

Adams County

Gettysburg College – Reuse

Gettysburg College students collected items from apartments, residence halls and classrooms that would normally be thrown in dumpsters at the end of the academic year. Items included lamps, furniture, fans, carpets, appliances, etc. Students then donated the items to the “Give it up for Good” sale, held on campus. The items were sold and money raised was donated to the United Way of Adams County.

Allegheny County

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc. – Special Collections

The Council hosted multiple one-day collections for things like electronics, tires, latex paint and large appliances. Everything collected was refurbished, recycled or disposed of in accordance with all local, state and federal laws. The collections have been so successful in previous years, that three were held in 2005.

Construction Junction Inc. – Reuse

Construction Junction opened in 1999. Its goal is to promote conservation through the reuse of building material. The company takes things like used lumber, plywood, lighting and plumbing fixtures, carpeting, tile and windows. It’s estimated 75% of those materials would otherwise end up in landfills. Construction Junction re-sells the materials for 50-90% below typical retail prices.

Blair County

Lucy Wolf – Individual Recycling

Lucy works in the Blair County Law Library. Through her efforts, attorneys and their clients can recycle their legal tomes, printer toners, phonebooks, magazines and catalogues without leaving the building. The items can be brought right to Lucy’s office and recycled through Blair County Department of Solid Waste. In one case since Lucy started the program, the office recycled more than two tons of law books.

Brian Musselman – Individual Commercial/Institutional Recycling

Brian works for Champion Homes in Claysburg. He takes it upon himself to recycle manufacturing materials from construction, such as copper, aluminum, vinyl siding, cardboard, plastic and drywall. When new materials become available, Brian searches for companies that could recycle them.

Glenda Everett – School Recycling

Glenda work as a teacher at the Roaring Springs Elementary School, which is a non-mandated area. Through her own efforts, she started up a recycling program in the school to collect office paper and aluminum cans. The items are recycled through the Blair County Department of Solid Waste.

Altoona Central Catholic School – School Recycling

For the second consecutive year, Central Catholic is recognized for its recycling efforts in classrooms, the cafeteria and public areas. Students, teachers and staff continue to work together to improve waste diversion levels. The school also makes an effort to buy recycled paper products.

Bucks County

Waste Management/NIE/Neshaminy Mall – Public Education

This group of dedicated recyclers put together a three-pronged educational program, including an Earth Day poster contest, a free Teacher's Workshop and Community Earth Day. Poster winners are featured in a calendar that includes recycling tips. Teachers learn more about recycling and environmental education projects they can use in the classroom. Community Earth Day is held at the Neshaminy Mall and includes interactive displays, nature centers and a Trash Art contest. The partnership has been the recipient of several education and environmental awards since 2001.

Ronald Swidor – School Recycling

Ronald is a 4th grade teacher at Linden Elementary School. In 1999, he started "The Green Machine," a program involving students in school recycling. Ronald put 5-gallon buckets in each classroom to collect bottles and cans. Each week, the "Green Machine" members don green visors and separate the recyclable items. The class takes notes on the amount of materials collected, and those numbers are used in his math class and other science classes. Bottle caps are reused for crafts. Soda can tabs are given to organizations which collect them. Paper products are also recycled through the district's contracted hauler.

Blair/Cambria Counties

Stacey Bradley; Blair/Cambria Freecycle Network – Reuse

Stacey is founder of the 2-county Freecycle program; a national network broken up into smaller regional chapters. The program is set up through the internet and the Yahoo! Message board. Appliances, furniture, household items, etc., are listed on the board as things that can be taken for no charge. The items would otherwise take up landfill space. Individuals and organizations like pre-schools or churches can find free items on the message board. This program is relatively new to the area, but already has about 350 members, with more added each week.

Cambria County

Saint Benedict School – School recycling

Saint Benedict is a non-mandated area, but still efforts a recycling program. Each classroom has a recycling container for mixed-grade paper. Other containers in different parts of the school are used for magazines, newspapers, metal, plastic, corrugated

cardboard and glass. Toner, printer cartridges, old books and electronics are recycled through the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority. When the grass is cut around the school, clippings are composted for use in the garden area around the rectory and cemetery.

Cambria County Solid Waste Authority – Special Collections & Public Education
CCSWA continues its excellence in collection of textbooks and E-waste. Since its inception in 2003, the E-waste collection yielded several dozen tons of material. Electronics are dismantled and all usable components are recycled. The collections have resulted in a drop in the number of these items found in illegal dump sites in the county. The educational program includes presentations and exhibits in schools and community organizations, a Recycling Summer Camp, a quarterly newsletter and a website. The educational programming reaches more than 230,000 people. It continues to increase recognition of recycling and illegal dumping in the county.

Centre County

Centre County Solid Waste Authority – Outstanding Recycling Achievement, Public Education, Community Event Recycling, Special Collections and Materials Processing

The Centre County Solid Waste Authority collects residential recyclables from about 18,000 households in Centre County, operates more than 110 recycling drop-off locations throughout the county and collects recyclables from more than 400 business. It also operates a recycling processing facility serving Centre, and parts of Mifflin, Cambria, Clearfield, Huntingdon and Blair Counties. The Authority is responsible for all public education in Centre County, including tours of the recycling facility, school programs, a quarterly newsletter, public functions and is a partner with the Pennsylvania State University for recycling on campus and at the PSU home football games. In addition, the Authority provides recycling service to each of the county's five school districts and conducts special materials collections annually, such as HHW and electronics. The Authority also collects and recycles old appliances and tires. Waste audits and compliance assistance are included in the services provided to Centre County businesses. New in 2003 was a twice-yearly edition of "Trash Talk," distributed to school children in the county.

