

MEETING NOTES
Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee
***Recyclers Stakeholders Meeting #1**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Thursday, July 1, 2010
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA
Meeting #: **Recyclers Stakeholder Meeting #1**
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Joyce Hatala started the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves and then briefly discussed the overview. Information received from you will be provided to the other stakeholder groups and information from the other stakeholder groups will be passed on to you. This way everyone is involved in the process of this plan. The Stakeholder groups are five different sources of input into this plan. Joyce turned the meeting over to Terry Keene.

Terry reviewed some housekeeping items which include signing in and out for the in-kind services match; keeping mileage for travel, also for the in-kind services match; doing as much as we can electronically; handed out most recent schedule; handed out the list of Recycling Stakeholder Committee members and asked everyone to please make sure all their information is filled out completely; gave everyone the website for the plan process; and requested that one person from this committee be designated to serve on the Steering committee. Terry asked that before this meeting is over to please designate a person. Terry briefly went over the PowerPoint presentation and pointed out the map of all five (5) counties as well as local landfills and transfer stations. Terry commented that there is a lot of focus on interaction in this process. We want to get feedback, we want to have stakeholders involved and we need to keep DEP involved so they can approve it in the end. Terry mentioned that there is a lot of interest in recycling and recycling has come up in every meeting we've had so far. Terry turned the meeting back over to Joyce.

Joyce stated that the recyclable materials selected need to have a market to justify collection. The goal of the Plan will be to identify recyclable materials that can be marketed consistently and over the long term since the Plan covers the next 10 years. She explained the definitions of waste that were included on the handout. Joyce shared some experience from her time at Lackawanna and how the waste generation can increase drastically if you have certain types of construction going on in the area, etc. Joyce continued by stating that the Act 101 Recycling requirements tell us that if your municipality is mandated, you have to recycle at least 3 items at the curb plus leaf waste. You can choose those 3 items from a list that is provided to you. Mandated communities are those with a population of 5,000 with 300 people per square mile. Leaf waste is leaves, small branches, shrubbery, etc. If you are mandated you have the option of putting in the ordinance that it's mandatory for the commercial industry to pick up more items. Costs, hauling, collection services, market in your area, etc., all this is dictates what type of program you can run in your area. The difficult-to-recycle items include

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computers, electronics, tires, household hazardous waste, pharmaceuticals, etc. Some places take them; we have to look into that. Joyce spoke with DEP regarding a non-burn ordinance for recyclables – one of the Montour Commissioners asked about it. If the plan goes for a countywide or municipal drop off, you have to have a non-burn ordinance for the recyclables that you are collecting in the municipality that the drop off is collected. Dave advised that the ordinance isn't saying you aren't allowed to burn, it's saying you aren't allowed to burn recyclables. Joyce advised that you would not get any grant money if you don't have that non-burn ordinance for what you are recycling. Is it easy to enforce? Probably not, but do your best to enforce it. Dave advised that County Commissioners have made it clear that they do not want to enforce mandatory no-burn ordinance throughout the Counties.

Composting of food waste was discussed - issues regarding freezing in the winter, offensive odors in the summer, etc. These issues are things that are being looked at across the State and it is understandable there are items that are difficult to compost. Dave advised that Delmonte is interested in participating in food composting. That representative is a member of the B&I Stakeholder group. Joyce said she knows of a gentleman who did a study and found that 10% of waste in landfills that he dug in was composed of good food which had been thrown away. Much of the food waste, especially pre-consumer food waste, can be composted if handled properly, to reduce landfill tonnages.

Important recycling considerations: Recycling has worked, resulting in significantly less waste being landfilled. The DEP collects a fee based on landfilled tonnage, with the revenues intended to encourage further recycling; however, with the drop in landfill volumes, that \$2 per ton doesn't buy a lot. DEP told Joyce directly that if you have a regional, multi-municipal grant program, you go up in the ranking, with respect to grant funding. There is grant money available so we need to work hard to put a good program in the regional plan. We have a lot to think about, considering we have agricultural, rural areas, etc., but we need to maximize recycling. One of the issues discussed was the method of measuring recyclables: based on number of tons or volume. PA in 1991 recommended a 25% recycling goal so when they saw we could accomplish that, they increased it to a 35% goal. However, since the recycled material has been getting lighter (plastic vs. glass bottles, etc.), basing the recycling percentage on weight is an issue that needs to be discussed.

