

2010-2011

ANNUAL REPORT



Professional Recyclers of PA

PROP Mission Statement

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania mission and statement is to operate a nonprofit nonpartisan statewide association of recycling professionals dedicated to promoting and enhancing the interests of municipal and county recycling programs in Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the Corporation is to (A) develop the skills and resources of its members by enhancing recycling, organics management and reduction programs, (B) to promote the common interests of those engaged in those programs in Pennsylvania, (C) educate the public and private sectors, institutions and media about the appropriate role of those programs, (D) facilitate communication and informative exchange among professionals in the public sector, private sector and various levels of government, (E) establish and promote standards for those programs, (F) consider and express opinion on solid waste, recycling, organics management and waste reduction issues and, (G) provide comment on proposed rules, regulations and legislation.

PROP History & Perspective

PROP was incorporated in 1991 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. Public sector recycling coordinators saw a need for a professional organization following the passage of Act 101 and secured funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to hire their first executive director. Their first conference was held in July 1991 at Millersville State University. Private sector recycling professionals were welcomed into the organization as full-fledged members in 2001.

PROP Staff

Becky Miller - Fiscal Manager

Doug Orner, CRP - Information Technology Manager

Jill Brubaker Reigh, CRP - Communications Manager

Pam Illig - Membership & Fundraising Coordinator

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania

135 Stadium Drive  Bellwood, PA 16617

814.742.7777 1.800.769.7767

www.proprecycles.org

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From the President's Desk

In 1991, an eclectic mixture of people from across this great state found that they shared a common goal - to create a professional organization that could develop Act 101 of 1988 into action in Pennsylvania, becoming a leader in the growth of the recycling industry. This group spent many long nights and days debating details, but they had a vision into the future of the need and significance of recycling, recycling education, networking and legislative representation that drove them to create the Public Recyclers of Pennsylvania, changed in 2001 to also represent the growing number of private sector participants.

As we gather for the 2011 PROP Conference in Erie, an area with a wealth of environmentally adept programs, the principles set forth by the PROP Board, the longevity of the PROP staff, and finally and most importantly, the dedication and commitment of PROP members, will combine to produce a stronger organization.

We have a fresh opportunity to reshape the organization. If handled properly, any change can be a positive change. As the search for a new Executive Director proceeds, I've said it before, but it bears repeating, "Our organization's strength is our membership. Countless members have worked tirelessly to cover for any vacancies; very much like we have done since our creation." A large number of nominations have been received for this year's board election. This, along with the success of the 2010 conference, are signs of more positive change.

As you will read in this Annual Report, PROP committees have their focus set to the future, encouraging new members and new endeavors. These dedicated volunteers see the original vision and are just as willing to dedicate their time and professional talent to furthering the growth of the recycling industry, the increased understanding of the public through education and advocacy, while conveying as ONE voice through PROP membership the needs of the future legislatively.

For those of you who are active participants of these committees and the PROP Board, thank you for your diligence. For those who have not yet participated on a committee, choose a committee and join in. Be part of our vision of the future.

Art Feltes, President



Sandy Strauss, Joyce Hatala, Joanne Shafer, Tim Breneisen, Chuck Raudenbush and Lori Robson, all former PROP Presidents and Art Feltes, current President, take a moment to gather at the 2010 PROP Picnic.

Special Projects & Initiatives

2010 PROP Conference - Recognizing "Twenty Years and Zero Waste To Go," PROP celebrated two decades of promoting recycling and organics in Pennsylvania with their 20th consecutive conference in State College at The Penn Stater Conference Hotel. With the state's economy forcing the cancellation of other events, PROP not only held a record-attending four day conference, final financial figures report nearly double the income generation of past conferences. PROP members welcomed the original "Founding Members" of the organization, networked with the top exhibitors across the U.S. and Canada and gained valuable knowledge in the many sessions and classes.

