material may be taken out of Amity reported as recycling in adjacent townships or boroughs. Materials that escape the Amity Township recycling stream by either of these methods would account for only a small amount of recyclables. Of the other 93 businesses or establishments, 43 contract with Waste Management, Mascaro, BFI, or a smaller local hauler for recycling, and report to the Township. It is unclear if the remaining 50 businesses recycle and report to the Township.

5.0 RESIDENTIAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

In order to gather additional information to assist Amity Township in assessing the current program, GF developed a sample residential recycling survey. This survey includes questions intended to assess the attitude of residents toward the current recycling program as well as to gain insight into the likelihood of residents to participate in a program if pickup frequencies were changed. The survey will be distributed after completion of this study and therefore the survey results are not included within this Evaluation. A draft of the recycling survey is included as Appendix A.

6.0 EXISTING RECYCLING CONTRACT

Amity's current recycling contract began in 2001 and renews yearly on Sept 4th for a period of three years. With the recent increase from \$66,000 to \$102,000, the Township is concerned about increased elevated costs of the recycling contract. Evaluating recycling alternatives may determine if changes to the existing recycling program could potentially decrease the cost of the program and contract.

6.1 Recycling Contract Cost Increases

Mascaro and other haulers have also indicated that recyclables collection contracts have been on the rise due to increase operation costs and decreased revenues resulting from very poor recyclables markets. The recent contract price increase may be attributed to the lack of competition for the recycling services during the last bidding process. In the last bid for these services, only Waste Management and Mascaro responded to the Request for Proposals put out by Amity Township. The bid submitted by Waste Management was \$152,000, which was \$50,000 higher than the Mascaro bid. Amity is not alone with the recent contract increases for recycling services, and similar significant contract cost jumps have been seen recently in adjacent and nearby municipalities. As a whole, these increases also appear to be attributed to

poor market conditions and lack of competition for recycling services in this portion of Berks County.

6.2 Section 904 Grant Awards

In 2000, Amity received approximately \$40,000 in Section 904 Grant money from the State, and used this towards the cost of the \$66,000 contract. The Township paid the remaining cost of \$26,000 from the general fund. When the contract cost increased to \$102,000 in 2001, so did the amount that the Township was required to contribute for the program. Township officials are willing to budget \$30,000 to \$50,000 for recycling services. Some monies may continue to be recovered with the State grants, but this is not guaranteed. Township recycling program costs for administration, postage, printing, and communication are approximately \$5,000 per year. The Township's primary goal is to maintain an effective recycling program, but minimize the amount of money it must divert from the general fund to pay for the recycling contract.

6.3 Sample Waste Disposal Contracts

The municipalities surrounding Amity currently utilize various types of contracts for waste disposal, and pay varying amounts for these contracts. Analyses of what programs have been successful may prove to be helpful when considering changes to Amity's program. Table 2 shows the per-household cost and recycling in each municipality.

6.3.1 Exeter Township

Exeter Township has an estimated 7,400 households and 21,160 residents. Exeter had a combined waste disposal/recycling collection contract with Waste Management in 1999 and 2000. For these two years, the cost of waste disposal and recycling per household was approximately \$13.00. In the same time period, the tonnage of recycled materials increased 71 tons from 1999 to 2000.

In 2001, the Township entered into a new contract with Lebanon Farms Disposal, which increased the per-household charge from \$13.00 to almost \$21.00 (a 60% increase). Exeter currently only contracts for recycling services (not recycling and waste collection combined). Exeter's per-household cost is significantly higher than Amity and Cumru Townships and Mt. Penn Borough. As evident in Table 2, Exeter is able to partially recover the cost of its contract through a \$4 fee that is imposed on each household per quarter. The recycling program in Exeter Township collected 1,933 tons in 2001, which amounts to almost 0.25 tons per household. The total amount of materials collected improved only 3.5 percent by the new collection program.

