

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2022



Introduction

This Annual Report provides an update of the achievements of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (Authority). In this report you will find an update on the objectives of the Authority and the end of year results as of December 31, 2022.

Mission

The mission of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority is to manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner.

The Berks County Solid Waste Authority was established by the Berks County Commissioners on August 19, 1992. The role of the Solid Waste Authority is to protect the health and welfare of the residents of Berks County and to provide a means whereby Berks County can effectively and efficiently manage and implement the Solid Waste Plan.

Board of Directors

Officers

Charles S. Mowbray
Chair

Michelle P. Kircher
Vice-Chair

John Pagerly, CPA
Treasurer

Charles M. Jones, P.E.
Secretary

Tony Sacco
Assistant Secretary

Board Members

Brian Clements

Tony Rymar

Donald H. Moll, Jr.

Michael J. Gombar, Jr., Esq.

Executive Director

Jane Meeks

Solicitor

Socrates J. Georgeadis, Esquire, Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors

2022 Highlights

❖ SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS:

The Authority held both spring and fall Household Hazardous Waste collections and shredding events in 2022. All four collections were successfully held with pre-registration and limited volunteers. The Authority will continue to require pre-registration for our special collection events, which allows us to better control traffic flow, throughout the event. Since 2007, nearly 74,000 residents have participated in our special event collections properly disposing of over five million pounds of waste. Below is a breakdown from our 2022 events:

➤ Household Hazardous Waste Collection (program began in 1994)

2,000 residents participated in the two events that were held in 2022, collecting 138,862 pounds of hazardous materials.

➤ Paper Shredding (program began in 2009)

1,700 residents participated in our fall shredding event collecting over 85,662 pounds of confidential papers.

❖ OPERATION OF COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER:

The Authority operates a full-time recycling center at 1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport, Pa. The operation of this facility has been enhanced substantially since the Authority took over the operations of this facility in 2008. Two horizontal balers for paper have been installed, drastically reducing our transportation costs and a full-time electronic and tire collection center now operates at this location. The center typically operates with one full-time and two part-time employees, but fluctuates depending on the season.

➤ Cardboard, mixed paper, bottles and containers

366 tons of recyclables were processed at this recycling center in 2022, which generated \$18,306 in revenue from the sale of our corrugated cardboard and mixed paper. Due to the volatility of market conditions, revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,856, which is much better than the loss of \$8,300 experienced in 2021. In 2008, the first year of Authority operation, 500 tons of material was recycled at this same facility at a cost of \$40,000. It is estimated that with the installation of our balers in 2010 and 2019, the Authority has realized a savings of well in excess of \$500,000.

➤ Electronic Waste Collection (full-time center opened July 1, 2010)

17,500 residents visited the full-time center in 2022 recycling over 1.10 million pounds of electronic scrap, up from 378,000 pounds in 2011, our first full year of operation. 193,000 residents have used this site since opening, recycling over 15.4 million pounds of electronic waste, in twelve and a half years.

➤ Tire Collection (full-time center opened in April of 2012)

330 residents recycled 42,000 pounds of tires at our full-time site in 2022.

➤ Improvements to Recycling Center on Hilltop Road

The Authority is continuously making necessary improvements to the center, which improves the appearance of the center, while decreasing our operational costs. In 2016, our land development plan was approved by Bern Township and included the construction of a new building and paving the remaining parking area, both of which were completed in 2017. A second baler was installed in 2019 which was obtained from the City of Reading, free of charge with 90% of the building renovations paid for through a 902 Recycling Grant. On August 8, 2022, a grant was awarded to the Authority from PADEP in the amount of \$109,474 to cover additional improvements at the center, including repairing/repainting roll-offs, seal coating the parking lot, fencing and the purchase of a new Kubota skid steer. In 2023, the Authority will be erecting a canopy over our baling area, which was also funded through this grant.

The Authority aggressively pursues all available recycling grants to help reduce capital and operating expenses to the greatest extent possible.