Professional Certification Program - The Committee continues to be one of the most active committees in the organization. We welcomed two new members this past year – Patty Barthel and Barbara Giovagnoli. The Certification Program debuted two new web classes: 436 - Introduction to Special Materials and 438 - Special Materials Recycling & Disposal. We have a record number of participants in the program and continue to broaden our audience. The Committee is working together with RONA and other State Recycling Organizations to define a National Standard for Recycling Professional Certification. Joanne Shafer, the Certification Committee Chair, participated in meetings in both Santa Monica, CA and Washington DC on a Department of Labor Grant to publicize and promote the program. It was a great year and we look forward to the future of the program.



Waste Watcher Recognition - The Awards Committee has been busy preparing for the Waste Watchers ceremony as well as reviewing the applications and contacting the recipients. The Awards Committee is also responsible for the Waste Watcher PowerPoint as well as the booklets which were handed out at the Waste Watcher luncheon.

Committee Highlights

Business & Industry - The committee met at the Casual Living outdoor furnishings manufacturing facility in Lancaster County early in 2011. The modest sized but enthusiastic committee hopes that this will be the first step in the reinvigoration of this important group. The committee aspires to meet at least twice a year and further hopes to enhance the sharing of resources among members. Not only should business, institutional and industry environmental managers consider joining, but municipal coordinators and consultants that work with those folks should consider becoming involved as well. John Frederick conceptualized this committee and was chair until May 2011. Jeff Fitch of Fitch Environmental became Chair and can be contacted at: jsfitch@fitchenvironmental.com.

College & University (PA CURC) - The Spring Roundtable was held at the Raystown Field Station at Juniata College, Huntingdon, which included a tour of the Field Station, and their Consumption Neutral LEED Gold certified on-campus building at Founders Hall. Donna McGowan gave a PowerPoint presentation on Styrofoam™ and a new product that ‘melts’ polystyrene. The annual meeting at the PROP Conference was a tour of Penn State University’s main campus and composting activities. The fall roundtable, at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, included a presentation about their recycling efforts, Coca Cola’s various recycling and environmental efforts, and PSU’s “No Can Do” initiative that negates trash cans and emphasizes recycling containers. Also, Dan Vesce explained how Peninsula Compost accepts UPenn’s food waste, then participants toured the Earth Tub site which enables local restaurants to compost their food waste instead of landfilling it. PA-CURC worked diligently throughout 2010 on ways to reinvigorate the Committee including discussions on: having virtual meetings with every other meeting being face-to-face; the possibility of using “Go To Meeting;” initiating subcommittees and allowing subcommittees to meet during the Roundtables and then reporting out at the end of the Roundtable; the possibility of reaching out to other organizations (i.e., K-12 schools, prisons, hospitals, etc.); and continuing to incorporate campus tours as part of the roundtables.

Data Management - During 2010, the Data Management Committee has been trying to obtain interest in creating an on-line course for new county and municipal recycling coordinators to teach the basics of data collection. We were not successful in this endeavor in 2010; therefore, a two hour basic data collection certification course will be held at the 2011 annual PROP conference. Work is on-going to integrate a system of obtaining statewide data from retail establishments which market recyclables from their home office.

Education - This Committee has been busy with GreenSylvania administration and planning as well as helping with the Waste Watchers program. In September 2010, the Committee planned and taught a Recycling Education course for the Certification Program as well as a Focus On: Social Media/Marketing.

Fundraising - The committee created a conference Fundraising Timeline for PROP staff to follow. The Committee also identified five areas of focus: Current conference, Future conferences, General funds, Grants & contracts and Foundations. The committee developed a list of possible fundraising events to be held in the future.

Government Liaison (GLC) - In a busy election year, the state legislature passed Act 108, the Covered Device Recovery Act of 2010. The GLC, chaired by Tanya McCoy-Caretti, and recently replaced by Rick Schlauder, continues its efforts to discuss with legislators the possibilities of potential alternative funding options for county recycling programs. The GLC will work to build alliances with 30 new State Representatives and three new Senators, along with a new Governor.