6.3.2 Mt. Penn Borough

Mt. Penn Borough has a population of 3,016, based on 2000 Census data. The waste disposal and recycling collection contract in Mt. Penn Borough is similar to Exeter's existing contract, although this municipality recovers costs from residents in a different manner. Lebanon Farms Disposal is also the contracted MSW and recycling hauler in Mt. Penn Borough, and the cost of this contract is \$156,858, or \$122.76 per household per year. This is much higher than

per-household costs in neighboring communities. The Borough assesses a \$130 per household fee, applied to the tax bill annually. In this way, Mt. Penn is able to recover a large portion of the costs of the contract. Under the contract, Lebanon Farms Disposal provides two weekly pickups and biweekly recyclables collection. Since implementing this contract in 2000, the tonnage of recyclables per household dropped initially from 173 tons to 172 tons, but has since increased 197 tons in 2001, a 14% increase since 1999.

6.3.3 Cumru Township

The third local municipality evaluated with respect to Amity Township is Cumru Township. Cumru Township has a population of 13,816, based on 2000 Census data. Cumru Township assesses a fee of \$127 or \$142 per household per year. The \$127 rate applies to households of one person, while the \$142 rate applies to households of 2 or more people. This fee is assessed on the tax bill of 4,800 of the nearly 6,000 households in the municipality. Apartment complexes are assumed to contract privately for waste disposal and recycling services. With this fee, Cumru Township collects over \$642,000 annually. This revenue pays for the entire \$317,952 waste and recycling contract fee and supports the home composting program. Initially, after the new contract was signed in 2000, recycling in the municipality decreased nearly 30%. Cumru attributes the decrease to resident confusion about the new collection schedule. After the first five months of the contract, recycling rates improved to the previous level. In 2001, the total recycling tonnage was 994 tons, nearly a 40% improvement over the year 2000 tonnage. The schedule of weekly MSW collection and bi-weekly recyclables collection appears to be very successful in this municipality.

7.0 ALTERNATIVES TO EXISTING RECYCLING PROGRAM

Based on an understanding of the municipality's existing recycling program and the goals that Township managers have established for the program, the following alternatives were evaluated to determine if the township could reduce the cost of the existing recycling program and recycling contract:

- Single Hauler Curbside Collection
- Drop-off Facilities
- Bi-weekly Curbside Collection
- Combined Waste/Recycling Contract
- Residential Fee
- Pay-As-You-Throw

These alternatives are explored in detail in the following subsections.

7.1 Single Hauler Curbside Collection for Municipal Waste and Recyclables

Currently, Amity Township recyclables are collected by Mascaro and by various other private haulers that collect municipal waste and/or recyclables in the Township. Many of these haulers may operate in the same service areas on the same days, and may pass one another to collect waste and/or recyclables from their contracted units. Looking at the larger picture, the collection

of recyclables on the same routes by several different haulers is inefficient and may increase the costs of overall collection services.

One potential way to increase collection efficiency in a municipality (or an identified area) is to use one hauler to collect recyclables and municipal waste. Using a single hauler to provide these services can improve route scheduling, collection efficiency, and increase the number of pick-ups per hour, consequently lowering overall operational costs. In order for Amity to move to the use of a single hauler for municipal waste and recyclables collection the township would need to issue an RFP for these services. After receive the bids the township could select the lowest priced responsible bidder to provide collection services for the entire Township. Amity may elect to take over the billing responsibilities and collection or include this as obligation of the hauler within the bid package.

Using a single hauler for collection of recyclables is a reasonable approach and one that could potentially reduce contract costs. Haulers responding to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that would provide for increased service area and tonnages would likely provide competitive pricing. Proposers having the opportunity to secure a substantial, guaranteed quantity of waste would likely provide competitive pricing under this scenario. Through this competitive bid process, selection of a single firm from the respondents to provide services to the entire municipality, based on prices as well as other key factors, would result in the greatest cost savings to the Township.

Historically, the presence of Mascaro may have influenced attempts for a single hauler in the Township. In recent years this influence has lessened, partially as a result of new haulers, such as Lebanon Farms Disposal, that have provided competition in this local market and successfully negotiated recycling collection contracts in municipalities nearby Amity Township. A second limiting factor in securing a single hauler is that if the Township were to select a single hauler in the manner described previously, residents could interpret their personal freedoms and rights in selecting a hauler as being limited. Decreased participation as a result of principle would limit the volume of materials the Township collects and defeat the purpose of having a curbside collection program, and would not help the Township reach the State recycling requirements.

