Washington Township Master Plan

Recycling Element

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(The original of this report has been signed and sealed in accordance with the law

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Executive Summary

This element of the Master Plan provides for a comprehensive inventory of the current state of the solid waste management and recycling programs in the Township along with a series of recommended actions and programs that Washington Township can implement to increase the percentage of solid waste that is recycled in the community.

The efforts of the Township over the past decade have been admirable, but more can be done with regard to increased recycling efforts. It is worth noting that Washington Township was one of the first Townships to achieve better than 60% for recycling.

The report specifically addresses:

- Solid Waste
- Recyclable Materials
- Vegetative/Yard Waste
- Bulk Waste
- Household Hazardous Waste

Goals and Objectives

- The Goals and Objectives of the Master Plan should be reviewed and if appropriate be revised to be consistent with the State Recycling Plan goals.
- The Washington Township Development Ordinance should be amended to provide a recycling drop off area for the source separation and storage of recyclable materials prior to pickup for multi-family residential housing of 25 or more units and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land.
- Continue to provide and develop public education programs which identifies the programs offered by Washington Township and the County for the commercial and institutional uses within the Township.
- Continue to work with the Gloucester County Improvement Authority (GCIA) to expand upon the forum with surrounding municipalities and the County which incorporates shared services. This could include equipment lending, shared storage, and collection or disposal services. Regionalizing services even further could provide a cost savings for all parties involved.

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I. Introduction

In the early 1990's the Municipal Land Use Law was amended to include a Recycling Plan Element as an appropriate section within municipal master plans. This element created a mechanism for municipalities to implement the Mandatory Statewide Source Separation and Recycling Act of 1987, making recycling and source separation a mandatory process for all municipalities in New Jersey.

As identified in the Municipal Land Use Law, the Recycling Plan Element incorporates the State Recycling Plan goals, including provisions for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials designated in the municipal recycling ordinance, and for the collection, disposition and recycling of recyclable materials within any development proposal of 25 or more units of multi-family residential housing and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land

In August of 1990, the Governor's Emergency Solid Waste Assessment Task Force published recommendations for solid waste management in New Jersey which included a goal of achieving a 50 % municipal and 60% total waste stream recycling rate.

This element of the Master Plan provides for a comprehensive inventory of the current state of the solid waste management and recycling programs in the Township along with a series of recommended actions and programs that Washington Township can implement to increase the percentage of solid waste that is recycled in the community.

II. Current Status of Waste Management Program

A. Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Program

1. Solid Waste

Washington Township has a contract with Waste Management to collect solid waste from each residence within the Township. Waste Management disposes of the waste at either Gloucester County Improvement Authority or the Wheelabrator Facility.

Solid waste from commercial sites will be collected by Waste Management if they generate 8 bags or less on a weekly basis. Otherwise commercial and industrial sites within the Township are responsible for their own collection and disposal.

2. Recyclable Materials

Washington Township was one of the first municipalities to attain the state's 60 percent recycling rate. Washington Township recycling program requires the mandatory recycling of paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, glass, aluminum, leaves, grass clippings and brush from all residential, commercial and industrial sites within the Township. These mandatory recyclable items are collected curbside by the

Township's hauling contractor under the same solid waste collection contract, once or twice a week on the same days as solid waste collection.

The Township classifies and tracts numerous recyclable materials which is reported annually to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The recyclable materials are taken to a market location which is chosen by the Township. All revenue, if any, is collected by the Township.

3. Vegetative/Yard Waste

The Township Division of Public Works provides for a spring and fall collection of leaves for the residents of the Township. The curbside leaf collection program is scheduled twice a year during the month of April and from the end of October through December. It is a very successful recycling program for Washington Township. Township residents place their leaves curbside so that the Public Works vehicles can properly and safely provide for the cleanup and removal of the leaves.

Grass Clippings are also collected by Waste Management and are disposed of at Fred Smith Orchards in Sewell.

4. Bulk Waste

Bulk Waste is also collected by Waste Management on an as needed basis.

5. Household Hazardous Waste

Since 1989, Gloucester County has provided Household Special Waste Collection days for residents to drop off their household hazardous waste at designated locations.

