

Chadds Ford Township Recycling Task Force Recycling Program Recommendations – Final Report 11-2008

Over the course of the past year the Chadds Ford Recycling Task Force (TF) met, discussed and developed a comprehensive recycling program for Chadds Ford Township. The following recommendations were based on results from surveys sent to the entire residential and business community in the summer of 2008.

1. The TF recommends that the Township approve an ordinance mandating recycling for residents, commercial entities, institutions, and municipalities that is compliant with Act 101 and Act 140 of the State recycling laws. It is important that the ordinance is compliant with these Acts so that the township can receive grant monies in excess of \$10,000. The Township burning ordinance must also be updated to be compliant with Act 101 in order to receive these grant monies.

Even though the state mandates a recycling program for municipalities with populations in excess of a population of 5000 (which will not be achieved in the near future in Chadds Ford), it is important that the Township respond to our environmental obligations and to the wishes of its residents. According to our survey, a majority of residential respondents want a mandated recycling program for both residents and businesses in the Township (see Attachment A).

Please refer to Attachments B, C and D for ordinances developed by London Grove and Pocopson Townships that mandate recycling, but allow residents and businesses to choose their own hauler. These ordinances can be easily customized for Chadds Ford Township.

2. The TF recommends that all easily recyclable materials be collected at the curb, including all glass, all paper, plastics #1 and #2, aluminum and bi-metal cans, and leaf waste. The Township can determine additional materials if warranted.
3. The TF recommends the Township provide recycling bins at the Township building as an alternative for residents who choose not to pay for curbside collection of recyclables. It is important that the bins be placed at the Township building for safety, easy access by residents, and to discourage the placement of trash in the receptacles. Recycling bins placed at other locations would discourage use by residents and encourage trash placement in the bins.
4. The TF recommends that the mandated program allow residents to choose which hauler removes their trash and recycling. The TF believes that a “choice” program would be more feasible in Chadds Ford Township than a “single hauler” program, due to limitations of Township staff and the range of unique needs residents identified in survey comments.
5. The TF recommends the Township provide a once per year “Recycling Day” for materials not easily recycled at the curb (e.g. electronics, appliances, paper shredding, etc.). This year’s program in September was extremely successful and well received by the community.
6. The TF recommends an ongoing education program that utilizes the Chadds Ford Civic Association newsletter, the Chadds Ford Township website, and periodic direct mailings

to residents and businesses. Direct mailings should include, for example, recycling education (see Attachment E) and a list of trash & recycling haulers serving Chadds Ford. Civic Association newsletter articles should provide information on upcoming recycling events in the area and other recycling information pertinent to residents. The Township website should include general program requirements, information on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Township Recycling Day events, and any other recycling information helpful to both residents and businesses (see Point 4. below for more details).

Implementation

The following is an implementation plan designed to provide adequate information to residents, businesses, and trash and recycling haulers serving the Township.

1. First, the Township should develop and pass a recycling and trash ordinance and an updated burning ordinance that is based on the ordinances attached to this report (see Attachment B, C, and D). The ordinance should be a “choice” ordinance that allows residents and businesses to select their own hauler for trash and recycling collection.
2. After the ordinance is passed, a detailed letter or brochure explaining the mandated requirements should be sent to all residents (see Attachment E), along with a list of haulers that provide residential trash and recycling services in the township. At this time two haulers provide “single-stream” recycling in Chadds Ford Township - Opdenaker and Allied Waste. “Single-stream” recycling allows for recyclable materials to be co-mingled (paper, cardboard, plastics, cans and glass) and placed in one receptacle. This type of recycling is extremely easy for residents to recycle and comply with a mandated recycling program.

A separate letter should be sent to all commercial entities and institutions within the Township detailing their requirements under the ordinance (see Attachment F).

3. The Township should appoint a “Recycling Coordinator” to answer routine recycling questions, facilitate recycling grants and administer the program. Most small Townships appoint the Township secretary in this position.
4. A strong education component is essential to the success of the program. Current recycling information should be posted on the Chadds Ford Township website on a timely basis. Information should include all materials that are required to be collected by haulers or dropped off at a drop-off center, a list of HHW events in the area with detailed descriptions of materials accepted, annual Township recycling events with detailed list of materials accepted, other education material (e.g. Attachment E), and a list of registered haulers serving the community. Links to other websites that provide recycling information should also be included on our Township website; examples include Southern Chester County Solid Waste Authority and Delaware County Recycling websites.

The recycling coordinator should have informational materials in printed form available at the Township building. Printed materials should include Township recycling brochures, HHW and Recycle Day event flyers, and information for directing residents and commercial entities to alternative resources for collecting recyclable materials.

5. After the ordinance is passed, all haulers should be registered in the Township. A letter should be sent to all haulers servicing the Township with a registration application (see Attachments G and H). It is important to register haulers so that any hauler that provides trash and recycling in the Township has met all liability requirements and is compliant with their obligations under the ordinance.

The ordinance should be attached to the letter so that all haulers are well aware of their obligations. This should include all materials that are required to be collected at the curb or at the “drop-off” center (e.g. all glass, all paper, plastics #1 and #2, aluminum and bi-metal cans and leaf waste). If the Township decides to be compliant with Act 101 and Act 140, in addition to the collections of glass, paper, plastics and cans, leaf waste must also be collected by haulers at least once per month and provide bulk collection at some point during the month.

6. The Township should arrange for recycling bins to be placed at the Township building for the collection of all materials mandated in the recycling ordinance. This can be done through the Delaware County Recycling Coordinator.
7. The Township should continue to organize an annual recycling day for materials that are not easily recycled at the curb. See Attachment I for a list of providers and their contacts used for the 2008 Chadds Ford Recycling Day.

List of Attachments

- A. Residential Survey Results
- B. London Grove Waste & Recycling Ordinance
- C. Pocopson Waste & Recycling Ordinance
- D. Pocopson Burning Ordinance
- E. Educational Brochure for Residents
- F. Business Owner Letter
- G. Hauler Registration Letter
- H. Hauler Registration Application
- I. List of 2008 Chadds Ford Recycling Day Vendors

The TF has worked diligently and effectively throughout 2008 to develop this comprehensive Recycling Program for Chadds Ford Township. At this time, the TF has completed their charge and will be disbanded at the end of 2008. It is the hope of the TF that their recommendations be implemented by Chadds Ford Township.

Thank you,

Chadds Ford Recycling Task Force