



TRASH, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**Prepared by:
West Vincent Township Trash Disposal Task Force**

**Date recommended:
June 26, 2014**

WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP TRASH DISPOSAL TASK FORCE

The original West Vincent Township Trash Disposal Task Force was made up of the following residents:

Steven Bazil	Peter Ouwerkerk
Gene Briggs	John Rieder
Chip Farnum	Harry Saunders
Penny Furness-Hodgkins	Kate Stanton
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Due to a variety of reasons, not all residents were able to remain actively involved in this planning process. This Recommendation Report is respectfully submitted by:

Steven Bazil	Bob Kaiser
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In preparing this report the West Vincent Township Trash Disposal Task Force would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their contributions and support:

Claire Quinn, Former West Vincent Township Supervisor
David Brown, West Vincent Township Supervisor
John Jacobs, West Vincent Township Supervisor
Kenneth I. Miller, Jr., West Vincent Township Supervisor
James Wendelgass, West Vincent Township Manager
Nancy Fromnick, Chester County Recycling Coordinator
Christopher Giovetsis, Division Manager, Republic Services (King of Prussia Recyclery)

In addition, it would like to acknowledge and thank the residents of West Vincent Township (Township) who participated in community events and who attended the Task Force's periodic meetings as their input has been extremely valuable in its determining the most suitable way forward for the collection and disposal of waste generated within the Township.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

After discussing the broad issue of trash collection and disposal at a number of public meetings, the Board of Supervisors (Supervisors) of West Vincent Township (Township) established the Trash Disposal Task Force (Task Force) made up of residents from various segments of the community. The Supervisors directed the Task Force to investigate options to comply with PA Act 101 of 1988 – Pennsylvania’s “Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling And Waste Reduction Act” (Act 101), which requires the Township, once it reaches a population of 5,000 and a population density of 300 persons per square mile, to institute a mandatory recycling program. Given 20 year population growth trends, the Township’s population is forecasted to exceed 5,000 residents and a density of 300 persons per square mile before 2020. When investigating options to comply with Act 101, the Supervisors directed the Task Force to consider alternatives that best achieve comprehensive recycling and composting and reduce carbon emissions within the Township, as recommended by the Township’s Sustainability Plan, as well as resident complaints about the excessive noise caused by having multiple trash haulers operating within neighborhoods each week.

Data Collection and Education

The Task Force convened on September 27, 2012, and hosted open meetings with the public at the Township Building over a 21 month period. During these public meetings, interested residents shared their opinions and participated in the discussions with the Task Force. In addition to gathering public opinion at the open meetings as part of its information and education process, the Task Force:

- Compiled information from Chester County municipalities that currently offer trash, recycling, and composting services.
- Analyzed the applicable Federal, State, and Township laws pertaining to trash, recycling, and composting.
- Spoke with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about its policy in approving municipal recycling ordinances.
- Invited haulers to complete a survey and attend a public meeting to discuss their trash and recycling operations within the Township.
- Met with the Chester County Recycling Coordinator to discuss trash and recycling options and opportunities within the County.
- Toured a local landfill and a recycling facility to understand how they operate and hauler relationships.

- Staffed booths at the Township’s 2013 Sustainability Fair and Community Day to gather resident opinions on trash and recycling services.

Analysis and Lessons Learned

Upon completion of the above research and analysis, the Task Force learned the following:

- The trash, recycling, and composting services offered by municipalities are as unique as the municipalities themselves. One size clearly does not fit all.
- The Township’s adopted Ordinance No. 69 sets forth the requirements for registration of trash haulers within the Township and requires recycling by commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments, but does not mandate residential recycling. Act 101 mandates recycling in Pennsylvania’s larger municipalities, requires the development of municipal waste management plans, and provides for grants to offset expenses. The goals of Act 101 are to reduce municipal waste by recycling at least 25% of the waste generated and educate the public as to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. The Federal Clean Air Act makes it illegal for a homeowner to burn leaves, as leaves are considered a recyclable (compostable) material.
- DEP approves municipal recycling ordinances for compliance with Act 101, but will not do so unless the ordinance has mandatory trash hauling and leaf burning ban provisions.
- Generally, the haulers want to continue providing service to Township residents, and (with the exception of proprietary information) do provide estimates of tonnage of recyclable materials collected within the Township. However, due to comingling with recyclables collected from adjacent municipalities, information regarding recyclables specifically collected within the Township are generally not available.
- The Chester County Recycling Coordinator suggests that, based upon past experiences, the Township ease into trash and recycling services so residents can get comfortable with meeting Act 101.
- The 600-acre Lanchester Landfill is where most of the Township’s municipal solid waste is disposed. The current tipping fee (cost) is \$62/ton of waste, which covers property, labor, equipment, materials, and energy costs. The King of Prussia Recyclery is a for-profit enterprise and offers a state-of-the-art single stream (comingled materials) system. According to the operators, studies have shown that homeowner convenience drives the volume of recyclables collected. Simply providing larger containers for recyclables increases homeowner participation and the volume of recyclables collected.
- The most common resident opinions on trash and recycling services are:
 - Reduce the number of trucks on streets and within neighborhoods.
 - Increase recycling and composting to positively impact the environment.
 - Keep choice of haulers in residents’ hands.
 - Maintain their current hauler.

- Opposed to single-hauler mandated by the Township.
- Opposed to centralized control by the Township.
- Pleased with current hauling system of free choice.

It is important to note that the research and analysis conducted for this report is not scientific, as it was done so by residents who volunteered to serve the Township and their neighbors. The Task Force did not have professional staff or a Township budget available to it to help evaluate the options and arrive at its recommendation. The planning process was organic; it evolved as information was gathered and analyzed by the Task Force.

Recommendation

The following recommendation is made by the Task Force to the Supervisors and is based on over a year and a half studying the issues, including the needs and wants of Township residents. The Task Force believes that the following recommendation achieves the directives assigned to it by the Supervisors in September 2012, while balancing the resident opinions shared throughout the planning process. The Task Force further believes that its recommendation is functional, achievable, and fits the unique needs of the Township and its residents now and in the near future.

The Task Force recommends a "Preferred Hauler" system. Under this system the Township solicits proposals from interested haulers and makes a selection of the Preferred Hauler based on defined performance and commercial terms. The Township then enters into a contract with the selected hauler. The Preferred Hauler service is offered to all households or Homeowners Associations (HOA) representing households in the Township. However, no household or HOA is obligated to use the Preferred Hauler and may elect to use an alternate hauler. The negotiated contract should designate specific dates in the Spring and Fall when residents served by such haulers may place at curb side garden waste to be picked up for composting at an approved composting site. Periodically or when establishing residence within the Township, residents may either opt in to the services provided by the Preferred Hauler OR they may make their own arrangements, unless governed by a HOA, with another hauler of their choice. A key feature of the Township's contract with a Preferred Hauler should be a sliding rate scale, such that with increasing numbers of households participating, the rate each household is charged by the hauler decreases. It is expected that, over time, competitive rates and market forces would encourage greater and greater participation by Township households.

This system allows residents full choice while providing a free market like incentive for residents and neighborhoods to consolidate services to reduce truck traffic on their streets and receive special contracted rates.

REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

After discussing various points concerning the broad issue of trash collection and disposal, and compliance with Pennsylvania Act 101 of 1988 (Act 101), at a number of public meetings, the Board of Supervisors (Supervisors) of West Vincent Township (Township) decided to form a committee and solicit residents from the Township to volunteer to serve. The resulting committee, consisting originally of thirteen members representing differing communities within the Township, investigated options and alternatives for trash collection and disposal, composting, and recycling services. The Township Trash Disposal Task Force (Task Force) was formed to analyze trash, recycling, and yard waste disposal options and to make a recommendation to the Supervisors. It was given the general tasks of investigating the various options that are available to the Township, addressing the wishes of residents, and making recommendations to the Board about what steps the Township should take to comply with Act 101. The Supervisors asked for an informed recommendation on how it is to deal with trash collection and disposal, composting, and recycling services within the Township.