The Gloucester County Improvement Authority provides a Household Special Waste Collection Day six (6) times a year at the Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex in South Harrison Township and two (2) times per year at the Gloucester County Roads Department in Clayton.

B. Waste Generation and Recycling Rates

The Township classifies and tracts recyclable materials to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection utilizing the state's Recycling Tonnage Report Form. This form identifies over twenty five (25) recyclable items and identifies their source of generation as being generated from either a residential or commercial use.

The recyclable items include aluminum containers, anti-freeze, asphalt pavement, brush/tree parts, concrete, corrugated cardboard, glass containers, grass clippings, heavy iron, leaves, mixed office paper, nonferrous/aluminum scrap, newspaper, oil filters, used motor oil, oil contaminated soil, magazines/junk mail, plastic containers, steel containers, stumps, tires, white goods and wood scraps.

The solid waste and recycling tonnages from 1997 to 2000 is presented in Figure 1. As this figure shows Washington Township has been averaging over 65 % in the 1999 and 2000 which exceeded the state's goal of recycling 65% of the total waste stream, and falls just short of the goal in the years 2001 thru 2003. .

Within the residential sector, leaves, grass clippings and newspaper make up the largest percentage (by weight) of recyclable items and in the commercial sector concrete and stumps make up the largest percentage (by weight). These amounts have been relatively consistent from 1997 to 2001, with a slight decrease in 2002 and 2003.

Figure 1

Solid Waste and Recycling Tonnages 1997-2000
Washington Township, New Jersey

	Waste (Tons)	Recycling (Tons)	Total (Tons)	Recycling Rate
1997	N/A	30,290	N/A	
1998	N/A	41,778	N/A	
1999	18,806	39,892	58,699	67.9 %
2000	19,738	39,298	59,037	66.5 %
2001	20,046	32,250	52,296	62%
2002	23,330	24,950	48,280	52%
2003	26,274	30,363	56,637	54%

Source: Township of Washington Division of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste Management, 2001

As shown in Figure 2 below, Washington Township has consistently exceeded the statewide recycling rate and is consistent with the overall Gloucester County average.

Figure 2

Recycling Rates for N.J, Gloucester County and Washington Township 1997-2000

Year	N.J.	Gloucester Co.	Washington Twp.
1997	53.0 %	64.4 %	N/A
1998	55.4 %	63.4 %	N/A
1999	55.5 %	76.9 %	67.9 %
2000	60.8 %	62.0 %	66.5 %
2001	54.2%	62.7%	62%
2002	N/A	N/A	52%
2003	N/A	N/A	54%

Source: Township of Washington Division of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste Management, 2001 and NJDEP, Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste, Recycling & Planning

C. Information Distributed To Residents

Recycling/Trash Program Set-Up:

Glass, Cans and Plastics:

Residents are asked to mix all glass jars and bottles with aluminum and tin cans such as soda and soup cans. These metals should be commingled with plastic bottles such as milk, detergent and soda. To see if a plastic container is recyclable, simply look on the bottom of each container and if the number 1 or 2 is located in the middle of the recycling logo, it is recyclable. All other plastic containers are to be thrown away, including motor oil and antifreeze containers. Glass, cans and plastics are to be mixed in the yellow recycling container, or in your own container labeled "recycling". Please do not use bags or boxes as containers.

Newspaper/Mixed Paper:

Newsprint / mixed paper is to be tied or bundled in brown paper bags. We also accept junk mail, office waste paper and soft back books with newspaper. Carbon paper and hardback books are not accepted.

Grass Clippings:

Grass should be bagged or containerized and separated from trash. If in containers, we ask them to be labeled "grass". Please do not mix grass with trash. Grass clippings are collected separately.

Leaves:

Leaves are to be raked loose to the curb according to the dates on the Leaf Schedule. Leaves can also be bagged or containerized at any time. Please separate from trash.

Motor Oil/Car Batteries:

Motor oil and car batteries can be dropped off at the Washington Township Public Works Recycling Center between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

White Goods and other metal products:

Major appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc. are known as "white goods" and they, along with any other metal products such as filing cabinets or car rims, are collected separately. We ask residents to group metal products together and separate them from the trash.

Tires:

Tires are collected as a recyclable item. There is a two tire limit per household. Tires are not accepted from businesses.