Dave commented that the municipal group brought up pharmaceuticals, organics, tires and electronics so we need to look at that also. Business & Industry mentioned that they were interested in post-manufacturing waste products (like acid), which might be usable by a different industry, and also things that they don't generate a lot of but may be recyclable. Since the volumes are low, they end up getting thrown away. Maybe we can possibly recommend a waste exchange clearinghouse.

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Haulers mentioned that they would like to get involved in recycling but their trucks can't efficiently handle multiple recycling commodity streams, so they would like to switch to single stream collection/processing. They know they can't compete with municipal recycling groups that get grant money for trucks so single stream would help them participate.

John Lundsted from DEP is out until the 20th so Joyce said she was unable to get the data that she wanted to have for this meeting; however, she asked everyone to please provide her with their county data including the data to date from the end of the most recent report to this current date.

Jake Stiefel from the Selinsgrove School District commented that the school district's issue with recycling is that no one would pick up for them. Then they tried to go to the borough and they told him to stop because the school was exceeding the volume of what they were allowed to bring to the landfill for free. He doesn't have a truck or the budget to take the recycling to the landfill. He also doesn't know where to recycle certain items, if they should be recycled, etc. Kids are willing to recycle and the teachers are willing to do it too. He would just like to have some direction as to what he should do. Jack Pyers from Hometown Haulers asked why the school district didn't include in their waste-hauling contract bid for a separate recycling contract? Jake stated that the waste hauling truck that shows up (one truck shows up) puts everything in one truck. The truck should have separate compartments for recyclable source separation. His custodian told him this and mentioned that he should come when the truck picks up so he can see for himself.

It was suggested that he include recycling in the contract. Debbie Wolf from Snyder County said that all school districts need to know this. She said the school's contract is the same everywhere, she believes. Wes Wertman from Danville stated that his school district has a combined contract – waste and recycling. He also stated that even though they have the combined contract, Danville still does a poor job recycling. Debbie Wolf said education on how to do it better would benefit everyone. Terry said we might want to decide if that is on the school district basis or on the recycling basis. Wes Wertman commented that most stay away from recycling because of the cost. It requires different trucks and different collections as well as analysis. You're talking much more money on a contract if recycling is included.

Joyce commented that she is hearing from the DEP in Harrisburg that public schools will have to recycle. She's going to check into that to see if it's an ordinance, if it's passed or if it's just a discussion. Joyce said she would like to see everyone working on something to make this happen.

Charlie Fritz, Recycling Coordinator from the Town of Bloomsburg, commented that he helped 6 schools get started with a recycling program. The hardest thing is getting it in

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the contract. The Schools choose their way of doing it. Some of them have the kids do source separation, some have hauling contracts doing it, and some haul it themselves. Jake Stiefel said that there's just too much material – it would have to be a 30ft box truck per week for him to haul it himself. Joyce commented that her experience is that every time people tried to establish a school-recycling program, the local school board would write it out of the contract. It seems that in the issue of cost cutting, they've often said it's too much money. Dave said maybe the recycling facility could get grant money to get local bins as a partial solution. Steve asked if a dual stream could be looked at to accommodate all of the material - this way the haulers don't have to spend extra money to buy special trucks.

Bob Huntington of Union County said that it needs to be understood that if hauler "X" breaches the contract (if it's written into the contract), there are major penalties. Joyce stated that people want to do the right thing and she's sure the hauler wants to keep that contract so he'll do the right thing, although periodic enforcement may be required.

Debbie Wolf said Snyder County does a lot of special collections. Joyce asked if it is going well, do you need more markets, do you need more people to participate? Debbie said things are going well. Dave asked what they thought about pharmaceutical collections? Debbie said it would be nice if the big business would do that, as opposed to local municipalities due to the high cost. Debbie said she did tire collections about 5 years ago and it was huge. Her recent tire recycling wasn't as big but she said she doesn't think there are that many tires out there. Jack Pyers said that he believes that DEP requires haulers to have a special permit to carry tires. That may be the reason why the recent tire recycle program wasn't as big. He said that DEP said haulers could no longer provide service to haul tires. Ellen Montis from Lycoming County stated that she thought that was only on full loads of tires that a permit is required. She said she would find out.

