

# Union County Solid Waste Plan Update 2000 Summary

(Prepared by Union County Planning Department)

## Summary of County:

- 10 second-class townships and 4 boroughs
- Total land mass = 317 sq miles
- Population and economic activities centered on eastern portion of county, around Lewisburg
- 1990 population = 36,176
- 2000 projected population = 39,103 (by Union County Planning Comm)
- 2010 projected population = 43,000 (by Union County Planning Comm)

The wastes accounted for in the Snyder County plan update based on the County's needs were

- Residential – 19,021 tons/yr in 1999 (20,726 tpy projected in 2010)
- Commercial/institutional – 15,008 tons/yr in 1999 (15,426 tpy projected in 2010)
- Residual – 7,200 tons/year in 1996 at non-captive facilities
- Sewage Sludge – estimated at 1,841 tons/year was landfilled in 1996 (projected to 1,896 tons in 1999 and 2,115 tons in 2010)
- Infectious/Chemotherapeutic – estimated at 94.57 tons/year in 1998 (roughly 12 tpy incinerated and ash was landfilled)
- Construction/Demolition – estimated at 3,160 tons/year in 1997 (projected to 3,176 tons in 1999 and 3,264 tpy projected for 2010)
- Household Haz Waste – no estimate given

## Waste Projection

- It was projected that the county will need to dispose of approximately 36,000 tons of waste by 2010, a 1,934 ton increase over the year 2000
- Union County has no resource recovery facilities
- MSW recycled in 1999=5,635, so MSW requiring landfilling in 1999 = 33,481 tons, including special handling wastes (Inf/chem., C&D and sludge)
- Gross municipal waste tonnage generated in 2000 = 34,209 tons/year = 93.7 tons/day
- The 2001 Plan projected 2010 Gross MSW generation = 36,152 tons/year based on population of 43,000
- Recycling was expected to increase from 28% for 2000, rising to 35%

## Per Capita Waste Generation

- Residential Waste generation was based on the assumption of 0.49 tons/capita/yr – considered a best guess due to agricultural nature of county

## Sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plants in County

- In 1996, Union had 9 publicly-owned WTP facilities, treating 8.695 MGD
- 4 used landfilling, 3 used land application and 2 used other treatment plants for disposal
- It was noted that 2.071 million gallons was land applied and 1841 tons were landfilled in 1996
- Septage from on-lot sewage facilities was assumed to be land applied, so no estimate was made of dry tonnage produced, although a year 2000 estimate of 1,843,988 wet gallons was estimated

#### Construction/Demolition Materials

- 3,160 tons/year in 1997, and projected to increase at 0.25% annually so 2010=3,264 tons

#### Union County Recycling Program Description

- Based on the 1996 annual recycling report, 5,547.55 tons of material was recycled
- Projections were based on 1996 data with an assumed 0.5% increase, so that 2000=5,659 tons and 2010=5,949 tons
- Union County was confident that it would reach the 35% recycling goal thru program expansion
- Avoided costs associated with recycling were estimated at \$225,000 annually (\$45/ton for disposal x 5,000 tons of recycled material per year between 1991 and 1997)
- The county had a program to collect/shred newsprint for animal bedding thru the Hoover Fram
- As of 2000 the Union Co recycling program was a monthly, voluntary, source segregated and mobile drop-off program
- Clear glass is delivered to and marketed by the Lewisburg Kiwanis club.
- Recyclables collected included: clear/amber/green glass, newspaper, magazines, aluminum cans, bi-metal containers, PET and HDPE plastics – all thru the LCMRF other than newspapers and clear glass.
- Volunteer groups were partially reimbursed for their efforts in assisting with recycling by being permitted to keep the aluminum cans as a fundraiser
- There were 6 drop-off locations collected monthly
- A private composting facility is operated by Briar Patch Organic Farm near Cowan
- East Buffalo Twp, Lewisburg Boro and Bucknell U. each operate curbside and drop-off recycling program (Lewisburg and East Buffalo are Mandatory)
- Several other municipalities were seeking 902 funding to implement recycling programs
- The County was also responsible for an extensive recycling and waste reduction public education program, as well as administrative support to municipalities for recycling services
- Beginning on page 13 of the Plan, under Chapter 272.226, they have an extensive description of the recycling program

#### MSW Collection Systems

- There was 1 solid waste transfer station within the county in 2000 (Hartley Twp TS)
- Another Transfer Station (Strawser Disposal Service) was purchased and closed by WasteMgmt
- It was estimated that there would be over 15,000 households in the County by 2010
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#### Request for Proposals for Disposal Capacity:

- At the time of the Plan preparation the County had less than 3 yrs of capacity remaining on the existing contract with Lycoming County LF
- Union County Commissioners submitted an RFP for disposal capacity in April 1999
- 5 proposals were received (Clinton County LF, Lycoming Co LF, WM Dauphin Meadows LF, WM Mountain View LF, WM Pine Grove LF)
- County contracted with all 5 facilities

#### Union County Plan Recommended Goals

- Union County will investigate the feasibility of developing a household haz waste collection program with surrounding counties and explore cooperative efforts with other existing collection programs such as the PAS Dept of Ag pesticide collection program (Chem Sweep)
- Maximize economically feasible recovery of material through recycling
- Promote waste reduction by education and financial incentives
- To achieve 35% recycling by 2003
- To expand recycling into non-mandated municipalities
- Increase solid waste mgmt and recycling awareness in County

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.