❖ **PROVIDE MUNICIPAL SUPPORT**

The Authority offers assistance to our municipalities with their grant submittals, bid specifications, ordinance updates and compliance issues.

➤ 904 Performance Grants – PADEP

\$ 842,471 was awarded in 2022 for the 2020 Performance grants. These grants can be used to enhance municipal recycling programs, but are not required to be used for any specific purpose, once in compliance with Act 101.

➤ 902 Equipment Grants – PADEP

On April 23, 2022, \$3.28 million in grant applications were awarded by PADEP to twelve Berks County municipalities and the Authority, under the 902 Recycling Equipment Grant Program. On October 18, 2022, four additional applications were submitted to DEP totaling \$1.08 million, which are anticipated to be awarded in early 2023. These grants

must be used to purchase equipment and provide education on recycling programs and cannot be used to cover any operating costs.

- Worked closely with our municipalities, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding obtaining permits to hold our Household Hazardous Waste Collection during COVID-19, which requires a COVID plan to be filed in addition to the Health and Safety Plan and registration forms. Pre-registration for our spring and fall collections continued throughout 2022, which allows for a much more efficient event with little to no traffic issues.

❖ COUNTY RECYCLING RATE

The Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan of 2014 projected that Berks County would meet the 35% recycling goal in 2015 and that it would continue to grow to 40% by the year 2024. In 2021, the County recycled 225,709 tons of all recyclable materials with 127,836 tons being Act 101 materials. When using the .8 tons per day (TPD) waste calculation established by PADEP, this represents 66% of the County municipal waste stream when looking at all types of recyclables and 38% including just Act 101 materials. Act 101 materials include the following items: cardboard, paper, aluminum and tin cans, plastic bottles, containers and film, glass bottles and jars, yard waste and source separated food waste. It is anticipated that in future year's contamination will also decrease the amount of recycling, as mills become more stringent on the quality of recyclable materials, that they will accept. From 2017 to 2022 the actual amount of municipal waste generated by Berks County and disposed of in Pa waste facilities increased from 301,175 in 2017 to 322,704 in 2018 and then significantly decreased to 310,045 in 2019 to 280,903 in 2022.

Authority Overview and Operations

Authority Responsibilities:

The Authority is responsible for the development and implementation of the County Solid Waste Management Plan. The County Solid Waste Management Plan is required to be revised every 10 years and meet the following requirements:

- Ensure adequate disposal capacity for county-generated waste for a period of ten years.
- Evaluate the county's recycling program and achieve the statewide goal of 35% recycling.
- Develop and administer collection programs for special wastes.
- Provide assistance to municipalities.

The first Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) required under the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101 of 1988), Chapter 25 Pa. Code – 272.252 (a) and (e), for Berks County was developed in 1990. In December of 2005, the 1990 Solid Waste Management Plan was revised, as required by state law. The 2005 Plan was revised in November 2007, October 2008, October 2013 and October 2014. The 2014 Plan revision was required in accordance with Act 101 of 1988.

The 2014 Plan Revision was approved by PADEP on October 6, 2014. The Plan approval is effective for a ten-year period or at least three years prior to the time all remaining available permitted disposal capacity for the County will be exhausted. The Authority is currently revising the 2014 Plan, which began in early 2022, which will allow more than two years for completion.

Waste Generation:

Berks County was expected to generate 5.1 million tons of waste during the current ten-year planning period (October 2014 - October 2024).

The following facilities agreed to provide adequate disposal capacity, for Berks County municipal solid waste under the existing Plan revision:

- Conestoga Landfill (Berks County)
- Rolling Hill Landfill (Berks County)
- Western Berks Landfill (Berks County)

It was estimated that Berks County would generate approximately 1,400 tons per day of municipal waste, throughout the current Planning period. Based on the original and current evaluation, the County has sufficient capacity available for the remaining twenty-two months of the current planning period. In 2022, Berks County generated approximately 1,388 tons per day of municipal waste, a slight increase from 2021. 770 tons was disposed of in landfills and/or resource recovery facilities located in Pennsylvania and 618 tons was recycled.