A compromise between these two scenarios is to enter a modified RFP process, requiring both waste disposal services and recycling. This alternative will be discussed in more depth in Section 7.4.

7.2 Drop-off Facilities

Amity has shown interest in utilizing a drop off facility to supplement its curbside collection program. This drop-off facility would collect recyclables from local businesses and from local residents who may not be able to take full advantage of the curbside collection program. If the Township decides to implement a drop-off site, the site should be centrally located, in a well-lit public area, and the containers should be well marked to identify the appropriate recyclable(s).

A potential location for a drop-off site would be at the intersection of the Benjamin Franklin Highway (Route 422) and Old Swede Road (Route 662), in the parking lot of the Redner's

Warehouse Market supermarket shopping center. This intersection sees a large volume of daily traffic of commuters to the Valley Forge and Philadelphia area as well as a large volume of local traffic going from the Pottstown area to either Fleetwood or Reading. The site is a good location for a drop-off site because:

- The parking area is level and oversized and has available space for equipment and vehicle access.
- The proximity to major highways makes it accessible to haulers servicing the containers.
- The site is well-lit and highly visible and therefore less likely to have problems with contamination of materials and with vandalism.
- Local residents visit this area regularly and can plan to take their recyclables to the drop-off site as part of their weekly or bi-weekly routine.

Amity Township may be able to establish a cooperative effort by working with local stores such as Redner's Warehouse Market. The Township could work with Redner's or another identified store to establish a permanent drop-off site. Once a relationship and site location is identified, the Township could purchase drop-off containers and contract drop-off site collection services (services may include equipment provided by the hauler). The hauler providing collection services should be required to track and submit quarterly tonnages to the Township.

If the Township purchases recycling equipment, the costs of this equipment may be reimbursed (up to 90 percent) through a Section 902 Grant. The Township would have the responsibility of providing signage and education about the new drop-off center for residents.

With the current existence of an effective mandated curbside program already in place, a recycling drop-off site located in Amity Township would serve only as a supplement to the existing curbside program and would only generate a small percentage of the Township's total recycled volume. It should be noted that adding drop-off collection services into a bid for services would likely increase the overall cost for collection services. Thus, there will be a value in offering this service to residents, but there will also be associated hauling, operation, and administration costs for implementing a drop-off site(s).

A residential survey may be useful to determine the potential participation if such a program were to be implemented.

7.3 Bi-weekly Curbside Collection

Amity Township has expressed interest in switching from a weekly curbside collection program to a bi-weekly program in the hopes of increasing the recovery of materials and decreasing program costs. Interest in this program has heightened especially in light of neighboring communities implementing bi-weekly collection, such as Exeter and Cumru Townships and Mt. Penn Borough, as discussed in Section 6. Each of these municipalities has recently made changes to its MSW and/or recyclable materials collection programs that have included shifting from weekly recyclable collection to bi-weekly collection. As seen in Table 2, the change to a bi-weekly recyclable collection program has had various effects. The costs of the new contracts

and overall success of the newly implemented bi-weekly programs were different for each municipality. Table 2 also shows how the volume of material was affected by the change to a biweekly program.

Exeter Township saw an immediate improvement in tonnage of recyclables collected per household, while Mt. Penn Borough and Cumru Township witnessed a temporary dip in recycling, followed by what appears to be steady improvement. The conclusion from this evidence is that bi-weekly recycling collection is cost-effective and appropriate for these municipalities.

Waste Management indicated to Amity Township that a bi-weekly collection program would decrease the Township's recycling costs by 10-15%. This is contrary to the costs of bi-weekly programs described in Section 6 that were implemented in adjacent or nearby municipalities, which show that contract costs increased. However, as previously indicated, if recycling were included in a combined services contract, then the portion of the contract related to costs of recycling might be less than a stand-alone recycling contract. Waste Management did not provide documentation related to this statement.