Borough of State College – Outstanding Composting Achievement

State College Borough operates a regional yard waste composting facility in Patton Township. Thousands of tons of leaves are collected from the borough, Patton and College Townships each year. Yard waste, grass clippings and Christmas trees are collected as well. Each week, crews chip brush and haul it to the composting facility where it is aged and re-ground and offered to the public. The borough is seeking funds to buy a self-propelled straddle windrow compost turner and uni-loader and to make improvements to the facility. Currently, the borough is negotiating with Ferguson Township to join the partnership.

Clinton County

Clinton County Solid Waste Authority – Recycling, Special Collections & Materials Processing

The Authority's recycling program was started in 1990. Since then, it's established more than 20 municipal recycling drop-off sites around the county. The program has evolved into a six-truck operation and a permanent E-cycling facility. The Authority has also had success with waste tire collections over the last two years. Thousands of tires have been recycled since 2003, all of them shredded and reused for various civil engineering functions at the Authority landfill. Several thousand tons of materials have also been processed and marketed through the authority's Materials Recovery Facility, which has grown to include a multi-material horizontal baler, a 5,000 square foot addition and a plastic stationary auger.

Columbia County

Bloomsburg Recycling – Recycling, Public Education & Materials Processing

Bloomsburg operates both a curbside and drop-off program, collecting everything from aluminum cans to Christmas trees and computers. Leaf and yard waste is composted and mulch is made available to town residents at no charge. Town Council signed the Buy Recycled Pledge in 1993 where all purchased paper products are made of recycled content. Bloomsburg continued its public education campaign by entering the US Mayors Association Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge. During the two weeks of the contest, the town collected nearly twice as many aluminum cans than any other average two weeks throughout the year. A permanent recycling collection container was also set up in a local grocery store as a result of the contest.

Cumberland County

South Middleton Township – Composting

The township's composting facility has operation hours throughout the year, when residents can drop off things like brush, logs and branches, leaves and Christmas trees. The materials are processed and can then be picked up as mulch and compost. The township itself uses some of the materials on the soccer fields and various walking trails. Since its inception in 1999, the program has collected more than 27,500 tons of yard waste.

Lancaster County

Lancaster Solid Waste Management Authority, Penn State Master Gardeners,
Lancaster County Municipal Recycling Coordinators – Composting

This partnership organizes home composting workshops, provides composting bins and educational materials for participants, issues announcements about upcoming workshops and applies for grants to keep the program running. At least five workshops are held each year in Lancaster County in which participants meet with a certified Master Gardener and local recycling coordinators. Participation is expected to increase by around 5% each year the program is offered.

Lehigh/Northampton Counties

Bethlehem Recycling Bureau – Recycling

Bethlehem takes pride in going beyond minimum requirements when it comes to recycling in the community. Curbside and drop-off programs collect everything from typical recyclables to aerosol cans, scrap metal and shiny paper. A bi-annual electronics collection is also provided, along with a compost center that is open all year. The city buys recycled products for its offices where available. Bethlehem Recycling Bureau offers a quarterly newsletter to 27,500 households, makes presentations to multiple community organizations and offers a “Green Ribbon Recycler Award” to commercial/institutional establishments.

Lehigh Organics Recycling Facility – Composting

This program includes one main, three cooperative and six municipal sites. Up to 100,000 cubic yards of leaves, grass, brush and woody wastes are processed into compost and mulch. Much of the processed materials is used for residential or park purposes.

Lebanon County

City of Lebanon – Recycling

Using radio, television and newspaper advertising, along with distributions and mass mailings, the city collects leaf waste, plastics, glass, tin, paper, holiday wrapping paper and phone books. City workers pick up the materials, which are land-applied after grinding. Recycled products are bought for the city wherever available.

Luzerne County

Luzerne Solid Waste Management – Special Collections

Luzerne County broke its record from 2003 for recycling E-waste east of the Mississippi River by collecting more than 320,000 pounds in two residential sites. The materials were given to Envirocycle Inc. to be recycled; the largest collection in Envirocycle’s history. The company states that the solid waste management in Luzerne County is an excellent model on how to effectively host an electronic collection event.

Montgomery County

Upper Merion Township Earth Day Committee – Recycling & Public Education

15 private haulers collect residential recyclables, both mandated and non-mandated, at least twice a week, including yard waste and trees. Residents can also make use of the

drop-off program. Tonnage has increased to twice the amount since 2000 and 2001. Homeowners and businesses demonstrating strong environmental efforts are recognized with “Good Neighbor” salutes, and the graphic appearing on township equipment is award-winning. The township also put together a large Earth Day celebration which included donations of used bikes, clothes and luggage for West African children, a women’s shelter and foster children. Thousands of residents took part in the activities and realize that mandated recyclable materials are just a starting point for recycling.

Schuylkill County

Schuylkill County Drop-Off Recycling Program – Recycling

The county has offered a recycling program since 1994, but each year, it grows. The center accepts glass, plastic, cans, paper and cardboard. There are 27 permanent drop-off sites around the county. The program has become a way of life for the county, so much so that grants were recently used to buy ten more site-specific containers to relieve overflow problems. The program has created a “Let’s Do It Right” campaign focusing on the correct ways to recycle.

Westmoreland County

PA Cleanways – Composting and Special Collections

Cleanways has had a composting demonstration facility since 1996 for assorted yard waste. Residents can view the compost bins at any time and participate in formal composting workshops throughout the growing season. Two local commercial composting businesses help with the waste beyond residential composting ability. More than 5,000 compost bins have been distributed to Westmoreland County residents over the years. Multiple special collections are also held for county residents for things like tires, lead acid batteries, appliances and household hazardous waste. All materials are recycled to the greatest extent possible. Because of on-going special collections efforts, officials say they have seen a drop in the number of materials in illegal dump sites.