In 2022, 32% of Berks County waste was disposed of at the Western Berks Landfill, 26% at the Pioneer Crossing Landfill, 12% at the Conestoga Landfill, 8% at the Rolling Hills Landfill, 7% at the Commonwealth Environmental Systems Landfill in Schuylkill County and 11% at the Fairless Landfill, of which all most all was residual. The remaining 4%, was disposed of in out of County facilities, which is a decrease of 17% from 2021, when it was 21%.

Host Fees:

Berks County currently receives host fees from three landfills, those being the Conestoga, the Western Berks and the Rolling Hills (Delaware County Solid Waste Authority) Landfills. Conestoga and Western Berks Landfills pay the County a minimum of \$3.00 per ton for all waste generated outside of Berks County. Delaware County Solid Waste Authority (DCSWA) also has an Agreement with Berks County, which requires a \$2.00 per ton payment on all waste generated outside of Berks County. The 2018 litigation between the County of Berks and DCSWA was settled out of court on February 22, 2021.

The following is a table showing the actual yearly host fees for 2019 through 2022:

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Host Fees Received by the County	\$ 4,631,957	\$ 4,494,804	\$ 4,789,230	\$ 4,877,563
Legal Fees paid by DCSWA			\$ 54,372	\$ 52,083
County Recycling Programs (Paid from Host Fees)	(\$ 250,000)	(\$ 300,000)	(\$ 300,000)	(\$ 300,000)
Received by Berks County (Landfill Settlement Fees from Conestoga Landfill)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Received by the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (Landfill Settlement Fees from Conestoga Landfill)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000

County Recycling Rate:

The objective of the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan that was approved in October of 2014 was to meet the State goal of 35% recycling by 2015. In 2021, 127,836 tons of Act 101 eligible materials were recycled in Berks County representing 38% of our waste stream, when using the .8 TPD waste calculation established by PADEP. A total of 225,709 tons of all types of recyclables were collected in 2021. It is anticipated that in future year's contamination will also decrease the amount of recycling, as mills become more stringent on the quality of recyclable materials, that they will accept. Of our seventy-two municipalities only sixteen are mandated under Act 101 to implement curbside recycling programs for their residents. As of December 31, 2022, thirty-six of our municipalities provided curbside recycling collection; nine provide drop-off programs for their residents, with thirty-one municipalities in Berks providing no recycling services to their residents.

In 2022, the Authority continued to work with our non-mandated municipalities to gather recycling data from their haulers who were providing recycling services to their residents and businesses, through private subscriptions. The County recycling rate rose from 22% in 2005 to 38% in 2021 simply by evaluating the County's non-mandated municipalities and including all of their recyclable materials in our year end reports. The Authority has also improved on our reporting program for the County by gathering as much data as possible from Material Recovery Facilities and larger haulers throughout the County and distributing this information to the appropriate municipality.

In January of 2008 the Authority assumed all recycling operations for the County, which included the operation of both the rural recycling program, which serviced six municipalities, as well as the full-time recycling center on Hilltop Road in Bern Township. In January of 2018, the rural recycling program was canceled due to ongoing illegal dumping. Only Upper Tulpehocken Township chose to continue their program and assumed all operating costs for that program. The Authority assisted with much needed startup costs and in November of 2018 received a grant from PADEP which reimbursed both the Authority and Upper Tulpehocken Township for 90% of those costs. During the past fourteen years the Authority has invested much needed funds into the appearance and operation of the Hilltop Road recycling center, and has installed equipment which has greatly reduced our operating costs. In 2010, the Authority hired a full-time employee to oversee the operation of the drop-off location and full-time electronic and tire recycling center on Hilltop Rd., and hired additional part-time employees in both 2018 and 2021.

By improving the economics of operating the recycling centers for the County, the Authority is able to reallocate those funds and provide new programming for County residents.