The Task Force was formed as a result of:

1. Township compliance with Act 101, which requires that once the Township population reaches 5,000 residents and a population density of more than 300 persons per square mile; it must have a mandatory recycling program. Given 20 year population growth trends, the Township's population is forecasted to exceed 5,000 residents and a density of 300 persons per square mile by the next decennial census of 2020.
2. The Township's Sustainability Plan, dated December 2011, recommends that comprehensive recycling and composting efforts be undertaken and that carbon emissions be reduced.
3. Resident complaints about the noise and pollution caused by having multiple haulers in their neighborhoods each week, often in the early morning hours.
4. Residents' interest in lowering the cost of trash collection.
5. Residents' hopes that trash and recycling services would be improved.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held on September 27, 2012 at the Township building. Since that time, the Task Force compiled information regarding what other municipalities in Chester County have in place for trash, recycling, and composting services. The Task Force also analyzed the applicable State laws requiring recycling and composting. These are summarized and discussed in the below Applicable Ordinances section. It should be understood that the Task Force began its work with no preconceived outcomes of any kind and compiled its recommendation based on a ranking of the most important factors identified by the Supervisors, recommendations of the Township Sustainability Plan, through the Task Force discussions with residents, as well as the Task Force's own research.

As of the date of this report, the Township website identified six residential trash haulers operating within its borders: A.J. Blosenski, Diamond Waste Disposal, Interstate Waste Services, Quality Disposal, Republic Services, and Waste Management. With this number of haulers serving residents weekly, typically with two trucks per hauler per route (one for trash and one for recyclables), there is a considerable amount of trash hauler traffic with attendant noise, emissions, and additional wear and tear on Township roads.

2. APPLICABLE ORDINANCES

The following provides a summary of the Township, State, and Federal laws pertaining to trash and recycling activities applicable to the Township:

Township Ordinance No. 69

Presently, the Township does have a Trash and Recycling Ordinance in effect. It is Ordinance No. 69 enacted April 04, 1994. The Ordinance sets forth the requirements for the registration of municipal waste haulers within the Township, and also requires recycling by commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments. As a condition of registration, waste haulers must “make available to all residents . . . a program for the collection, transportation, and recycling of recyclable materials and leaf waste”. This Ordinance does not require (make legally obligated) residents to recycle. It will be necessary for Ordinance No. 69 to be amended or a new ordinance enacted to comply with the requirements of Act 101.

PA Act 101 of 1988 - Pennsylvania`s "Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling And Waste Reduction Act"

Act 101 mandates recycling in Pennsylvania`s larger municipalities, requires counties to develop municipal waste management plans, and provides for grants to offset expenses. The goals of Act 101 are to reduce municipal waste generation; recycle at least 25% of waste generated; procure and use recycled and recyclable materials in state governmental agencies; and educate the public as to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. The benefits of recycling and waste reduction include reduced pollution risks; conservation of natural resources, energy and landfill space; and reduced disposal costs.

Additionally, mandated municipalities are required to separate leaf/yard waste from other municipal wastes. Since September 26, 1990, no waste disposal facility accepts shipments comprised primarily of leaf/yard wastes unless a separate composting facility has been provided.

Act 101 establishes the threshold for when a municipality must implement source-separation and collection program for recyclable materials, but Act 101 does not mandate trash hauling

services. For the Township, the recycling program threshold is when it has a population of more than 5,000 residents and a population density of more than 300 persons per square mile. For the Township, with an area of 17.9 sq. miles, the threshold is then reached with a population of 5,519. This requirement only pertains to the Township when it reaches these numbers as reported through a decennial census by the US Census Bureau.