Problems related to a bi-weekly collection program are mostly those of education of residents to changes in the collection schedule. Residents would need to be informed that materials would not be collected every week. If the municipality were divided into two zones, residents would receive information specific to the zone in which they reside. If it were simply every other week, they would receive a simple schedule that would also address holidays or other special events. It should be stressed that the only difference is the frequency of pickup, not the types of materials that should be separated from the waste stream, the collection method (bins), or where they put the materials. Additionally, since the volume that would be picked up a residence would be expected to as much as double in a two-week period (compared to a one-week period), residents may request extra recycling bins. Additional funds for these should be included in the cost that the municipality is estimating for the contract, noting that the municipality will be responsible for 10% of the cost of the bins (the other 90% can be reimbursed by the State in the form of a Section 902 Grant).

7.4 Combined Waste/Recycling Contract

As discussed in Section 6.3, Cumru Township currently utilize a municipality-wide combined contract for waste disposal and recycling collection. The same is true for the Borough of Mt. Penn. By combining waste disposal services with collection of recyclables, municipalities are often able to negotiate a better price from haulers. If a municipal contract exists for these services, then the municipality may charge residents to recover some or all of the costs of the contract. Municipal contracts have become more popular in the past few years because of lower prices from increased competition. Municipal contracts may also facilitate data collection, enforcement, and help with development of waste collection schedules and practices.

In order to implement a municipality-wide combined MSW/recycling contract, the Township would specify in an RFP that all firms wishing to be considered must provide recycling services in addition to waste disposal. Based on the proposals received, the Township could select a waste hauler that meets the requirements and submits a bid amount that is acceptable to the Township.

7.5 Residential Fee

An overall assessment of the three municipalities described in Section clearly shows that by assessing a fee on residents, municipalities are able to recover at least part of the cost of a municipality-wide contract with a disposal and recycling hauler. In some cases, as in that of Cumru Township, the municipality recovers monies well in excess of the cost of the contract with the hauler. Table 3 provides details about each program, such as showing the total income from residential fees as well as the method by which they are assessed.

If Amity were to assess a fee on residents as a result of a municipal contract for waste disposal and recycling, the fee should take into consideration the number of households that will be in the contract and the total cost of the contract. For example, assuming that a contract for disposal and recycling services would cost \$160,000 (comparable to similar municipalities nearby), and would serve 3,219 households (the number currently served by the contract with Mascaro), a residential fee of \$12.43 assessed quarterly would cover the cost of the contract. A fee of \$49.70 could alternately be levied on the annual property tax bill of applicable households. This collection method has been used successfully in nearby municipalities. Some of these municipalities use a collection service to collect this fee from municipalities, thus reducing their administrative costs and time.

If Amity Township opts to pay for waste collection services in this manner, any monies that it would receive as a result of Section 904 Recycling Performance Grants could be directed toward developing yard waste composting alternatives, home composting programs, education, or any other number of waste-related programs instead of paying for the waste collection contract.

An alternate method of funding the recycling program would be to have the selected hauler bill residents directly. This hauler would report the quantity of recyclable materials collected to the Township for inclusion in Section 904 Grants.

7.6 Pay-As-You-Throw

A secondary concern of Amity Township is that selected option must be fair to residents of the municipality. The client was specifically concerned about residents who generate very little waste, yet under a standard contract, would pay the same fee (either to the Township or to the hauler, directly) as would residents (or larger households) that generate a substantial amount of waste. The client would like to ensure that the large population of elderly residents in the municipality, who generate little waste, were not unduly burdened. For this reason, a system known as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) has been considered for Amity Township. Under a PAYT program, residents pay for waste collection services per unit of waste they generate and that is collected for disposal, rather than through a fee. In this way, PAYT takes into account the variation in waste generation rates of different types of households, and offers residents a

financial incentive to reduce the amount of waste they generate. The benefits of PAYT programs are mostly a result of the conscious efforts of most residents to decrease the volume of waste generated and, therefore, the amount they pay for waste collection. These benefits include waste reduction, improved waste prevention, and increased participation in recycling programs.

