

April 23, 2012

RE: Blair County Municipal Waste Management Plan

Subj: Waste Collection and Recycling Practices

Dear Municipal Official:

The Blair County Commissioners currently are in the process of revising their Municipal Waste Management Plan. This revision is required by the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act (PA Act 101).

The new plan will update the 2002 Blair County Municipal Waste Management Plan. The update will be formatted to serve as a reference manual for public officials responsible for the implementation and coordination of various waste management programs. The main goals of the plan are to assure county residents of at least ten years of disposal capacity for waste generated within the County, to identify and provide recommendations on current solid waste management issues, and to address goals such as offering increased recycling opportunities and finding ways to increase recycling rates in the County.

On behalf of the County, Barton & Loguidice (B&L), the planning consultant for this work (with assistance from Nittany Engineering Associates), is requesting information in the form of a survey (attached) regarding waste collection and recycling practices in your municipality. To keep the plan update process on schedule, would you please complete and return the enclosed municipal survey to us by May 15, 2012. For your convenience, a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope is included. Please note the completed survey is to be mailed to Mr. Kerry D. Tyson, P.E. of Nittany Engineering, who is assisting with the plan update. If you have any questions regarding this survey or its use in the plan revision process, please contact Ms. Ashley Duncan of B&L at 717-737-8326, or Mr. Tyson at 814-364-2262. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

BARTON & LOGUIDICE, P.C.



Terry D. Keene, P.E.  
Senior Managing Engineer

TDK/dmr



**BLAIR COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES**

The County of Blair is in the process of updating its 10-Year Solid Waste Plan in order to adequately plan for the County’s waste management, recycling, and disposal needs. Please complete the following brief survey regarding municipal waste and recyclables collection and disposal practices in the County, to assist us in the planning process.

**A. SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION**

1. Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_
2. List disposal site(s) used for disposal of municipal solid waste (i.e. household garbage) generated/collected within your municipality (or state “don’t know”, if you don’t know):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3.
  - a. Estimated percentage of your population having regular refuse collection: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Estimated percentage of your population with regular recyclables collection: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Estimated percentage of your population on public sewers: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Est. percentage of your pop. with convenient access to a recyclables dropoff site \_\_\_\_\_
4. Frequency of residential refuse collection: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Frequency of residential curbside recyclables collection: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Residential refuse collection services are provided by (check all that apply):
  - Individual Private Subscription Contracts
  - Municipal Contract     Municipal Collection Crew
  - Via Direct Hauling to Dropoff/ Convenience Center
  - Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Residential recyclables services are provided by (check all that apply):
  - As Part of Individual Private Subscription Contracts
  - Municipal Contract     Municipal Collection Crew
  - Via Direct Hauling to Private, Municipal or County Dropoff Site
  - Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_
  - None
8. If municipal contract, please provide a copy of the contract, and complete the following:  
Name of Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commencement date and length of contract: \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES (cont'd)**

9. Name of private municipal waste hauler(s) operating in your municipality:  
(Please provide address & phone number, if known)

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10. Average monthly, quarterly, or annual cost (note below) to residents for solid waste collection and disposal within your municipality (choose one):

\$\_\_\_\_\_/household/\_\_\_\_\_; or \$\_\_\_\_\_/container

11. Average monthly, quarterly, or annual cost (please indicate which, below) to residents for recyclables curbside collection within your municipality (choose one):

\$\_\_\_\_\_per household per\_\_\_\_\_; or \$\_\_\_\_\_per container; or Not Applicable\_\_\_\_\_

12. How are residents billed for solid waste collection/ disposal, and recycling services?

Solid Waste:

Paid from local taxes in the general revenue.

Pay trash fee to municipality.

Pay trash fee directly to private hauler.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Recycling:

Paid from local taxes in the general revenue.

Pay recycling fee to municipality.

Pay recycling fee directly to private hauler.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Does your municipality register private municipal waste haulers?  Yes  No

If you have a registration program, please attach a list of your registered waste haulers.

14. Does your municipality have a solid waste ordinance in effect governing the collection and transportation of municipal solid waste and recyclables? (If yes, please attach a copy).

Yes

No

15. Do you sponsor special handling waste (cleanups, white goods, tires, etc.) collections?

Yes

No

If yes, which items? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when are collections scheduled? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Does your municipality have any restrictions on the burning of waste, or the burning of

**SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES (cont'd)**

recyclables or leaves? (please explain). \_\_\_\_\_

17. Please describe any recycling activities and recycling programs in your municipality. Also include any future plans. Provide names and addresses of companies involved. (This includes scrap dealers). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Please list contact person(s) and phone number for your municipal recycling program.

\_\_\_\_\_

What recyclable materials are collected? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your municipality provide recycling containers and/or transportation?  Yes  No

Do you provide recycling education, collection route calendars, etc?  Yes  No

19. How are materials processed/marketed (name markets, collectors, processing facilities, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. a. Would your municipality like assistance with providing dropoff sites for recyclables or assisting with marketing recyclables?  Yes  No

b. Are you willing to host a recyclables dropoff somewhere in your municipality?

