

**Meeting Minutes
Chester County
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING MEETING

February 25, 2008
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Chester County Government Services Center (GSC)
601 Westtown Rd
Room 250
West Chester, PA 19380

Attendees:

Mr. Bob Watts, Executive Director, Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA)

Ms. Nancy Fromnick, Chester County Recycling Coordinator, CCSWA

Ms. Christine Knapp, PennFuture (Not Present)

Mr. Doug Tietbohl, (Not Present)

Mr. A. Paul Bellezza,

Ms. Catharine Swan, Green Valleys

Hon. Barbara McIlvaine-Smith, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Mr. John Post

Welcome and Opening Remarks (Meeting Start 3:15 PM)

Bob Watts, Co-Chairman of the Waste Management & Recycling Committee welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Watts said the purpose of this meeting was to acquaint the committee members with what Chester County is doing now for waste disposal and recycling. Mr. Watts said he will first discuss some history and then expand upon current practices of waste disposal in Chester County.

Mr. Watts said Chester County's interest in waste disposal started in the early 1980's. Many municipalities had their own dump, but the state was beginning to close them down. Prices were rising and the state was asking County's to begin solid waste planning. In the early 1980's the Lanchester Landfill was operated by a local company and primarily disposed of waste from Chester, Lancaster and Philadelphia counties. Early on Lancaster and Chester Counties were bidding against Philadelphia for the Lanchester Landfill. Lancaster County decided to go a different direction and Chester County out bid Philadelphia for the purchase of the Lanchester Landfill in 1984.

Mr. Watts utilized a PowerPoint presentation to give an overview of the current operations. Mr. Watts explained that Authorities in Pennsylvania are similar to Townships except they cannot raise taxes and their Boards are appointed and not elected. The Chester County Commissioners

appoint the Board of CCSWA. Most Authorities are set up to serve multiple municipalities for drinking water or sewerage disposal. CCSWA was set up to serve 49 municipalities in northern Chester County. Mr. Watts said the 2000 census indicated that over 80% of Chester County's population is served by the Lanchester Landfill. Mr. Watts said that 2006 is the last year that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has complete data for waste disposed in PA facilities. Mr. Watts said their data might miss as much as 10% of the waste generated because he knows some Chester County waste is disposed of out of state. Their data indicates 58% of waste generated in Chester County was disposed of at the Lanchester Landfill and 22% was disposed of in the other publically owned landfill operated by Southeast Chester County Refuse Authority in London Grove Township.

Mr. Watts said Chester County has a flow control ordinance for municipal solid waste. The flow control ordinance allowed some of the northern municipalities to send their waste to the Pottstown Landfill when it was open. Mr. Watts said CCSWA and the Chester County Health Department have worked in recent years to allow this waste to be disposed of in other area landfills after the closure a few years back of the Pottstown Landfill. Mr. Watts said construction and demolition debris (C&D), residual wastes (including sewage sludge) are not flow controlled in Chester County.

Mr. Watts went on to describe the current operations of the Lanchester Landfill and the Small Load Facility (SLF). The SLF is designed to meet the needs of local residents and small businesses. The SLF provides a place to recycle many items for free, have organic materials composted or recycled and provide for disposal. Mr. Watts described the landfill infrastructure and composting operations. Mr. Watts said the operation of the Lanchester Landfill is very progressive and utilizes state of the art equipment and techniques. Mr. Watts said the Lanchester Landfill and landfill gas project have received state and national awards.

Mr. Watts described their current operations that send C&D to a recycling operation in Philadelphia and in return receive from them a product that is used as daily cover. Mr. Watts said the PADEP requires landfill to cover the waste at the end of each day with six inches of soil or an approved equivalent. Mr. Watts said since the landfills at Lanchester are on the top of a ridge they cannot excavate very deeply for the construction of the landfill; hence they do not have excess soil. Lanchester utilizes approve tarps as often as we can to save money and natural resources. Lanchester also has PADEP approval to use a cement based spray on material, C&D fines and other waste products like foundry sand.