There are a few disadvantages to changing to a PAYT system. The foremost of these is the common perception by many residents that their waste disposal costs would increase significantly. Secondly, PAYT should be avoided in dense, urban areas or multi-family units at which it would be difficult to determine how many units of waste were generated by each residence. In rural areas, PAYT can encourage illegal dumping or burning of waste, including recyclables. For these reasons, a PAYT program would appeal to many residents who would pay less than they do currently and be threatening to others to who would assume an increase in the cost of waste disposal. Therefore, the residential survey (discussed in Section 5) should include questions about the attitude of residents toward this type of program.

To implement this service, the Township would select a waste hauler in the same manner as described previously. There are numerous methods by which to implement a PAYT program. These methods should be investigated in detail in a Feasibility Study, because they are too detailed to be considered in this Evaluation. This Feasibility Study could be funded by a Section 901 grant or by a separate DEP Technical Assistance grant. In the event that the Township would desire to switch to a PAYT program, two options are suggested for management of recyclables. The first is that the same hauler who provides waste management services must agree in its contract to also provide collection of recyclables (refer to Section 7.1). The second is that a second hauler is contracted to just provide collection of recyclables. In this case, Amity Township could choose to include fees to cover the recycling service into the amount residents pay the Township for waste collection.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Amity has considered drop-off alternatives and/or changing the program to a bi-weekly curbside pick up schedule, among other options, as ways to reduce program/contract costs. The Township has examined these alternatives because recent increased costs for contracted recycling services have placed a financial burden on the Township. This section presents recommended steps and alternatives that the Township may pursue in order to decrease the burden placed on the Township's general fund.

- ◆ Local experience has indicated that cost savings may be realized through contracting one hauler to collect both municipal waste and recyclables for the Township. The Township should consider and investigate this option to determine the feasibility of implementing such a program in Amity Township. If the Township elects to move forward with this approach, the required RFP solicitation for waste collection and recyclables services may include language that designates the contracted hauler (not Amity Township) to bill the residents directly for the identified services.
- ◆ Local experience has also indicated that new competition exists for providing recyclables collection services. The Township could bid for recyclables-only collection services to

determine if the Township could enter into a new contract that would lower the existing cost for these services. If the Township elects to re-bid for recycling collection services, the RFP solicitation could designate (as stated above) the contracted hauler to bill the residents directly for the identified services. In this scenario, and the above scenario the Township should work closely with a solicitor to structure the RFP in order to meet the specific needs of the Township.

- ◆ It is recommended that the Township encourage the approximately 36 commercial establishments that do not currently provide annual reports to the Township to respond to these requests, in order to get a complete reporting of materials.
- ◆ If the financial burden on the Township is not reduced sufficiently by other methods (i.e. new collection contracts) the Township could evaluate the potential of implementing a residential fee to be assessed on households receiving waste disposal and recycling services.
- ◆ Bi-weekly recycling collection programs have proven fairly successful in nearby municipalities. The Township should consider bi-weekly collection for recyclables. It is suggested that an RFP solicitation for recyclables and/or municipal waste and recyclables request a response to weekly and bi-weekly collection of recyclables to determine the cost difference for these services.
- ◆ If the Township elects to pursue drop-off recycling as a supplement to the existing curbside program, the Township could investigate the potential for a drop-off recycling center to be located at the intersection of Routes 422 and 662 in Douglassville. Any drop-off site pursued should meet all or most of the criteria identified in this report. The Township should work with the County to develop a drop-off site.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Township further investigate the potential of a Pay-As-You-Throw program for waste management.
- ◆ It is recommended that the Township continue to take advantage of Section 904 Recycling Performance and Section 902 Recycling Implementation Grants from the State, and utilize the resultant monies to improve yard waste recycling and home composting programs within the municipality.
- ◆ As the Township investigates future yard waste and recycling programs, the Township could apply (through the County) for 901 Planning grant funding for 80 percent of approved costs for conducting related studies, surveys, investigations, and research and analysis.