Yes  No Please elaborate: \_\_\_\_\_

21. The County can offer sample ordinances, and PADEP staff are available to meet with municipal officials on these topics, if the municipality indicates interest. Would your municipality be interested in developing...

a no-burn ordinance?

a no-burning-of-recyclables ordinance?

a voluntary curbside recycling ordinance (i.e. if residents choose to recycle, haulers must collect and appropriately handle recyclables)?

a mandatory curbside recycling ordinance (i.e. residents would be required to recycle, either with or without requiring that residents have a hauler agreement)?

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What barriers could be addressed that might stand in the way of the municipality implementing one or more of the ordinances listed above? \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES (cont'd)**

**B. SEPTAGE INFORMATION**

22. Does the municipality have a septage (i.e. septic tank pumpings) hauler registration program established? Yes No  
If you have a registration program, please attach a list of your registered septage haulers.
23. Has the municipality established schedules for inspecting and pumping of septic tanks?  
Yes No If so, please describe \_\_\_\_\_
24. Does the municipality have a method to track and verify removal and disposition of septage? Yes No If so, please describe \_\_\_\_\_
25. Has your municipality enacted an ordinance that establishes a septage disposal management program? Yes No If yes, please attach a copy of your ordinance.
26. Does the municipality have a program established for registration, tracking, and monitoring of other wastes such as from restaurant grease traps and car wash grit traps? Yes No  
Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_
27. How many on-lot disposal systems (i.e. homes and businesses on septic tank systems) do you have in your municipality (estimated)? \_\_\_\_\_
28. Are there any services the County could provide to assist in the management of your septage management or disposal program? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. LEAVES, YARD WASTE AND OTHER ORGANICS INFORMATION**

29. Does your municipality currently collect leaf and yard waste? Yes No  
If so, what is the frequency of collection? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are other organics collected/processed? Yes No  
If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_ Please estimate  
the amount of leaf and yard waste collected annually (cubic yards or tons)? \_\_\_\_\_
30. How does your municipality process leaves, yard waste, etc. (windrow composting, farm application, other)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please estimate the amount of leaves and yard waste you handle annually: \_\_\_\_\_  
If composted or mulched, please provide estimated quantity of finished product produced.  
Compost \_\_\_\_\_ Mulch \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES (cont'd)**

31. Would the municipality be interested in the County providing services to assist in the processing of leaves and yard waste from the municipality? Yes No  
In providing a location/ facility to recycle organics, such as food wastes? Yes No

**D. SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS**

The Blair County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling offers a variety of services available to residents of Blair County's 25 municipalities. Drop-off recycling is available at 10 depot locations in the County. The Department also operates two composting facilities for both public and municipal drop-off of yard waste; one of these facilities offers screened compost and two grades of mulch for sale to the public, to municipalities, and to the business community. The larger compost facility also serves as a full-service recycling center, accepting over 40 different commodities for recycling, now including electronics. The Department coordinates an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection, which allows residents to properly dispose of materials that can otherwise be harmful to residents, to firefighters, and to our beautiful County; a used tire collection also has been held in recent years in partnership with three other agencies. The Department also provides education and code enforcement in the areas of solid waste, recycling, illegal dumping and littering.

Along with now-declining State grant funding, County residents have paid for these services in a fashion not generally known to residents. Until 2005, the County collected a fee at landfills, at a rate ranging from \$1.00 to \$3.50 *per ton* of waste generated by County residents. The fee was built into hauler rates charged to residents. The County collected the fee for 13 years, as the Department's primary funding source. In 2005, PA courts ruled that such a fee was not valid, as a follow-up to a suit brought by the waste industry in another part of the State. These landfill administrative fees paid for services such as drop-off recycling, composting, education and enforcement. Reserves from that funding source have been used since 2005 to fund such programs, and those reserves are nearly depleted.

The services described above have a cost. Unless the State Legislature empowers Counties to either resume collection of an administrative fee at landfills (which seems unlikely, at this writing) or to assess some other form of sustainability fee, such services are at risk of being reduced or

**SURVEY OF MUNICIPALITIES (cont'd)**

eliminated. To keep these services, which residents seem to both appreciate and want *more* of, rather than less, *someone* would need to pay, in some fashion. With this background information, we pose the following questions.

Which of these services would you like to have available to residents of your municipality?

- \_\_\_ Drop-off Recycling (currently, cardboard; newsprint; plastic bottles, jugs and jars; and metal cans)
- \_\_\_ Curbside Recycling (commodities, as above, but also magazines, catalogs, and most printed papers)
- \_\_\_ Fall leaf collection
- \_\_\_ Spring Yard Waste Collection
- \_\_\_ Household Hazardous Waste Collection

As noted above, such services have a cost. What would residents be willing to pay for such services?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Drop-off Recycling (currently, cardboard; newsprint; plastic bottles, jugs and jars; and metal cans)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Curbside Recycling (commodities as above, but also magazines, catalogs, and most printed paper)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fall leaf collection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Yard Waste Collection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**E. COMPLETION OF SURVEY**

Name, title, and phone number of person completing this questionnaire:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact you if we have any questions: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this survey! We appreciate your assistance. Please return the survey by May 15, 2012 in the pre-paid postage envelope.

Please return survey to: Mr. Kerry Tyson, P.E.  
Nittany Engineering and Associates, LLC  
Suite 1, 2836 Earlstown Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828

Questions? Please call Ms. Ashley Duncan of Barton & Loguidice at 717-737-8326, or Kerry Tyson at 814-364-2262.