In 2010, the Authority opened a full-time recycling center for electronics. In addition, the Authority, utilizing state grants covering 90% of these costs, invested nearly \$800,000 from 2010 through 2022 completing the following projects at the recycling center:

- Paved the parking lot at the recycling center on Hilltop Road
- Installed restroom facilities including the installation of a well and septic
- Completed structural repairs to the floor in the electronic recycling center
- Repaired the roof at the recycling center
- Installed a baler and tipper baling mixed paper and corrugated cardboard
- Painted and/or replacing all roll-off containers at Hilltop Road and Rural program
- Renovated the entire first floor of the existing barn for the expansion of the electronic recycling storage area.
- Purchased six new roll-off containers for storing recyclables, tires & Freon items.
- Painted, installed new gutters and repointed stone area of recycling center.
- Received approval of our full land development plan including the demolition and construction of a new 2,400 sf storage building.
- Renovations and installation of second baler (Baler value \$66,000)
- Fenced and secured property.

In June of 2020 the recycling center was fenced to allow for better control of the site, which also allows for set operating hours and allows us to control access during operating hours, if needed. This has also drastically decreased the amount of illegal dumping at our site. The completion of all of these projects and those currently scheduled will continue to improve the appearance and operation of the center, as well as the economics of our center, by increasing the marketability of our cardboard and mixed paper with the installation of the baler. 90% of the costs for these improvements have been, or will be, reimbursed to the Authority through 902 Equipment Grants from PADEP. Starting in 2010, the Authority baled mixed paper and cardboard at the recycling center on Hilltop Rd. thereby saving on transportation costs and increasing the value of our materials. Approximately, 366 tons of recyclables were collected at our center in 2022 with a net revenue of \$1,856, a \$6,444 increase from 2021, while recycling the same amount of material.

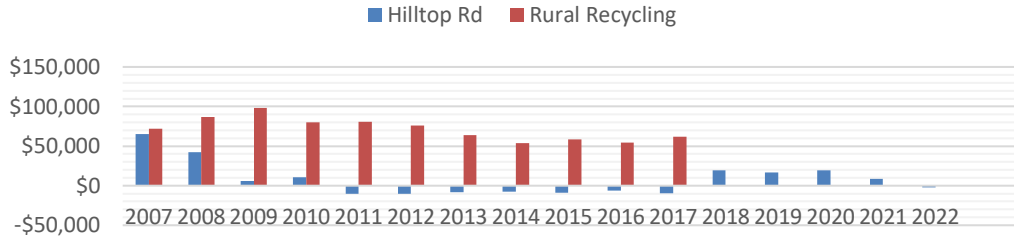
In 2022, the Authority completed the following improvements to the site through the use of a \$100,000 state grant that was awarded to the Authority in August of 2022:

- Repair and paint all roll-off containers and install new signs
- Purchase new 96-gallon totes for mixed paper
- Replace current skid-steer
- Seal coat parking lot

