

SEP 02 2005

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*Look at
this article*

Janet Anderson
Director, Erie County Department of Economic Development and Planning
Erie County Court House
140 W. 6th St.
Room 119
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Janet:

First of all, thank you for all the work you and Steve did to get this plan done.

I was very pleased to see that our recycling rate had gone up each year from 2002 – 2004 (24.5% - 29.6%), but also realize that we did not meet that state goal of 35% by 2003. I agree with the plan's assessment that there are opportunities to raise the current rate through existing programs and new efforts. I feel the strategy outlined on page 5-5 regarding "pay as you throw" programs must have stronger emphasis. We need to set a specific goal of implementing a test of pilot program in a part of the county in the first few years, asses the results, and modify it so it can be expanded in subsequent years. Once citizens are shown the financial benefit for them, the recycling rate should increase. I'm also enclosing an article detailing a successful program in Philadelphia that should be a part of our plan to increase recycling rates. (I sent Steve a copy of this also.) I really think you have to set specific goals for the new ideas, or we will end up having changed or improved our recycling rate little over the next ten years. Allowing the citizens the choice will benefit all.

The suggestion on page 5-4 to "Promote material exchange" is an excellent idea and worth pursuing as is "Educating on packaging issues" on page 5-5. I also think the second strategy on page 4-5 is very worthwhile and should have stronger emphasis.

As outlined on page 4-4, the hazardous waste and e-cycling events were overwhelming successes, indicating the clear need and desire of citizens to recycle these items. I could not find where these issues are addressed in the plan. We can't go another ten years without having these options again available to the citizens of Erie County. I feel very strongly that a specific item needs to be added to the plan to address this.

Finally, as page 3 of Exhibit 26 of the December 11, 2003 meetings indicate, the advisory committee was told there "will be several specific opportunities for


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public comment". I think one evening to receive public comment is not enough and one or possible two more should be added. Some citizens might want to speak, but not be able to attend due to a conflict

Again, thanks for the opportunity to serve on the committee and for co-chairing. I strongly encouraged these suggestion be incorporated before the plan is approved and have some reservation about approving the plan if they aren't.

Sincerely,



Steve Ropski, PhD
Professor of Biology

September 14, 2005

SEP 14 2005

Erie County Council
City of Erie Council
Recycling Personals
Janet Anderson, Director of Dept. of EDP

Dear Ms. Anderson and Council Members,

I can not make the meeting tonight, as I work second shift, so I am writing to you. We can reduce our refuse and increase our recyclables considerably by going with a 'pay-as-you-go' program. But not by the one mentioned in the Erie Times Monday of pay by the bag, that will not produce the desired effect because any recyclables still can find their way into that 'payed' bag. The ideal Pay-as-You-Go program that we must implement would mean weighing the trash and pay by the weight. There are several PA Counties all ready using this method and they find this extremely efficient. Because recyclables are quite heavier than the unusable stuff we call trash, this is a more suitable and recognizable means of incentive for people to take more recyclables out of the 'trash bag/can' and in to the recycling bin. Why? Because people can understand that and the less being recycled and the heavier the trash bag/can means the more weight they will be required to pay for.

The heavier the trash bag the more you pay. Make it simple for the citizen. The current system that we have now does not encourage recycling because it is of Personal Virtue, only. And I am paying the same as my neighbor even if I have no trash to dispose of, there is no incentive for me or my neighbor to recycle. The other area that must be addressed is Enforcement of businesses to recycle, this volunteering only policy is not working. Businesses, if they are not recycling now will not ever do it. If citizens need to do it businesses should too. Every place I have worked, I try to implement a recycling program and all I get is more grief and anger from that employer. All employees, who want to do the right thing, have no recourse are forced to suffer living and working in a wasteful society. When Are WE Going to CHANGE? Only the Local Officials can make that move and make law that takes US to the next level of sustainability.

Sincerely,
Mr. Bruce Arkwright, Jr.
620 West 4th Street, Apt. 1
Erie PA 16507
814 456 4095

SEP 16 2005

5206 Florek Road
Edinboro, PA 16412
September 14, 2005

Ms. Janet Anderson, Director
Department of Economic Development and Planning
140 West 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Ms. Anderson:

These comments are concerning recycling and landfill space.

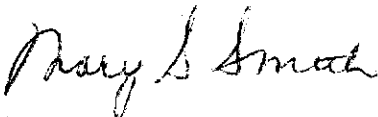
Mr. Anthony, manager of Washington Township, tells me that recycling is not mandated for the township because the population is less than 5000. It will be at least another 5 years before the census and the possibility of having this number of citizens.