Act 101 would require the Township to establish a recycling program that includes:

1. An ordinance that:
 - a. Requires persons to separate out at least three materials for recycling.
 - b. Requires persons to separate leaf/yard waste from other waste.
 - c. Requires commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments to recycle high grade office paper, aluminum, corrugated paper, and leaf/yard waste.
2. A scheduled day, at least once per month, for collection.
3. A system for collection of recycled material.
4. Provisions to ensure compliance (i.e. incentives and penalties).
5. Provisions for the recycling of collected materials.

PA Act 140 of 2006

The primary purpose of Act 140 is to establish and/or update requirements for grant applications and distributions. There does not appear to be any relevant sections with respect to implementation of recycling programs or requirements for waste collection. Per an unwritten policy of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), it will not approve a municipality's mandatory recycling program without a trash collection program.

Federal Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act states that it is against the law to burn leaves as leaves are considered a recyclable (compostable) material. Act 101 implements the Clean Air Act's leaf burn ban, as the DEP will not approve a municipality's mandatory recycling program without a leaf burn ban provision.

3. WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND GOALS

The West Vincent Township Sustainability Plan provides a definition of sustainability: "Sustainability is an approach whereby the needs of the current population are met without compromising the needs of future populations." Accordingly, "the West Vincent Sustainability Plan endeavors to move us forward thoughtfully into the future where change does not mean depletion or loss of what we value but rather enhancement and protection of what makes our community a wonderful place to live."

Energy and Environment are two of the identified “value categories” identified by the Sustainability Plan, which are relevant to the discussion on trash and recycling. Specific goals presented in the Sustainability Plan for these categories include:

1. Educate residents on recycling.
2. Educate Township staff and residents on the benefit of composting.
3. Enact a Township recycling ordinance to include 90% of households by 2020.
4. Reduce Township-wide carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels 17% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
5. Develop and promote a source of separated organic material composting program.
6. Create a viable facility for community composting. Target 100% municipal organic and 15% consumer waste composting.

4. PROCESS/ACTIVITIES

The following list outlines the evaluation process and associated activities that the Task Force undertook in completing its assignment to reach consensus on a recommendation to the Supervisors:

1. Regular Task Force meetings open to the public held at the Township Building.
2. Elected a Chairperson and Secretary.
3. Determined the mission of the group.
4. Researched and discussed applicable Federal, State, and Township laws and ordinances.
5. Talked to area municipalities to determine the way other communities handle trash and recycling services.
6. Invited haulers to complete a survey and attend a monthly meeting to discuss trash and recycling operations and hauling within the Township.
7. Invited the Chester County Recycling Coordinator to a monthly meeting to discuss trash and recycling options and opportunities within the County.
8. Toured local landfill and a recycling facility to understand how they operate and hauler relationships.
9. Staffed booths at the Township’s 2013 Sustainability Fair and Community Day to gather resident opinions on trash and recycling services.
10. Broke into small workgroups to develop trash and recycling options to build consensus on services to recommend.
11. Created a rating matrix for the options and individually ranked the options.
12. Compiled individual rankings into a composite ranking for the group.
13. Achieved consensus on a single recommendation and prepared this Recommendation Report.

5. FINDINGS

Population Growth in West Vincent Township

Decennial population counts for 1990, 2000, and 2010 were 2,262, 3,170, and 4,567, respectively, a 40% increase in 2000 over 1990 and 44% in 2010 over 2000. To reach an Act 101 threshold population of 5,519 would require a net increase of 952 persons by the next decennial population count in 2020 over 2010 or 21%, only one half the rate of growth experienced over the past two decades.

Already, 172 new homes have been built since 2010, and approved, but not yet built, new homes number 467. Assuming the Chester County average of 2.63 persons per household, these 639 housing units would represent 1,681 new Township residents, well above the 952 new residents needed to exceed the Act 101 implementation threshold.

In conclusion, by the next decennial population count, the population of the Township will exceed the Act 101 implementation threshold by a significant margin, thereby mandating recycling and a leaf waste burn ban, as well as requiring a trash disposal program as a matter of policy by DEP.

