

Communities must recycle by Sept., 1991

In July, 1988, Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey signed Act 101, which made recycling mandatory for most communities. The law requires that all counties and municipalities have a plan on how to handle household waste

and consider recycling programs. Most communities, especially large ones, will have curbside pickup of recyclables, but there will be centers throughout the state to drop off recyclables.

In the Back Mountain, only

Dallas and Kingston townships had populations large enough to fall under the law at the time it was passed. Recycling must begin by Sept. 26, 1991 in them, and in other communities of 5,000 to 10,000 population. Recycling is optional for communities of less than 5,000 population, but is encouraged by the state.

Dallas Borough has joined with the two townships to ask the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) to establish a recycling program. DAMA expects to have that program ready to present by March or April of 1991.

What is recycling and why is it necessary?

Recycling is the separation and collection of materials for processing and manufacturing into new products and using these products to complete the cycle. Many people recycle without realizing that they are.

Many of the materials we use today are recycled. Aluminum, glass, paper, and steel have been recycled. Recycling of aluminum and steel cans, cardboards, and certain plastics is a growing industry in the state, and recyclable items are collected and dropped off at recycling centers, sorted and processed for sale to manufacturers.

The reason for recycling programs is to reduce the millions of tons of household trash generated in Pennsylvania each year. The average family throws away about three tons of trash a year, the weight of several cars and the time has come to realize what a throw-away society is doing to the environment. Pennsylvania Act 101 was signed into law to develop a program to reduce the volume of solid waste and to provide a cleaner, healthier environment.

In the towns where recycling will be required by law, at least three materials must be recycled from a list of clear glass, colored glass, high-grade office paper, newsprint, corrugated paper, aluminum, steel and bi-metallic cans, and plastic.

Leaves, twigs and yard waste must be separated for composting because these materials take up substantial space in landfills and interfere with burning in incinerators.

All commercial, institutional and municipal establishments and sponsors of community events must recycle aluminum, high grade office paper, corrugated office paper and leaves.

Glass is recyclable and making products from recycled glass requires less energy than starting from the beginning. Clear glass is usually recycled into new clear glass products while colored glass containers are processed into new colored glass products. Some

programs may request glass be separated by color while other recycling programs may take it co-mingled and separate it for you.

Newspapers are recyclable and are usually made into insulation, newsprint, animal bedding, and grocery bags. Glossy and colored paper inserts are not recyclable. Some of the higher grade paper can be recycled into writing paper, tissue and towel products.

Aluminum is recyclable and is usually processed into new aluminum cans. To be sure a can is totally aluminum, place a magnet on the top or bottom of a can. If the magnet does not stick, it is aluminum. Other aluminums such as aluminum foil, pie tins, aluminum siding and aluminum lawn furniture are all recyclable but they may not be accepted by a local program but will need to have a special handler.

Plastics are also recyclable and millions of tons a year are thrown out nationwide so if plastics are recycled our waste reduction would be greatly increased. Many of the plastic industries code their plastic containers. Plastic soda bottles and plastic milk and water jugs are recyclable and are coded. Information on the coding can be obtained by calling your community or county recycling program.

Motor oil, used car batteries, leaves and twigs are also recyclable.

Once a community becomes involved in recycling, residents will have to plan space for recyclable items either inside or outside. Containers can be any sturdy box, crate or large pail. Aluminum cans and steel cans can be flattened and so can plastic bottles. Glass bottles should not be crushed because recyclers usually have machines to crush glass.

There is additional information available about recycling, such as how to prepare for recycling, what can and can't be recycled, and how to prepare the items. For these questions or others, call the DER Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242, or the Resource Regional Recovery and Planning Coordinator, for Luzerne County, Alan Snelson at 826-2516.

Recycling

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The authority appointed a committee of three; Joseph Youngblood, chairman; Robert Parker and Robert Dickinson, to work with plant manager Thomas Bagley in formulating a plan to meet future state requirements.

"We have already met with Frank Chadwick, Luzerne County chairman," Bagley explained, "and we are hoping to arrange a meeting with Robert Snelson of DER to discuss the availability of grants for recycling."

"As an authority, we have several alternatives. One is to use our own equipment to pick up recyclables. The fact that private haulers are now picking up in some areas is not a problem. The state law requires that recycling is mandatory and if DAMA mandates a program, residents have to cooperate."

"A second proposal," Bagley said, "is that DAMA requests proposals from private haulers to pick up. We could select one hauler, or if we decide, a combination of haulers."