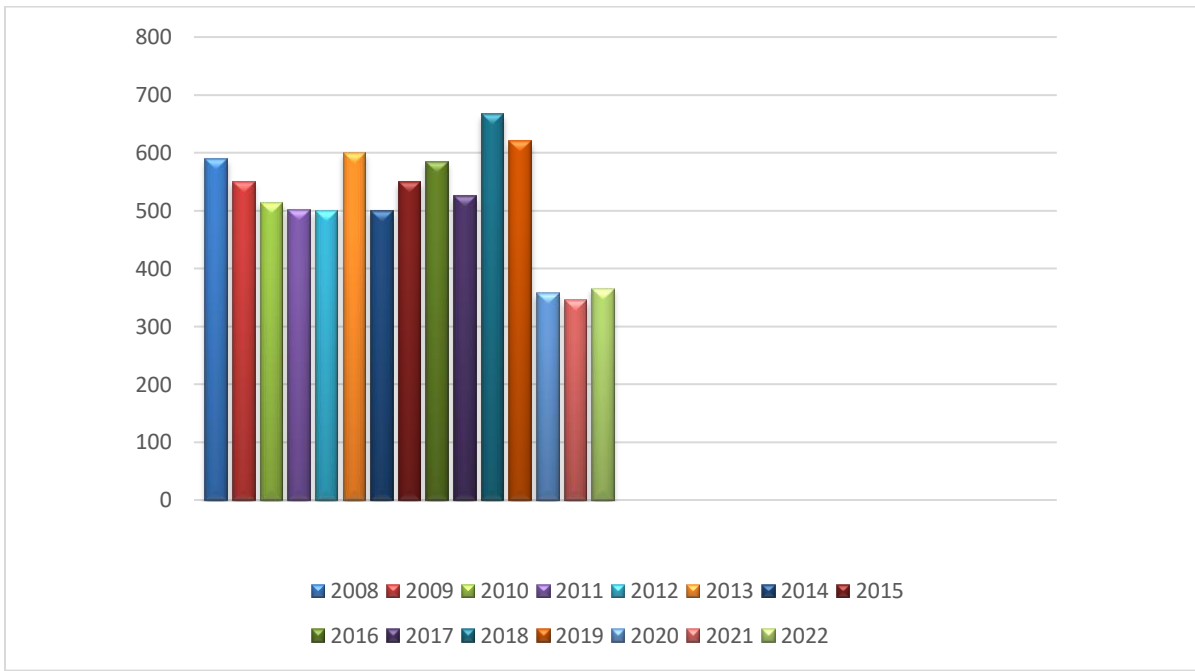
In 2023, the Authority will install a roof over the baling area of the building, that was not able to be completed in 2022, but will be covered by the grant.



RECYCLING CENTER - OPERATING COST



TONS COLLECTED PER YEAR 1316 HILLTOP ROAD, LEESPORT



Special Waste:

The Authority operated two household hazardous waste collection events and two paper shredding events in 2022. Our full-time electronic center and our tire recycling center operated on regular schedule throughout the year of 2022.

Household Hazardous Waste:

Historically, the Authority has operated a Spring and Fall collection program for household hazardous waste from Berks County residents. Since 2007, 51,000 residents have disposed of approximately 2.82 million pounds of hazardous waste at our collection events. In 2022, 2,000 residents disposed of 139,000 pounds of hazardous waste at our spring and fall collections. In 2022, those collection events required preregistration, which will continue in 2023.

The following is a table outlining the costs and revenue sources associated with the operation of the Authority’s hazardous waste collections since 2016:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Collection Costs	(\$ 197,832)	(\$150,226)	(\$ 170,449)	(\$ 173,875)	(\$99,281)	(\$124,961)	(\$132,039)
PADEP	\$ 93,581	\$ 75,113	\$ 86,953	\$ 86,938	\$ 48,095	\$ 64,612	\$ 68,297
Sponsorships	\$ 14,900	12,800	\$ 9,140	\$ 15,575	\$ 14,975	\$ 15,400	\$ 16,556
Solid Waste Authority *	\$ 89,351	62,313	\$ 74,356	\$ 71,362	\$ 36,211	\$ 44,949	\$ 47,186

* The funds received by the Authority from Conestoga Landfill under a lawsuit settlement are used to partially fund these collection events.



Below is a list of Authority sponsors who have made financial contributions to ensure the success of our yearly collection events in 2022.

Amity Township	Fleetwood Borough	Longswamp Twp.	South Heidelberg Township
Bern Township	FNB Bank	Lower Heidelberg Twp.	Spring Township
Brecknock Township	Greenwich Twp.	Maidencreek Township	St. Lawrence Borough
City of Reading	Hamburg Borough	Mohnton Borough	UGI Utilities
Cogle's Recycling	Jefferson Township	Muhlenberg Township	Wernersville Borough
Cumru Township	Kenhorst Borough	Ontelaunee Township	West Reading Borough
District Township	Kutztown Borough	Richmond Township	Womelsdorf Borough
Douglass Township	Laureldale Borough	Shillington Borough	Wyomissing Borough
East Penn	Leesport Borough	Sinking Spring Borough	Yuasa Battery
Exeter Township			

Electronic Waste:

From 2007 through June of 2010, the Authority operated Spring and Fall collection programs for electronic waste recycling from Berks County residents. During that time, 12,100 residents participated in our collections recycling 1.1 million pounds of electronics.

