

Lycoming County Solid Waste Plan Update 2001 Summary

(Prepared by Cummings & Smith, Inc.)

Summary of County:

- 42 second-class townships, 9 boroughs and 1 City (Williamsport)
- Total land mass = 1215.5 sq miles
- Population and economic activities centered on south-central portion of county, around Williamsport
- 1990 population = 118,710 (US Census Data)
- 1999 population = 116,709 (from 2001 Plan)
- 2000 projected population = 118,293 (from 2001 Plan)
- 2000 projected population = 120,044 (US Census Data)

The wastes accounted for in the Lycoming County plan update based on the Counties needs were

- Municipal - 88,921 tons/year in 1999
- Residual – 27,920 tons/year in 1999 at non-captive facilities
- Sewage Sludge – estimated at 8,876 tons/year in 1999
- Infectious/Chemotherapeutic – estimated at 183 tons/year in 1999
- Construction/Demolition – estimated at 17,817 tons/year in 1999
- Household Haz Waste – not discussed in report
- Recycled – 14,761 tons/year in 1999

Waste Projection

- Municipal waste tonnage received at disposal facilities in 1999 = 101,036 tons/year
- Gross municipal waste tonnage generated in 1999 = 128,956 tons/year = 353 tons/day
- The 2001 Plan projected 2010 Gross MSW generation = 112,662 tons/year based on the 2000 data increasing uniformly at a rate of 0.9% per year
- For the 11-year period from 2000-2010, the Plan projected a total of 1,181,656 tons of MSW (excluding sewage sludge) = 107,423 tons/year on average = 294.3 tons/day on average
- Recycling was expected to increase from 18.3% for 2000, rising to 35% by 2010

Per Capita Waste Generation

- In 1999, gross discards (88,921 tons) divided by estimated 1999 County population = 0.76 tons/person/year (TPY).
- The per capita waste generation rate for Lycoming County for 166,709 residents would be approximately 4.16 lbs/person/day in 1999

Sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plants in County

- Sewage sludge consistently trended upward, a 50% increase was realized between 1989 and 1999
- In 1999, Lycoming accounted for 8,876 tons of sewage sludge

Construction/Demolition Materials

- Construction waste was subject to considerable fluctuation between 1989 and 1999, with the three highest years being 1994, 1998, 1999
- 17,817 tons disposed in 1999

Lycoming County Recycling Program Description

- Based on the 1999 annual recycling report, 12,136 tons of material was recycled
- This represents 15% of the waste stream (using just the 79,419 tons of municipal waste reported)
- Combining Residential and Commercial Recyclables, the totals were estimated to composed of glass (11.3%), office paper (9.5%), white goods (0%), steel & bi-metal cans (3.2%), aluminum (0.7%), misc ferrous/nonferrous metal (0%), PET and HDPE containers (2.1%), yard waste (0%), rubber tires (0%), corrugated paper (54.1%), newsprint (18.8%) and other plastics (0.25%)
- In addition to the above, the Plan noted that the LCRMS removed 5,250 tons of wood waste, 525 tons of recycled tires, 140 tons of white goods, and an estimated 4,000 tons of yard waste – including those numbers would increase the recycling rate from 15% to 28%
- In June of 1988, the Lycoming County Commissioners expanded Lycoming County Resource Management Services to take on the additional responsibilities of recycling on a County-wide basis.
- In addition to developing the logistics for a Multi-Municipal Recycling Program, initial steps were taken to jointly develop and enact one Solid Waste Ordinance that could be passed by all five municipalities to avoid confusion
- Lycoming County Resource Management Services (LCRMS) had responsibility for the County-wide Curbside Collection Program
- There were 24 drop off centers
- There were 12 separate curbside collection programs in place, servicing a population of 73,926 or 62.3% of the County's citizens

MSW Collection Systems

- There is a transfer station located at 1475 West Third St in Williamsport, owned by the County but operated by Eagle Transportation Services
- Capital Environmental Resource, Inc. maintains a transfer station for its own collection trucks and general public at Picture Rocks
- The Clinton County Solid Waste Authority's Wayne Township Landfill, located at McElhattan, PA, receives approximately 10,000 tons of Lycoming County generated municipal solid waste

- I was not able to find anything in the Plan that broke down the types of MSW collection offered by the various municipalities, including whether it was handled privately or by municipal contract

Assurance of Disposal Capacity:

- The remaining life of the landfill was at least 10 years provided permit modification was achieved
- Waste to energy incineration is no longer under consideration by Lycoming County
- A contract was signed with Columbia, Montour, Union, Snyder and Northumberland for disposal at the LCRMS landfill for the next 5 years
- Lycoming County does not have the authority to employ this solid waste plan or other market controls to legally bind waste haulers and waste generators to our facilities, market pricing of the waste disposal capacity remains the primary tool that Lycoming County can employ to manage waste volume inputs.
- The Plan was apparently to seek expansion of the LCRMS landfill, limit the importation of waste to the landfill from outside the Region and continue to use Wayne Twp Landfill for a portion of the MSW generated in the County, with the majority staying in-county. I saw no evidence of an RFP for landfill capacity from other landfills

Lycoming County Plan Recommended Goals

- Continue to restrict outside waste importation in order to help maintain landfill capacity
- Expand County recycling program in light of the potential increasingly stringent environmental requirements and costs associated with landfill expansion
- Explore options to reduce littering and promote recycling of glass bottles
- County and private material recovery facilities need to work together toward a common objective of maximizing recycling and waste reduction
- Abandoned vehicle ordinance need to be developed and enforced
- Municipal officials and citizens should support and cooperate with vigorous enforcement in order to combat illegal dumps
- Continue to support source elimination/reduction and reuse of hazardous wastes by industrial generators, as an alternative to landfill disposal and incineration; Implement a Household Hazardous Waste Management Program
- Minimize the effects of future land uses, such as incinerators, that have a high potential for adversely impacting the environment and character of an area
- The Lycoming County Planning Commission should develop a comprehensive Septage Management Plan to guide effective and safe treatment and disposal of septage, and secure adoption by the County commissioners, sanitary authorities, and the Lycoming Sanitary Committee.

Note: - those items highlighted in light blue were not included in the 2001 Plan but were added for comparison purposes with other Counties in the Region.