Visit to Lanchester Landfill on October 22, 2013

The Lanchester Landfill is where most of the Township's municipal solid waste is disposed. The facility is owned and operated by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA), which was established in 1984. The Landfill is on a 600-acre property in Honey Brook, Salisbury, and Caernarvon Townships that includes 160 acres of landfills. The CCSWA provides a public service to 49 Chester County municipalities, about 400,000 residents and hundreds of businesses throughout the County. Lanchester accepts an average of 1,000 tons of non-hazardous municipal refuse daily or approximately 300,000 tons annually. About 90% of this refuse is generated by Chester County. The current tipping fee is \$62/ton. Lanchester also accepts small quantities of presorted recyclables from residents including, but not limited to, newsprint, mixed paper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, #1 through #7 plastic containers, leaves, waste oil, batteries, and cardboard.

The visit to the Lanchester Landfill was extraordinarily educational to the Task Force and allowed it to gain an appreciation of the enormity of the problem of solid waste disposal. The term "landfill" is something of a misnomer – it could be better described as a "landbuild" for at the facility the waste stream is being formed into a substantial hill. The summit of this man-made hill affords a panoramic view of the surrounding rural countryside. The fact that this man-made hill is open to the public on weekends is not trivial, since it underscores two significant aspects. First, the visitor is able to appreciate the enormity of the operation; and

second, the measures taken by the CCSWA staff and contractors in the hill's creation are elaborate, well-planned and result in a virtual parkland that is safe for recreation. This is achieved at great cost in property, labor, equipment, materials, and energy.

Visit to Republic Recycling Center, King of Prussia on November 22, 2013

The King of Prussia Recyclery is owned and operated by Republic Services, a for-profit enterprise. It occupies only a few acres in an industrial area on South Henderson Road. It has been a materials recovery facility since the mid-1980s. For many years, it was dual-stream operation in which paper and commingled containers (glass, aluminum, plastic, and steel) were sorted and processed on separate lines. In July 2008, this dual stream system was replaced by a state-of-the-art single stream system. The \$5 million investment increased the facilities overall processing capability to 40 tons per hour such that currently the Recyclery handles up to 500 tons of material each weekday. Most of the material is delivered as a mixture of the materials to be recycled. The process begins with the mixture being dumped on the floor of large covered warehouse and then loaded onto a series of conveyors. There is some manual sorting as the conveyors carry the material passed employees. The rest is automated through a complex of disc screens, optical sorters, magnets, and pneumatic devices. The separated materials are baled and shipped to destinations throughout the world. The following is a breakdown of each major material recycled at this facility:

1. Aluminum cans
2. Steel cans
3. Glass bottles
4. #1 PET bottles
5. #2 HDPE bottles
6. #3 through #7 plastics
7. Newspaper, cardboard, and office paper

The goal of the facility is to sort and ship out as much of the input material as possible. Inevitably, some of the comingled material remains unsorted and must be shipped to a landfill. Public outreach and education, together with the careful monitoring of delivered material serve to improve the effectiveness of the operation.

Republic Services is itself a trash hauler, but offers the recycling service to competing haulers. Most of the current recycling from the haulers serving the Township is processed by this facility.

A particularly relevant (and easy to implement) finding of these visits was that several studies have shown that homeowner convenience drives the volume of recyclables collected. Simply providing larger containers for recyclables increases homeowner participation and the volume of recyclables collected.

Impact of Heavy Vehicle Traffic on Local Roads

Within the Township are 48.2 miles of paved roads and 17.3 miles of gravel roads. It is generally accepted that the impact of a 3-axle garbage truck on Township roads is greater than that of an individual automobile in terms of wear and tear. While quantifying this cost accurately would require considerable data collection and engineering analysis, there is considerable published information to support the accepted notion. For most applications, pavement design is governed by the AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structures, and this requires that all traffic be converted into equivalent single-axle loads or ESALs. This is the number of 18,000 pound single axles on pavements of specified strength that would produce the same amount of traffic damage over the design life of the pavement. A typical garbage truck that serves the Township weighs in the order of 60,000 pounds and has an ESAL of 1.0. In comparison, a typical passenger car has an ESAL of 0.0007. Therefore, the wear caused by the passage of one garbage truck is equivalent to the passage of 1,429 passenger cars. Roads in the Township are either flexible pavement or are unpaved, which are particularly susceptible to the impact of heavy vehicles.