Mr. Watts said CCSWA signed an agreement with a landfill gas developer in the mid 1980's, but they went bankrupt early this decade. Mr. Watts said CCSWA did a national search for a partner to beneficially use the landfill gas in 2002. Granger Energy of Lansing Michigan was selected to build a 13 mile pipeline that is currently serving four industrial customers in Lancaster County. The Lanchester Landfill's produce about 3,200 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas and it is filtered dried and compressed in the Granger Energy Plant that is on CCSWA's property. The landfill gas has about half the Btu's of natural gas but is a renewable resource and is sold at a discount compared to natural gas. The amount of energy from the Lanchester Landfills on an annual basis is equivalent to the amount of electricity used by 32,400 homes. There will soon be a six mile pipeline from the Conestoga Landfill in Berks County connected to Granger's pipeline

which will allow more business to be added and electrical generation to be increased at Lanchester.

Mr. Watts said CCSWA's web site at www.chestercountyswa.org is a good source of information on the landfill and recycling. Mr. Watts briefly described, spray irrigation of groundwater, leachate treatment and weather monitoring. Mr. Watts said CCSWA has operated a Scenic Overlook open to the public on Sunday afternoons from May through October for over five years. The overlook has a playground, wind turbine and picnic shelters.

Mr. Watts said Lanchester Landfill hosts many sheep and goats to help with the grass maintenance and to better blend with the local farm community. Mr. Watts said they also release birds such as turkeys and pheasants on CCSWA's 600 acre property.

Mr. Watts said he would like to share some of his Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ideas with the group:

- Continue to encourage source reduction
- Dispose of waste locally
- Ban burning of waste
- Mandate curbside collection of waste
- Collect yard waste on a regular basis
- Pickup waste weekly by one hauler per municipality
- Do not pickup unlimited quantities of waste

Mr. Watts handed out copies of his PowerPoint presentation; the Life-Cycle of Waste and Climate Change Tools by the USEPA; 2004 Pennsylvania fact sheet on Greenhouse gas; and excerpts from *Greenprint for Montgomery County, PA* that addressed waste management.

Nancy Fromnick provided a brief synopsis of Act 101, Pennsylvania's Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of July 1988. The goal is to reduce the amount and toxicity of material going into the landfills. Ms. Fromnick explained that Act 101 mandates recycling in municipalities with populations of 5,000 and 300 persons per square mile with no exceptions. That means that all residents, businesses, institutions and special events must recycle. A residential curbside recycling program is required in a mandated community. Under Act 101 municipalities are totally responsible for the education, promotion, development and compliance of recycling within their borders.

Ms. Fromnick explained that under Act 101, she is required to submit an annual recycling report to DEP for Chester County. In the past, recycling results were reported as recycling rate percentages. DEP and the County no longer report percentages because the character of the materials has changed so dramatically that percentages became meaningless. Originally, percentages based on tonnage included large amounts of heavy glass, which has since been replaced with light weight plastic. Although the volume of material collected has increased tonnage may appear to be decreasing.

Ms. Fromnick provides technical assistance to businesses and municipalities. She keeps municipalities abreast of grant opportunities and developments in recycling markets. Every effort

is made to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness. Ms. Fromnick explained that the recycling program is responsible for the education and promotion of recycling in Chester County. The Chester County Solid Waste Authority, which supports the recycling program, provides a comprehensive website listing recycling guidelines, opportunities and available markets. The Authority also supports an education program available to schools, municipalities, businesses and community groups. Displays, educational brochures, flyers and promotional items are provided as well as volunteers through the Master Composting certification program. The annual program, provides a training schedule during the month of March and was created to promote composting/vermin-composting and hold compost bin distributions.

To encourage the residential collection of recyclables and assure that they would be recycled, a cooperative marketing program was created. Today recyclables are considered commodities and participants in the cooperative marketing contract receive payment based on market prices.

Ms. Fromnick said that the recycling program promotes recycling in the commercial and institutional sector by including institutional recycling in the cooperative marketing contract, sponsoring and coordinating the Chester County Chamber Annual Green Business Award and planning a waste audit training program for facilities directors. Fromnick commented that a food waste composting workshop is planned for this Thursday (February 28) to pair grocers with cooperating farmers willing to accept food waste.

Ms. Fromnick explained that Chester County, through the Chester County Solid Waste Authority, also conducts annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection programs 4 times a year as well as the electronics and shredding events held by the Authority.

Ms. Fromnick explained that DEP is taking a hard line on municipal Act 101 compliance issues. DEP funding is restrictive and has been reduced. Municipalities are being told to update ordinances, fulfill municipal requirements and emphasis program sustainability.

Fromnick said that she was asked by the Planning Commission to make recommendations for Landscapes 2. Two of her recommendations included a no burning of waste policy and single hauler contracting for waste and recycling collection.

The meeting adjourned approximately 4:45 PM.