Markets - The committee analyzes the status of established and emerging recycling markets for Act 101 and related recoverable recycled materials with an emphasis on PA markets and end users. Their objective is to provide recommendations to PROP on materials, markets, processing techniques and technical assistance when requested. They also support educational efforts including roundtables, workshops, certification programs and printed and electronic media. A highlight of the past year included a visit to a plant that is the world's leading manufacturer of plastic containers for the wholesale nursery industry. Their pot material contains up to 100 percent recycled material for all three manufacturing processes, blow-molding, injection-molding and thermo-forming. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis at various locations throughout the State.

Membership - The Membership Development Committee took a hiatus in 2010-2011, after an intense and aggressive revamping of the membership structure. In spite of a few glitches and personnel changes, the Committee saw the combined service packages and ala'carte options begin to take hold. The Committee used this year to review and observe the program and with input from PROP's staff made some minor changes. Michele Nestor is stepping down as Chair of the Committee because of work related demands. She expressed that with the hiring of a staff member dedicated to Membership and Fundraising Development, the efforts of the Committee would finally see full potential in 2011-2012.

Municipal - In 2010, the PROP Municipal Committee held two very successful and well attended roundtables; a West Roundtable on Tuesday, October 12, 2011 in New Kensington, PA., and an East Roundtable was held two days later in North Londberry Township, PA. The sessions were attended by DEP, guest panelists and many local governments. The informational roundtables have been the primary activities/events held by the Municipal Committee in recent years. They have been held semi-annually at locations in the East and West portions of Pennsylvania. The new 2010 U.S. Census was released in March 2011 and there are approximately 42 newly mandated municipalities. The Committee plans to reach out to these municipalities as mentors and as a resource for information and guidance.

Organics - In 2010, PROP's Organics enthusiasts held a spring roundtable at Rodale Institute, met in the summer to tour the composting facility at the Correctional Institution at Waymart, and in the fall traveled to Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia and to the large-scale Peninsula Composting site in Wilmington, Delaware. Carl Hursh is now a featured Organics columnist for *The Pennsylvania Recycler Magazine*, and wrote a feature article about Longwood Gardens for the *Winter 2011* magazine. The committee's five year strategic plan was adopted by the PROP Board in November, and serves as a roadmap for promoting the organics processing industry in Pennsylvania.

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania
FY 09/10 Audited Financial Statements
As of June 30, 2010

Current Assets:

Cash	\$230,345
Accounts Receivable	49,950
Inventory	538
Prepaid Expenses	<u>2,185</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$283,018</u>

Liabilities:

Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 863
Deferred Revenue	89,558
Accrued Payroll	<u>15,883</u>
Total Liabilities	\$106,304
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$176,714
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$283,018</u>

Revenue:

Conference Registrations	\$ 78,317
Projects/Certification	252,840
Memberships	103,710
Other Revenue	7,951
Interest	<u>3,510</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$446,328</u>

Expenses:

Conference	\$ 36,604
Projects/Certification	144,587
Office Expenses	73,025
Wages/Benefits	213,062
Other Expenses	<u>88,426</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$555,704</u>

NET ASSETS **\$176,714**

2010-2011 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Art Feltes - Board President
Brenda Schmidt - Vice-President
Kelly Wolf - Secretary
Joanne Shafer - Treasurer
Charles Raudenbush - Executive Committee

Board Members

Bob Bylone, PA RMC
Michael L. Crist, Clinton County
Beth DeNardi, Luzerne County
Barbara Giovagnoli, Lackawanna County
Michael D. Hnatin, P.E., Lycoming County
Kris Howdyshell, Cambria County
Terry Keene, P.E., Barton & Loguidice
Lorin Meeder, Township of Cranberry
Michele Nestor, Nestor Resources
Peter M. Previte, PA RMC
Ann Saurman, City of Allentown
Rick Schlauder, MSW Consultants
Robert Watts, Chester County

Major PROP Members

Sustaining Members

Centre County Solid Waste Authority
Greenstar North America

Supporting Members

Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Steel Recycling Institute
Unicor

Corporate Members

AbitibiBowater/Paper Retriever
Clinton County Solid Waste Authority
Clover Environmental Solutions
Nestor Resources, Inc.
Newman & Company, Inc.
ReCommunity Recycling
Sims Recycling Solutions
Waste Management