Resident Views and Opinions

Throughout this process, Task Force members have received comments from Township residents. These interactions took place at Task Force meetings, Sustainability Fair 2013, Community Day 2013, and informally with neighbors and friends of Task Force members. The following summarizes resident opinions and desires that have been expressed.

Expressed at Task Force Meetings

- Choice: a number of homeowners expressed satisfaction with their current haulers and do not want to be forced to change.
- Special Needs: some homeowners, due to personal circumstances, have made special arrangements with their hauler for trash and recyclables to be picked up at their residence rather than at the curb or on a less-than-weekly schedule.
- Decentralized Control: some homeowners are opposed to ceding additional authority to the Township.

Expressed Via Survey, Questionnaires, and Neighborhood Discussions

- Choice
- Cost savings
- Environmental benefits
- Noise reduction (trucks)
- Reduced traffic

At the Sustainability Fair, March 16, 2013, the Task Force solicited input from residents and comments on their current trash and recycling services, and what changes, if any, they would like to see or support.

At Community Day, May 11, 2013, the Task Force invited residents to complete a simple survey. Twenty four self-identified residents provided responses to the statement, “I would support a Township wide residential trash/recycling program.” as summarized in the following table.

CONDITION	AGREE	UNCERTAIN	DISAGREE
Even if it limited my choice of haulers	18	3	3
If the Township negotiated service levels/costs	18	4	2
If the Township allowed special needs exemptions	19	5	0
If it reduced trash hauler traffic	22	1	1
If it was supported by state grants	21	2	1
If it provided composting of yard wastes	22	0	2
If the trash hauler billed homeowners directly	15	8	1
If it was paid for through a Township tax	11	10	3
If it included a pay-as-you-throw option	13	8	3
If it was mandatory for all residents	13	8	3

Although not by any means scientific, this limited survey does show a significant willingness of Township residents to consider a Township-wide trash/recycling program. However, when it came to matters of how to bill for trash/recycling collection and whether participation should be mandatory, there was a shift towards uncertainty.

6. TRASH AND RECYCLING OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Task Force developed a number of options to be considered from conversations with residents, neighboring municipalities, haulers, and from Task Force discussions. All the options listed below would require an update to Township Ordinance No. 69 for compliance with Act 101 and include penalties for non-compliance. The options evaluated were:

Option 1 – Status Quo

The selection of service providers (trash and recycling haulers) will remain with the individual property owner or Homeowner Association (HOA), as applicable. Service providers are registered with the Township to work within its borders to allow better control of service, operating hours, and requirements for reporting of recycling materials.

Option 2 – Preferred Single Hauler

The Township defines service and performance requirements, solicits bids, and selects a hauler. Individual property owners and HOAs are, in turn, encouraged to opt in, thus creating a larger pool of customers for their selected hauler. Contract provisions allow the price charged per household to decrease as the number of households opting in increases.

Option 3 – Mandatory Single Hauler

The Township defines service and performance requirements, solicits bids, and selects a single hauler. Individual property owners would be required to use the selected hauler (HOAs already providing trash and recycling services would be exempt, but could opt in.).

Option 4 – Preferred Multiple Haulers

The Township defines services and performance requirements, solicits bids, and selects 2 or 3 haulers. Individual property owners still have a choice of which service provider they want to select. HOAs are encouraged to opt in with the selected haulers. By creating a larger pool of customers for selected haulers, contract provisions should allow the price charged per household to decrease, as the number of households opting in increases.

