

Columbia County Solid Waste Plan Update 2001 Summary

(Prepared by Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc.)

Summary of County:

- 24 second-class townships, 8 boroughs and 1 Town (Bloomsburg)
- Total land mass = 484 sq miles
- Population and economic activities centered along Rts. 80 and 11, which bisect the county from east to west
- 1990 population = 63,199 (US Census Data)
- 2000 projected population = 66,838 (County Comprehensive Plan)
- 2010 projected population = 70,504 (County Comprehensive Plan)
- In 1999, the total waste generated in the County was 73,284.8 tons (including municipal, residual, sewage sludge, C&D, ash residue and asbestos)

The wastes projected for 2010 in the 2001 County plan update based on the Counties needs were

- Municipal (residential, seasonal, commercial, institutional and discarded appliances) – 66,310 tons/year
- Residual – 13,367 tons/year at non-captive facilities
- Sewage Sludge – estimated at 1,388 dry tons/year
- Septage – estimated at 832 wet tons/year
- Infectious/Chemotherapeutic – estimated at 92 tons/year, and there were 9 generators of I&C waste identified
- Construction/Demolition – estimated at 9,049 tons/year
- Tires – 705 tons/year
- Household Haz Waste – not discussed in report
- Recycling – 23,432 tons/year to achieve the 35% goal

Per Capita Waste Generation

- Based on 35% recycling, the required disposal in 2010 would be 43,101 tons/year
- At the above recycling rate, this would amount to 0.61 tons/yr/capita in 2010

Sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plants in County

- In 1999, Columbia County accounted for 6,834 wet tons of sewage sludge = 1,309 dry tons
- There were 5 existing sewage treatment plants in the County, which generated sludge
- There were no permitted disposal sites for septage in the County, but there were 6 septage haulers listed, and it was noted that several of the local treatment plants accepted septage for treatment

Construction/Demolition Materials

- 4 different landfills accepted C&D waste in 1999
- 8,533 tons disposed in 1999

Columbia County Recycling Program Description

- Berwick Borough and the Town of Bloomsburg were mandated municipalities and were required to start recycling by September of 1990
- The Plan was awaiting the final results of the 2000 Census to see if Scott Township fell into the mandated category – if so, Scott Twp would have 2 yrs to implement a source separated recycling program to be implemented in 2004 or 2005
- Funding had been sought to clean up 4 large tire piles which appeared on the PA Priority Waste Tire Pile List
- 32 of the 33 municipalities had access to recycling programs in 2000 – and a list of programs was included in Tables 2-7 thru 2-9
- There were many different types of recycling plans available, including curbside, drop-off and multi-municipal programs
- 11 businesses accepted used motor oil for recycling – see Table 2-10, 7 businesses accepted recycled transmission fluid (Table 2-11), and 5 accepted recycled antifreeze (Table 2-12)
- 1 business accepted recycled tires (Jack Williams Tire Co)
- A series of locations were identified for disposal of batteries (Tables 2-14 thru 2-16)
- Haz waste disposal sites were listed in Table 2-17
- Columbia County had 6 municipal and 2 private composting sites (see Table 2-18)
- In 2000, the County licensed waste haulers, and the list was included in Table 2-19
- The Town of Bloomsburg had an extensive recycling center, and the statistics for the site were detailed in the Plan

MSW Collection Systems

- There is a transfer station located on PA 254 approximately 1 mile west of Millville in Madison Twp, owned by Mr. Heaps – this facility was permitted at 43.33 tons/day and recycles approximately 10% of the waste material received
- There is one licensed disposal facility in the County – the White Pines Landfill, operated by JP Mascaro & Sons, which was permitted in July 1995 and was completed in 1998.
- The Lycoming County Resource Mgmt Services Landfill received the bulk of the County municipal waste – 25 of the municipalities entered into exclusive agreements with that landfill and adopted an ordinance requiring haulers to use that landfill

Assurance of Disposal Capacity:

- In 1992, Columbia County had entered into an agreement with the Lycoming County landfill to accept all municipal waste generated in the County, excluding 4 municipalities. That agreement

was set to expire at the end of 2000. Alternative agreements were then signed with the Pine Grove Landfill and the Pottsville Sanitation Service for disposal of waste from the other 4 municipalities – and these agreements expired in 2007.

- In 1999, there were 11 landfills that took some tonnage of solid waste material from Columbia County
- As part of the Plan Update the County solicited proposals from landfills for disposal of county generated waste, and 7 landfills were selected: White Pines, Lycoming, Wayne Twp, Pine Grove, Mountain View Reclamation, Phoenix Resources, and Superior Green Tree Landfill.

Columbia County Plan Recommended Goals

- A 10-year agreement with environmentally sound landfill sites assuring proper disposal of municipal solid waste at predetermined maximum tipping fees
- A surcharge that provides the economic resources to monitor and ensure that wastes are disposed of properly. In addition, it provides the economic resources relative to monitoring, education, promoting and assisting resource recovery
- Increase County recycling efforts in order to achieve a 35% goal, which offers advantages relative to energy and materials construction, plus reduction of emissions