

Pennsylvania Pay-As-You-Throw Programs

Penn Township, York County

Contact: Gene Hejmanowski, Environmental Director, Penn Township Municipal Center
20 Wayne Avenue
Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-1561

2000 Population: 14,500 with 5,700 households

Program inception: 1991

Program type: Bag program

Container description: 40 gallon green bag with custom logo. Bags are sold at 13 retailers in Penn Twp.

Cost structure: \$2.20/bag

Annual budget: \$650,000 for all waste and recycling services.

Service provider: York Waste Disposal, Inc., for waste, curbside recycling, and bulk waste collection. Township collects leaf and yard trimmings and manages its drop-off recycling center. Dumont Export, Philadelphia, provides bags and a trailer for textile recycling.

Recycling program: Mandatory ordinance for residential recycling of aluminum and steel cans, empty paint and aerosol cans, newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard, chipboard, junk mail, all glass containers, and plastics coded 1-7. Commercial establishments are required to recycle high grade office paper, corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans. Penn Township's residential curbside program collects all materials listed in the ordinance other than paper products. Penn Township's recycling drop-off center is used for collection of all other materials, including eyeglasses, hearing aids, plastic bags, telephone books, greeting cards, household and lead acid batteries, and textiles. A holiday gift wrapping collection is held during the last week of December.

Bulk waste collection: Spring collection excludes hazardous wastes, garbage, and cement blocks.

Composting program: Leaf and yard trimmings are collected by Penn Township in the spring and fall. The materials are processed by H&H Composting of Spring Grove, Pa. A portion of the finished compost and wood chips are offered to Township residents.

Ordinances: Recycling; anti-burning; illegal dumping; and property maintenance.

Education program: Penn Township conducts its annual education and enforcement program from April to October in five residential zones and uses four types of door hanger messages to inform residents about problems or to congratulate their practices. A spring, summer, and fall newsletter is circulated to educate residents and businesses about the recycling program. Recycling education programs are provided for schools and senior citizens. New residents get PAYT and recycling program information with their recycling bins.

Comments: Penn Township has maintained its \$2.20 cost per PAYT bag over the last ten years despite a 25 percent increase in population growth. The average weight of a bag has declined from 33 pounds/bag to 25 pounds/bag during that time. The tons of materials disposed decreased from 3,900/yr. in 1990 to 2,600 tons in 2000. Residential recycling has increased from 354 tons/year in 1991 to 1,420 tons/year in 2000. Participation in the PAYT program is 85 percent and curbside recycling participation is 80 percent. Penn Township's recycling rate from curbside and drop-off recycling was 34 percent in 2000. All collection program costs are carried by revenue from the sale of PAYT bags and materials collected at the drop-off recycling center.