Each week, Waste Management collects our trash. They do not provide a recycling truck. Only the regular trash truck comes to our road. World Resources also comes to our road. That company provides a recycling truck.

My dream is that all residents be required to recycle. I believe the costs of "policing" this requirement would outweigh the benefits. I do not know if recycling requires additional fees. I believe that many tons of waste could be recycled and less space would be needed at the landfill.

My recommendation is to mandate recycling for all Erie County residents choosing to have trash collection.

Sincerely,



Mary S. Smith

Concord Township
12677 Ormsbee Road
Conry, PA 16407

OCT 18 2005

October 17, 2005

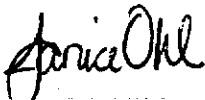
Janet Anderson, Director
Erie County Dept of Economic Develop. & Planning
Erie County Courthouse
140 West Sixth Street, Room 119
Erie, PA 16501

RE: Erie County Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan 8/1/05

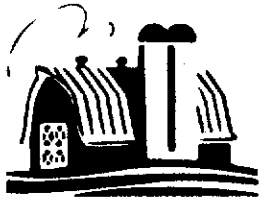
Dear Ms. Anderson,

We have received the book for the above subject and have reviewed the information. We would like to know in Section 5 for public sewer access where you received the information on the number of households with sewer for Concord Township. The book shows 168 households. We feel this number is extremely high because Concord Township is very rural. Can you please provide us with any information you have concerning this matter. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Janice Ohl
Secretary



GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

11184 RICH HILL ROAD • NORTH EAST, PA 16428

(814) 725-9110

October 17, 2005

OCT 18 2005

Janet Anderson, Director
Erie County Department of Economic Development and Planning
Erie County Court House
140 West 6th Street, Room 119
Erie, PA 16501

RE: Draft Erie County Municipal Solid Waste Management Program

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The following comments are provided for consideration:

1. Tab 7 - Erie County Septage Hauler Map

Anthony's Septic Service is indicated in the wrong location. He is located on Station Road, in Greenfield Township, just past the Harborceek Line.

Erie County Septage Haulers List - Is this information current? John Darby, 7752 Rohl Rd., North East, PA 16428 is not shown. He is located on Rohl Road in Greenfield Township, just south of the Harborcreek line.

2. Tab 13 - Program Information

Greenfield Township Information

Phone Number - 725-9110

Spring Clean Up Days - Last Saturday in April, 1st Saturday in May

3. Education on the "Pay As You Throw" program. Most municipalities are aware of this program. The landfills charge fees based on tonnage collected. The *education* (perhaps persuasion) most likely needs to be directed to the landfills, who in some cases are also the haulers. Multi-municipal or county wide level agreements, or legislative directives, may be necessary in order to have an impact to provide this option to residents.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Renee M. Wagner

Secretary

OCT 28 2005



TOWNSHIP OF HARBORCREEK

A Progressive Community

5601 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421
(814) 899-3171
Fax (814) 899-5890
www.harborcreektownship.org

Supervisors *David K. Bossart Donna L. Mindek Kenneth C. Springirth*

October 26, 2005

Mrs. Janet Anderson, Director
Erie County Department of Economic Development & Planning
Erie County Court House
140 West 6th Street
Room 119
Erie, Pa 16501

Dear Mrs. Anderson:


With reference to the Draft Erie County Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan and your August 1, 2005 letter on that plan, our comments are as follows:


1. Recognizing that municipalities are key players in any waste and recycling program in Erie County, the individual contracts that municipalities have with a waste/recycling contractor must not be affected in any way.
2. Education of the public on the benefits of recycling is important and should also provide details on the recycling program that Harborcreek Township and other communities currently have available.
3. Exhibit 2 Erie County Municipalities Population 1950-2000 should show for Harborcreek Township a population of 16,267 from the revised Census 2000 population instead of the 15,178 shown in that exhibit. The % change 1990-2000 is 7.6% instead of 5.0%.

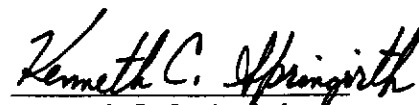
Your consideration of the above items in the final plan will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Harborcreek Township Board of Supervisors


Donna L. Mindek
Chairperson


David K. Bossart
Supervisor


Kenneth C. Springirth
Supervisor

WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE ERIE COUNTY DRAFT SOLID WASTE PLAN

TO: Janet Anderson, Director, ED&P, Erie County

FROM: Mark Wright
9010 Avonia Road (Fairview Township)
Girard, PA 16417

DATE: 10/29/2005

This memo is intended as addenda to spoken comments at the 9/14 hearing.