Full-time Electronic Recycling Center

On July 1, 2010 the Authority opened a full-time electronic recycling site at 1316 Hilltop Road, in Bern Township. Since opening in 2010, 193,000 residents participated in our collections and brought more than 15.4 million pounds (7,700 tons) of electronics for recycling. In 2022, 17,500 residents disposed of 1.1 million pounds of electronics for recycling. Participation and the amount of wastes collected at this site continues to grow, as residents become educated about the programs and have begun to rely on our full-time center, for proper disposal options.



Electronics were previously stored within the collection area.



The electronic collection area, after the construction of our new storage building.

Pharmaceutical Collection:

The Authority held pharmaceutical collection events in 2009 through 2014. During that time 4,800 residents properly disposed of 13,520 pounds of medications, through our events. The event was held free of charge with the following sponsors assisting with the operation and funding of this program: Pa American Water, Reading Area Water Authority, Western Berks Water Authority, Berks County District Attorney, City of Reading Police Department, York County Solid Waste Authority and MXI Environmental.

In April of 2013, The Berks County District Attorney implemented a full-time drop-off program for pharmaceuticals in sixteen police stations throughout Berks County. This program has since been expanded and currently services 28 locations. The containers are serviced on a weekly basis by the District Attorney who ensures that the material is properly destroyed.

Please visit their website for additional information on that program:

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/da/Pages/medicationdropbox.aspx>

Tire Waste:

The Authority held its first tire collection event in November of 2007. Since the start of our program approximately 8,000 residents have recycled over one million pounds of tires. Residents are charged a per tire disposal fee, which covers most of the program costs. In April of 2012 the Authority opened our full-time tire collection program at the site of our electronic recycling center on Hilltop Rd. The center operates on the same hours as the electronic center, thereby not incurring additional labor costs. In 2022, 330 residents recycled 42,000 pounds of tires through our program.

Paper Shredding:

The Authority held its first paper shredding event in October of 2009. Since the start of our program 24,886 residents disposed of 1.07 million pounds of confidential documents for shredding. In 2022, the Authority held both a spring and fall paper shredding events, with mandatory pre-registration, servicing 1,700 residents and collecting 85,662 pounds of

confidential documents for shredding. The Authority expects the program to continue to grow as residents become educated about the importance of protecting yourself from identity theft and properly shredding your confidential documents. This event is held free of charge with Vital Records Control (VRC) providing their services at a significant discount. Pre-registration for these events allows for a smooth flow of traffic throughout the day, with minimal wait times.

Funding:

The Authority spent a significant amount of time from 2009 through 2022 evaluating the existing recycling programs throughout the County and also looking at possible funding opportunities to assist with those programs. Three types of grants are available through the PADEP Act 101 recycling programs to assist municipalities/counties with the implementation of their recycling programs.

902 Equipment Grants:

902 Equipment Grants are available to both municipalities and counties and reimburse 90% of the cost of eligible equipment needed to improve the efficiencies of existing recycling programs or the development of new programming. Since the start of this grant program, Berks County has received more than 21 million dollars of these funds. From 1990 through 2005, which included fifty grant rounds, Berks County Municipalities received only five million dollars of 902 equipment grants. In the last ten grant rounds (2008, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022), the Authority worked diligently to educate our municipalities about the importance of these grants and has drastically increased both the number of applications from Berks, as well as the dollar amount of those grants awarded. Over sixteen million dollars has been awarded in Berks County since 2008, representing 77% of the total 902 equipment grants received in Berks County since the grant program began in 1990.

Below is a listing of 902 grants awarded to Berks County municipalities since 2004.

