

Recycling

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sor Joseph Stager. "We only found out about the census figures a couple of months ago. We'll be forced into recycling when we aren't financially capable without state assistance."

Out of the state's 414 municipalities which are required to recycle, only Jackson Township and Philadelphia aren't doing it, according to DER's chief of recycling and markets Carl Hursh.

"Jackson Township was supposed to have a curbside recycling program in operation by July, 1993," he said.

He added that although municipalities have the right to ask the local DER office for an exemption from the law, DER has never made an exception to Act 101 due to a municipality's population being inflated by the existence of a prison.

"We had this before with Graterford Prison," he said. "No exceptions have ever been made. I don't think that we can excuse anyone's responsibility under the law."

Hursh isn't even sure who would grant an exception if one were appropriate. Although he admitted that DER is responsible for supervising recycling programs and enforcing Act 101, he said that deciding who is to grant exceptions to the act is "a good question to ask an attorney."

Noncompliance could be expensive. If Jackson Township refuses to begin a curbside recycling plan, it could lose all of its state funding, according to Section 1708 of the act.

Although Stager declined to say how expensive a loss of state funds would be to the township, the recently adopted 1994 budget shows approximately \$147,000, a quarter of all revenues, as "inter-governmental revenue." Stager said that the supervisors would "study all incoming state funding and the township's responsibilities and limits under the law" before implementing the required program.

The Census Bureau didn't even start out with the correct population figures for Jackson Township, according to township secretary Henry Zbiek.

Jackson Twp. population

1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing

Total Population	5,336
SEX	
Male	4063
Female	1273
AGE	
Under 5 years	192
5 to 17 years	497
18 to 20 years	166
21 to 24 years	369
25 to 44 years	2847
45 to 54 years	613
55 to 59 years	167
60 to 64 years	155
65 to 74 years	204
75 to 84 years	108
85 years and over	18
Median age	34.2
Under 18 years	689
HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE	
Total households	863
Persons living in households	2571
Person per household	2.98
GROUP QUARTERS	
Persons living in group quarters	2765
Institutionalized persons	276 5
Total population minus prison population	2571

"They called me in 1991 because they had accidentally included 500 inmates at Retreat State Prison in Hunlock Township in our figures," he said. "I don't know if they were ever removed from our population."

Mark Carmon of the local DER office said that DER isn't "trying to jam recycling down people's throats."

"If a township feels that it's being singled out because of a facility that it has no direct authority over, we need to sit down with them and discuss this," he said. "It's a real can of worms. If the inmates are being counted as residents for recycling purposes, why aren't they considered residents for tax purposes?"

Broken vows

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Lewis said.

If the restitution agreement were violated, for example by failure to pay, Slater could be asked to "forfeit her right to do business," Lewis said.

The suit stemmed from complaints made by several Back Mountain women to the Bureau of Consumer Protection earlier this year, in which Dallas Township resident Lisa Higgins said that her bridesmaids had paid deposits in August, 1992, for Alfred Angelo fuchsia tea-length dresses for a May, 1993 wedding.

When the dresses arrived two weeks before the wedding, Higgins said that they didn't fit properly and hadn't been neatly finished.

Her bridesmaids had to hurriedly purchase the same gowns from another bridal shop.

After the quality control department of the manufacturer, Alfred Angelo, examined Higgins' dress, it issued a written statement that the dress "did not represent the standard quality of Alfred Angelo gowns," citing mismatched sleeves, finishing of inside seams and dress tags "not commonly used by Alfred Angelo."

Three other area brides also experienced problems with dresses paid for but never delivered or coming in the wrong style or color, according to records at District Magistrate Earl Gregory's office.

After ordering Alfred Angelo dresses, two brides learned that Slater didn't have an account with the company, according to Gregory's records.

Slater had said in an interview in June that she and her attorney had "sat down with the Consumer Board and worked everything out. Everything was fine." During that interview, she had accused Higgins of lying about her, making false claims and trying to get people not to do business with her.

When contacted December 6, Slater said, "I have no comment."

The attorney general's office requests consumers who wish to file a complaint in this case but haven't done so yet to contact attorney J. P. McGowan at the Bureau of Consumer Protection in Scranton at 963-4913.

Back Mountain is recycling leader

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Act 101, the recycling law, requires municipalities with populations of more than 5,000 and population densities of more than 300 persons per square mile to recycle at least three of these items: aluminum, bi-metal cans, clear and colored glass, plastic, newsprint. The Back Mountain has these recycling programs:

• State Correctional Institution at Dallas (SCID): Since 1990, the prison has recycled corrugated cardboard, bi-metal cans, aluminum and glass, according to assistant superintendent Tom Figmick. The prison doesn't recycle newsprint because it can't find a buyer for it.

• Harveys Lake: Since mid-1990, the borough has operated a voluntary curbside recycling program, in which residents leave clear and colored glass, plastic, aluminum, bi-metal cans and newsprint in special covered containers for

the road department to pick up. Harveys Lake isn't required to recycle; the Environmental Action Committee (EVAC) began the program voluntarily.

• Dallas and Kingston Townships: Due to their population size, these townships were the first area communities required to implement a curbside recycling program.

All items specified in Act 101 are recycled; residents are provided with special bins to place recyclables out with their trash every week.

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) administers

the program, which it has described as very successful.

• Dallas Borough: Although not required to recycle, the borough decided to join Dallas and Kingston townships in the recycling program administered by DAMA.

• Lake Township: A voluntary drop-off program run by citizen volunteers collects aluminum, clear and colored glass, bi-metallic cans and plastic once a month.

• Lehman and Franklin townships don't recycle because they don't meet the population requirements in Act 101.

State recycling statistics

Carl Hursh, DER's chief of recycling and markets, provided these figures on Pennsylvania's recycling efforts:

Total number of municipalities in the state:	2,570
Municipalities required to recycle:	414
Municipalities required to recycle but don't (Philadelphia and Jackson Township):	2
Voluntary curbside recycling programs:	723
Voluntary drop-off recycling programs:	247
Total recycling municipalities:	1,382

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