Congratulations are again in order for the inclusion in the draft plan of increased recycling goals, PAYT options, and intentions to address issues of HHW, e-cycling, and South County opportunities to recycle.

Again, I would like to encourage HIGHER recycling targets, beyond 35%, in order to elicit creativity, and in order to avoid accidental success-without-progress. An example of the latter would be improved accounting of the huge amount already recycled at Liberty Iron and Metal, which could allow the county to hit named targets, but do so without an increase in the amount actually recycled. Improved accounting is a good thing, too, but I would like to suggest recycling targets such as 40% by 2010, and 50% by 2020, with a target maximum of 175,000 tons landfilled. The 50% can be called a GE and business-type "stretch goal" to let the public know that it is an ambitious goal. (On the DEP website, several Pennsylvania counties already list over 50% recycling as achieved.)

Regarding Pay-As-You-Throw, it is important to stress and negotiate recycling options for county residents who have or will have such a program. Stories abound of haulers being reluctant to pick up recyclables from PAYT customers. Other municipalities can benefit from the experience of Pete Kraus, Supervisor of Fairview Township. He relates how he made sure that Waste Management understands the PAYT bag as a contract with the resident, and that the PAYT customer is also therefore a recycling customer. This can allow the dual benefits and virtuous cycle of REDUCE AND RECYCLE through PAYT. Public officials who can deliver this option to residents will be doubly heroic to constituents, by bringing decreased costs and the opportunity to participate in public-spirited recycling.

It seemed the most common concern expressed at the public meeting on 9/14 was the lack of specifics in the draft plan. HOW to get to the increased recycling rates? Please include in the county plan a list of specific opportunities from which a recycling coordinator and other officials can start work. The DEP website offers many ideas and resources. I have reviewed various Beck studies from the DEP website, showing what's in the wastestream, suggesting cooperation between municipalities and adaptation to local conditions, plus a tally of results from Crawford County drop-off sites. Please

include in the county plan this resulting "brainstorm" list of realistic, potentially successful programs. Typically, these programs build on resources and businesses we already have in Erie County.

(From a participant at the 9/14 meeting): Offer recycling at public fairs and celebrations.

(From a participant at the 9/14 meeting): Recycle building materials. Additionally, 10/29, an initial contact person would be John Lipchik, local demolition contractor. Selling of architecturally appealing trim and hardware could be a great internet business. The demise of Ace Bargain Center may have left a market opening for local selling of doors and windows.

Encourage local plastic recycling. When oil prices are high, local plastics firms get squeezed by the cost of their raw material, and turn to recycled plastic pellets as an alternative. A few months ago, local firms had to go to Detroit to find the volume of recycled plastic they needed. Why not here? There is an existing market and industry.

Reuse/resell white goods, with an initial contact being BEEZ Appliances on Parade Street.

Increase participation among the 88% of county residents who currently have a curbside recycling option. This is a PR and education project, and there is a history of local success, such as the mayor's playground campaign.

With paper found by Beck to be 33% of the waste stream, encourage local business to recycle corrugated boxes and office paper. Providing how-to information for low-cost programs is likely the best approach.

There are (or have been) local wooden pallet and box rebuilders (such as Frontier Lumber?) who could perhaps take used pallets and boxes from local business for resale rather than disposal.

Corrugated and wood collection from business may be a low-cost-of-entry business for local entrepreneurs. One of our local resources is lots of guys with pickup trucks! They could charge for the collection, and sell the collected materials.

According to Beck, carpet and fiber is 5% of the wastestream. Is there a business opportunity in collection of clean carpeting and binding the edges to make sellable area rugs?

Help local clothing collectors recycle. Do the Salvation Army and City Mission recycle excess donations, or landfill them? Often, there is a lively market for bulk fiber, properly baled. Do these local charitable organizations have access to the right kind of balers to make their potential product marketable? (Could this baler also pack carpeting as sellable, recyclable fiber?)

For busy or reluctant, non-mandated municipal officials, encourage PAYT plus recycling as an easy, no-touch program in the South County, when provided by existing waste haulers. Can County government offer this as a county-wide program?

Seek retail sponsors and tenders of recycling drop off sites in high-traffic areas, which will bring retailers more customers.

Include a Buy Recycled target for County government in the plan.