Concrete:

Concrete must be broken into manageable pieces. Smaller pieces may be placed into containers under 50 lbs.

Carpeting and Rugs:

Carpeting / padding must be rolled up and cut into four foot sections, taped or tied and placed at the curb.

Brush, Wood and Christmas Trees:

Brush and untreated wood are collected separately and recycled. Brush, such as tree limbs and branches, should be cut into four foot sections and tied into management portions. Wood that has not been treated, such as plywood and 2x4's without stains or paint, have to be cut into four foot pieces and placed at the curb. These materials should be placed a few feet away from trash. Christmas trees are to be placed at the curb without plastic bags.

Cardboard:

Corrugated cardboard is collected curbside with other recyclables. Cardboard does not include "paper board" such as cereal and spaghetti boxes. Corrugated cardboard has to be broken down into flats and tied for collection. Waxed and coated corrugated cardboards are trash.

Holidays:

Collection of trash and recyclables is done by an outside contractor. Therefore, the holiday collection schedule is followed only on their observed holidays not the Township's holiday. Collection will take place one day after the observed holiday for: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Placement at curb:

All residents are asked to place trash and recyclables at the curb after 6:00 P.M. the night before collection.

Recycling Center:

The township has a drop off center for glass, cans, plastics, cardboard, newspaper, concrete, white goods, tires and untreated wood / brush. The center is open from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 :.M., Monday through Friday and opened to township residents only. Residents must sign in at the Municipal Services Building, across from the Policy Department on McClure Drive, before they deposit anything in the recycling center. Trash, grass and leaves are not accepted.

Washington Township Recycling Program

What Goes In Your Recycling Bucket?

Acceptable:

- Aluminum Beverage and Food Cans
- Tin and Steel Cans
- Clear, Green, and Brown glass Bottles and Jars
- Plastic Containers with the symbol



  P.E.T. on the bottom of the container; examples are soda, juice and water containers.
- Plastic Containers with the symbol



  H.D.P.E. on the bottom of the container; examples are milk, water, and detergent containers.

Not Acceptable:

- Plates or Dishes
- Ceramics
- Dirty Cans/Bottles
- Aluminum Lawn Furniture
- Aluminum Foil
- Aluminum Pie Plates
- Light Bulbs
- Window Glass
- Mirrors
- Drinking Glasses
- Plastic Toys
- Plastic Wrap
- Motor Oil Containers
- Anti-Freeze Containers
- Pizza Boxes
- Any Plastic Containers without 1 or 2 on the bottom
- Styrofoam
- Grass
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Flower Pots

III. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to expand the recycling efforts in Washington Township and towards the goal of promoting recycling in a uniform manner and to increase the rate of recycling.

A. The Goals and Objectives of the Master Plan should be reviewed and if appropriate be revised to be consistent with the State Recycling Plan goals.

B. The Washington Township Development Ordinance should be amended to provide a recycling drop off area for the source separation and storage of recyclable materials prior to pickup for multi-family residential housing of 25 or more units and any commercial or industrial development proposal for the utilization of 1,000 square feet or more of land.

   The appropriate sections of the site plan and subdivision requirements of the Washington Township Development Regulations should be revised to require that the site plan or subdivision plans include details and information on the recycling area(s) to be provided. Model ordinances prepared by the NJ Department of Community Affairs the NJDEP, and other municipalities should be used as a guide to develop this ordinance.

C. Commercial and institutional recycling has come a long way but can still be greatly improved. Continue to provide and develop public education programs which identify the programs offered by Washington Township and the County for the commercial and institutional uses within the Township. The EPA and NJDEP both offer information on how to do waste audits and have published case studies for specific businesses that have assisted them with identifying the types of waste produced and to teach them to be aware of all their disposal options. Businesses and schools can realize large cost savings by finding ways to reduce waste and identify possible recycling markets for different materials.

   Hold workshops to gather together organizations with similar needs to discuss waste and recycling options. (i.e. restaurant food waste recycling, multi-family drop-off centers, or recycling for schools).

D. Continue to work with the Gloucester County Improvement Authority (GCIA) to expand upon the forum with surrounding municipalities and the County which incorporates shared services. This could include equipment lending, shared storage, and collection or disposal services. Regionalizing services even further could provide a cost savings for all parties involved.