Option 5 – Mandatory Multiple Haulers

The Township defines service and performance requirements, solicits bids, and selects 2 or 3 haulers. Individual property owners and HOAs must comply with selections, thus creating a larger pool of customers for selected haulers. Contract provisions should allow the price charged per household to decrease, as the number of households/customers increases.

Option 6 – Separate Trash and Recycling Haulers

Trash haulers sell their services directly to individual property owners. The Township defines recycling service and performance requirements, solicits bids, and selects a recycling hauler.

Option Seven – Township Owned Services

The Township employs staff and purchases vehicles and equipment to provide mandatory billing. The Township handles billing.

Option Eight – Pay-As-You-Throw

Pay-As-You-Throw is a usage-pricing model for disposing of municipal solid waste. Homeowners are charged a rate based on how much waste they present for collection to the Township. There are three (3) main types of Pay-As-You-Throw programs:

- Full-unit pricing: Users pay for all the garbage they want collected in advance by purchasing a tag, custom bag or selected size container.
- Partial-unit pricing: The local authority or municipality decides on a maximum number of bags or containers of garbage, with collection paid for taxes. Additional bags or containers are available for purchase should the user exceed the permitted amount.
- Variable-rate pricing: Users can choose to rent a container of varying sizes (some programs offer up to five), with the price corresponding to the amount of waste generated.

7. TRASH AND RECYCLING SCORING EXERCISE

In order to rank each collection option identified above, the following goals: ACT 101 Compliance; Choice; Convenience; Increased Recycling; Lower Cost; Reduced Solid Waste; Traffic Reduction; and Update of Ordinance 69, were selected. A matrix was designed that allowed each of the eight options to be ranked on a scale of 1 to 4 depending on how the option satisfied each of the desired goals. Each Task Force member independently scored the various options. All goals were treated equally and no attempt was made to weight one goal versus another regarding importance. A compilation of each Task Force member's matrix was then summarized into a final analysis. The option that ranked the highest against the stated goals was the Mandatory Single Hauler. The next highest options were Pay-As-You-Throw and Preferred Single Hauler.

8. COMPOSTING OF LEAF WASTE

With a largely rural heritage, many Township residents have had the option to dispose of leaf waste on their own property – either composting or burning the accumulated waste as needed. However, with population growth, the development of smaller properties, and Federal burning bans in effect, homeowners are in need of off-site disposal options. Further, the regulatory environment is changing such that leaf waste is no longer accepted in landfills. The burning of leaves is prohibited under the Federal Clean Air Act.

9. RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation is made by the Task Force to the Supervisors and is based on nearly two years of studying the issue, including the needs and wants of Township residents. The Task Force believes that the following recommendation achieves the directives assigned to it by the Supervisors in September 2012, while balancing the resident opinions shared during the planning process. The Task Force further believes that its recommendation is functional, achievable, and fits the unique needs of the Township and its residents now and in the near future.

The Task Force recommends a "Preferred Hauler" system. Under this system the Township solicits proposals from interested haulers and makes a selection of the Preferred Hauler based on defined performance and commercial terms. The Township then enters into a contract with the selected hauler. The Preferred Hauler service is offered to all households or HOA representing households in the Township. However, no household or HOA is obligated to use the Preferred Hauler and may elect to use an alternate hauler. The negotiated contract should designate specific dates in the Spring and Fall when residents served by such haulers may place at curb side garden waste to be picked up for composting at an approved composting site. Periodically or when establishing residence within the Township, residents may either opt in to the services provided by the Preferred Hauler OR they may make their own arrangements, unless governed by a HOA, with another hauler of their choice. A key feature of the Township's contract with a Preferred Hauler should be a sliding rate scale, such that with increasing numbers of households participating, the rate each household is charged by the hauler decreases. It is expected that, over time, competitive rates and market forces would encourage greater and greater participation by Township households.

This system allows residents full choice while providing a free market like incentive for residents and neighborhoods to consolidate services to reduce truck traffic on their streets and receive special contracted rates.