Bob Huntington from Union County said he does two collections per year; one is electronics and the other varies but includes things like textiles, etc. He said the volume has stayed up on them and they are well received. As for other household hazardous waste, it is much more expensive, there is a lot more involved, and the counties tend to shy away because of the cost. Bob suggested to possibly have a centralized location between 3-4 counties splitting the cost (they get reimbursed ½ of it in grant money), it wouldn't be so cost prohibitive and since there is a demand for it, it might be a good solution for everyone. Pharmaceuticals, he added, is a whole 'nother animal. It's very difficult to handle yet it's a growing issue. Steve Tucker said some of the big business (Walmart, CVS) are actually talking about it. Joyce said she's going to talk to the big businesses to find out if they would be interested in establishing a private program. Bob said he's received phone calls about how to recycle light bulbs. He asked if that would be a State mandate that the producers would be required to come up with how to dispose

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of them that's less costly? Steve said he didn't know but it seems like that is what is coming. Jack Pyers stated that from a haulers standpoint, it seems that the recycling industry let's the original generator of the recycled material off the hook. Steve added that at the landfill, they would like to see pharmaceutical recycling done by the Pharmacies, because if a needle goes thru one of their hands, it really bothers you because you know that needle wasn't handled properly.

Joyce mentioned that we could really share this information if we work together. Maybe an idea would be to recommend that companies like Home Depot/Best Buy agree to take used electronics and CVS/Walmart will take pharmaceuticals. It saves on convenience, costs, etc.

Dave commented about Universities having carpeting, mattresses, books, etc. Terry added it's amazing at what kids throw out at the end of a school year. Perfectly good items that can be recycled and they are being thrown out. Rachel Swartwood from Columbia County said there are a lot of companies that are doing buy-back programs; such as Radio Shack. She said the items have to at least power up in order for them to take them. Joyce asked the coordinators to see if they can get a list together of companies in each county that take items to recycle or resell; such as Goodwill, thrift stores, etc. Students at Colleges demand recycling. Students don't understand the logistics of it but they want to do it. Jake Steifel mentioned that if those stores would be interested in working with the students, we could set something up that would organize with the schools. He said there is a change in the younger crowd and they are willing to recycle. Joyce commented that in a recent study that was done, the 4th most important thing you can do for climate change is recycle. It's tremendous energy savings.

John Hunter said there's a contractor in Center County that recycles C&D waste. He said the contractor reuses some of it and some of it can be used as clean fill. Jack Pyers said that in his county (Northumberland), they could mix the construction load. They are doing source separated and have 5-6 boxes that they can use. Single stream to a construction demolition facility is pushed back because of the cost of traveling to the sites. Jack said some of the items they are hauling could possibly go toward the recycling percentages that the county is trying to obtain and maybe the reports aren't accurate or items aren't being reported. Are there any guidelines that the haulers can have to help the coordinators? Joyce said she spoke to food vendors and scrap yards, and some didn't have good record keeping. Some of the information we can work with and some we cannot. Jack was under the impression that what they took to the scrap yard could be used in county numbers. Jack asked if he could have an overall list of recyclable materials that DEP tracks for his information. He'd like to find out what items he could possibly be contributing to the percentage for the county. Dave talked about logistics. Some counties have very active recycling programs and some tend to handle it through the municipalities. Think about what you would like us to say about the programs when

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we're writing the plan? Joyce would like to have a meeting with the county recycling coordinators to be able to talk about some of the issues that has to do with reporting.

The person who volunteered to participate in the Steering Committee is Jason Yorks. Charlie Fritz is the alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Date for the next Recyclers Stakeholder meeting is Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 3:00 PM at the Union County Government Center in the Union County Cafe.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 1:30 PM in Montour County at the Courthouse at 29 Mill Street, Danville, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Johnson
EfficientC