Bagley said that all Phase I municipalities—towns with more than 10,000 population—have already initiated recycling programs.

The problem for the Back Mountain is that most of the communities are serviced by private haulers instead of municipal haulers. It would be easier for DAMA to come up with a plan if there were public haulers.

"Commercial, institutional, municipal establishments and sponsors of fairs, bazaars, picnics, sporting events and other community events also must recycle aluminum, high-grade office paper, corrugated paper and leaves. These organizations will have to take their recyclables to a dropoff center, unless arrangements are made to have them picked up," Bagley explained.

"The municipality or, in our case, the Authority does not have to pick up from these businesses, but that is up to us to decide," he said.

The authority will also have the alternative of having residents separate their recyclable items or co-mingle them. Bagley believes there will be more cooperation from residents if the recyclables can be co-mingled.

DAMA, the sewer authority will now take charge of recycling plans

There are many decisions to be made," Bagley said. "A major problem will be newspaper; finding a market for it. The newspaper is the largest in volume. Aluminum is only six percent of the recyclables, bi-metal (a combination of aluminum and steel or tin), and plastics about 10 percent. There are different grades of plastics," Bagley explained.

Newspapers will probably be a separate pickup and the others probably will be plastics, aluminum and bi-metallic cans. DAMA could co-mingle all of these but the newspaper.

Luzerne County is presently negotiating with Lackawanna County so that any municipality can take its recyclables to them. Asked about the cost of the program, Bagley explained that it has to be evaluated, then decided how it should be paid, whether per capita or by a millage cost.

Bagley said there is no way of making money on recycling. "The important thing is," Bagley said, "it costs about \$7.50 to take recyclables to a utility but about \$346.50 to take the same items to a landfill. One 2-liter soda bottle is equivalent to four pounds of garbage in volume," he said.

DAMA will have to design an ordinance that recycling is mandatory and also one on anti-scavenging.

"Society is going to see lifestyles changing to deal with recycling and waste," Bagley stated. "The advantage to us is that we know people who have already started recycling so we know some of the things that have to be considered."

"A lot of businesses are now selling at cost the old type shopping bag like those our grandmothers used to take with her to do her shopping. We also need to encourage industries to do a better job on packaging. American technology will find ways to improve, I'm sure," Bagley said.

Lake

(continued from page 1)

glass, newspapers and magazines, aluminum cans, tin cans and three types of plastic bottles.

Abod said that a recent agreement with the Lackawanna County Landfill allows the borough to co-mingle its recyclable products. "This helps us keep things moving easier and it is not as inconvenient for the residents," said Abod.

The borough has also reached an agreement with its garbage hauler, J.P. Miscaro Co., in dealing with the recycling project. The trash hauler will rebate the borough \$41 to \$43 a ton for every ton that it recycles. Abod said that the agreement benefits both the borough and the hauler.

The borough is continuing to look ahead with its recycling plans. The borough just received a \$54,000 Department of Environmental Resources grant to establish curbside pickup of recyclables, and is planning to submit an application for more funds with hopes of purchasing a truck to help with curbside pickup.

Even though the borough is moving forward with its recycling there are some problems, according to Abod. "We have people who go to the dump site when we aren't around and just leave things," said Abod. He added that people not only leave items that can't be recycled, they are just dropping items and leaving the site a mess. Abod said that anyone caught dumping illegally at the site will be cited by the police.



Walters to appear in dance performance

Sussie Walters, daughter of Gary and Nancy Walters, Shavertown, will appear in a concert, Dance Kaleidoscope, Sunday, October 21, Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. The production, with curtain at 7 p.m. will also feature LINDADANCE and other students of Linda Sipple. Several guest artists will appear in the two hour show. Tickets are available, in advance, by calling the dance studio at 288-3083 or at the box office on the evening of the performance.

Donegal entries due October 22

The final selection of the "Wilkes-Barre Mary" will be made at the Donegal Ball at the Woodlands on Friday, November 2nd.

Contestants have until October 22nd to enter the contest. Qualifications are the young lady must be single, 18 to 25 years of age, of Irish descent, and from Northeastern Pennsylvania. The contest is not a talent contest. Interviews will be conducted prior to the Donegal Ball. Evening dress

will be required for appearance at the ball.

Applications are available from members of the Donegal Society and also at The Adjutant General's Office, 1st Floor, VA Building, Wilkes-Barre; Allied Health Office, King's College; Cronin's Irish Cottage, Scranton; Claire McNelis, Freeland; and John C. McKeown, Chairman, 43 Penn Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

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