

PROP FACT Sheet

Legislative Priorities & Recommendations

Recycling Funding Crucial to Program Success

With the current \$25 million Recycling Program grant announcement and the pending \$20 million Recycling Program grant application round, it seems likely that a \$50 million shortfall in grant demand still exists. Act 101 mandates recycling as a service and capitalizes the program, but all of the remaining operating expenses are borne by the local government. Local recycling programs still find themselves in difficulty because of limited grant funding for capital purchases and education programs over the last few years.

The recycling technical assistance program and related outreach supported by DEP should continue and be expanded. County and local government and private sector recyclers all need assistance in technical matters related to collection, processing, and the use of recycled commodities. *DEP has expanded this program by increasing the grant amount to \$6,000. PROP recommends that municipalities take advantage of this program.*

The Recycling Markets Center that is being planned by the Commonwealth should provide technical assistance to processors and private sector end users. If we are to continue a transition to a more environmentally sustainable economy, industry needs help in overcoming both technical and attitudinal barriers. *DEP recently solicited proposals for this worthwhile project.*

Solid Waste Management: A Quality of Life Issue

The value of comprehensive waste management must be conveyed to all Pennsylvanians. Recycling is part of a comprehensive management strategy that should reduce waste production, illegal dumping, waste accumulation, open burning, littering, and other improper disposal practices. This remains one of the most overlooked quality of life issues in Pennsylvania. It cannot be addressed without planning, funding and a firm commitment from business and industry, county, municipal and state government. *The legislature should consider legislation to require all Pennsylvanians to have waste collection, curb waste accumulation and illegal dumping, and strengthen and clarify restrictions on open burning.*

Local government must be provided with the tools and resources needed to facilitate efficient collection. Beyond technical assistance, professional development, and market development work, local government needs oversight powers that may be severely limited by the new state-wide truck licensing program. *If local government is limited in its licensing powers, prompt and thorough exchange of information with the state will be crucial in maintaining a reasonable level of local oversight of recycling and proper disposal. Please see PROP's fact sheet on administrative fees and licensing for more information.*

Long-Term Planning Essential

Solid waste and recycling plans for the Commonwealth remain imperative to establish tangible long-term goals and a plan for the implementation of the programs necessary to reach them. *PROP members continue to participate in this planning process, which includes the formulation of a state recycling plan. The final draft of this plan has been approved by the state Solid Waste Advisory Committee and is proceeding to its final form. It will be posted on DEP's website later this summer.*

Re-evaluation of the grant process is an important part of this planning process. While DEP has worked hard to streamline the grant process wherever possible, many aspects of the grant program remain cumbersome. While substantial progress has been made on some grants, Section 902 program grants generally remain a long, drawn out affair. *As required by the recent Recycling Fee Reauthorization, this is also being addressed by the subcommittee of the state Solid Waste Advisory Committee.*

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) are located at P.O. Box 25, Bellwood, PA 16617 and can be reached at prop@proprecycles.org or 814-742-7777. Visit us on the web at www.proprecycles.org.