Set a target for HHW and e-cycling collections, such as quarterly.

Build on ideas working in other parts of the state, as listed on the DEP website:
There are existing businesses producing plastic lumber, recycled pallets, tires to pavers, plant pots, packaging, mortar, playground surfacing, aggregate, flooring, mats, and absorbents.

Build on existing jobs at LIMCO, World Resources, Lincoln, Erie Energy Products, Nelson's, Waste Mgt., etc.

Please also include a set of guidelines for a recycling coordinator. In discussions with past coordinators, it seems to me that much time is spent on paperwork and individual, "retail" recycling questions, leaving little time for high impact, high tonnage opportunities such as some listed above.

Thank you.

From: Mcumber, Guy
To: Janet S. Anderson (E-mail)
Cc: Bristow, Geoffrey; Lohman, Sally
Sent: 10/28/05 10:34 AM
Subject: Erie County Municipal Waste Plan Comments

The following are comments regarding the subject plan, which was received in this office on August 4, 2005.

The plan does not take a critical and progressive look at sustainability, reduction and recovery. Considering that Erie County and the Commonwealth in general have had comprehensive recycling for nearly twenty years, such an analysis is vital. For example, the plan itself does not indicate if it is printed on recycled paper and it could have been provided in an electronic format. Essentially, the document, as written, will serve to ensure that disposal is the priority, by not specifically assessing local recycling issues and setting no real agenda for program development. This was the basic outcome of the prior plan edition. It is hoped that Erie County will adopt a "paradigm shift", as have other governments, that considers waste as a resource and gives priority to local market development.

More specifically, the county still has not achieved the statewide recycling goal of 35%, though nearly 90% of its residents utilize curbside programs. The plan provides three general strategies; (1) improving outreach (2) develop southern county programs and (3) assess market development possibilities. However, remedial strategies should be based on a better understanding of the existing system's inadequacies. The county should look at materials collected, capture rates and contamination levels to get a true picture of the county trends.

Regarding materials, the plan makes no commitment to investigating nor expanding organics collections. Recycling can be improved by looking closer at capture rates and focusing on individual materials and programs. However, most communities collect most of the basic list of "cans and bottles" recyclables. Expansion can also be accomplished by looking closer at so called "harder to recycle" items. The county should investigate the possibility of developing organics collection programs, especially considering the local existing yard waste composting infrastructure. Most progressive programs are also beginning to assess the use of degradable wastes for energy conversion, such as grease to biodiesel.

Overall recycling program sustainability should also be assessed. Erie County is presently totally reliant on one local processor, World Resource Recovery Systems. Although the county has assured that there will be ample disposal capacity availability, what guarantees does it have recyclables will be processed on a long term basis? Past experience tells us that recycling is financially unstable and programs are therefore likewise. Is there anything that can be done to ensure that the local market will be viable and available?

A fundamental issue is how recycling and related alternatives are promoted and developed in Erie County. Since the inception of Act 101, the county itself has been the primary implementing entity. Although the county has provided assistance over the years, its present 29% recycling and increasing disposal rates indicate that a different approach is in order. The plan does indicate that the county will consider development of a solid waste authority, which has been a successful mechanism across Pennsylvania. However, in light of the complexities and possibilities of today's waste programs, it is also suggested that the county consider partnering with other local entities, such as colleges, to develop a center for waste related studies. This would constitute a true "paradigm shift" and allow the county to become a leader in the evolving field of sustainability.

A basic concept of the plan is to have selected disposal facilities forward an "implementation fee" to the county on a quarterly basis. These monies, estimated at a minimum of \$215,000 annually, will be used to "offset the county's costs in preparing, updating, revising and implementing the plan and its various waste management and recycling functions."

However, the document itself does identify this budget nor specifically indicate how these funds, which will amount to over \$2 million over the plan life, will be utilized.

In case you are unaware, there has been a legal challenge to the plan fee process in Lycoming County and I am attaching the latest Commonwealth Court decision on this matter. The outcome of this case is presently uncertain and it is not clear if and how it will effect other county plans. I recommend you contact your solicitor regarding this matter. However, it does indicate that entities have begun to question the process, especially when the disposition of plan fees are not clear.

In response to these comments, Erie County should specifically detail how plan "implementation fees" will be utilized. The response should indicate a annual estimate of fees and an approximation on how fees will be utilized in plan implementation. It is hoped that the county will consider the comments above in determining ways to utilize these monies to make local recycling programs sustainable through local market development.

Please contact me with questions.