Year Awarded	# of applicants	Total awarded in Berks	Percentage of State award
2004	1	\$ 16,200	<1 %
2005	7	\$ 660,677	<1 %
2006	6	\$ 415,821	2 %
2007	4	\$ 321,000	<1 %
2008	5	\$ 529,976	2 %
2010	13	\$ 1,390,374	7 %
2013	6	\$ 1,063,209	6 %
2014	11	\$ 1,270,341	8 %
2015	9	\$ 1,353,284	8 %
2016	6	\$ 822,378	5 %
2018	15	\$ 3,159,177	9 %
2019	10	\$ 1,930,705	15 %
2020	9	\$ 1,687,840	6 %
2022	12	\$ 3,280,000	10 %

In October of 2022, four 902 grant applications from Berks County, totaling \$1.08 million were submitted to PADEP for consideration. These grants are expected to be awarded in the spring of 2023.

903 Recycling Coordinator:

903 Recycling Grants are only available to counties and reimburses 50% of the salary, benefits and expenses of the County Recycling Coordinator. Our Executive Director also serves as the County Recycling Coordinator for Berks County. Berks County and the Authority have received \$ 900,511 since 2003. In 2022, the Authority received reimbursement in the amount of \$71,676 covering 50% of eligible expenses incurred in 2021.

904 Performance Grants:

904 Performance Grants are available to both municipalities and counties and are based on the prior year tonnages from both residential and commercial recycling programs, that were successfully diverted from disposal facilities for recycling. Since 2006, the Authority has drastically increased the amount of time spent educating our non-mandated municipalities about their eligibility for these grants for recycling programs that are currently being operated by their businesses. In 2006, Berks County Municipalities received nearly \$90,000 in additional funding then was received in 2005. A total of \$ 16.37 million has been awarded to Berks County municipalities since 2001. In 2010, PADEP changed the formula for this grant program, reducing the grant awards by 40%. In the most recent grant year, 2020, \$ 842,471 was awarded to 50 applicants in Berks County. The 2021 applications are currently being reviewed by PADEP and the 2022 application deadline has not yet been announced by PADEP.

Yard Waste Composting:

The Authority has assisted seven municipalities with siting and permitting their yard waste sites since 2008. The Authority has also assisted Hopewell Nursery in Amity Township in obtaining their yard waste permit to accept yard waste from Amity and Colebrookdale Townships, as well as the Berks Cooperative Purchasing Council. Both Lower Heidelberg Township and Wernersville Borough have entered into Inter-Municipal Agreements with South Heidelberg Township to use their yard waste site and received a \$197,601 grant to make necessary improvements, which has drastically reduced their operating costs.

In 2021, as part of the 902 Recycling Grant application process the Authority worked with seven municipalities to obtain permits for either their new or existing leaf waste drop-off sites. These grants were awarded in the spring of 2022. The Authority also worked with three municipalities to obtain permits for the land application of leaves on existing farms, which will result in huge cost savings for those municipalities. South Heidelberg Township and Wernersville Borough have both entered into similar agreements with a local farmer who has also received his permit for the land application of leaf waste from PADEP.

Currently there are seven farms permitted by PADEP in Berks County, to accept leaves for beneficial land application, which provides a huge savings to municipalities in avoided disposal/processing costs.

Food Waste:

In 2010, PADEP awarded \$ 74,000 towards the development of a food waste collection program, EPA awarded a total of \$11,000 towards the 2011 and 2012 collection costs and the Authority dedicated \$10,000 towards this program in both 2011 and 2012.

In November of 2012, Gannet Fleming performed a technical review of our program, on behalf of PADEP. The recommendation of that review was for the Authority to terminate our involvement in the food waste program, as originally designed, and to have the program operated directly by the private sector, if there is adequate interest. A copy of the technical review can be found on the Authority website at:

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Documents/Special%20Wastes/Berks%20Co%20%20RTA%20527%20-%20Draft%20Rpt%2011-7-2012rev1.pdf>

All equipment that was originally purchased for this program in 2010 through PADEP grants was sold and those funds were returned to PADEP in 2013.

Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant:

\$9.6 million in grants were awarded in May of 2020 to assist charitable food systems. All eight non-profits in Berks County that requested this funding were fully approved totaling over \$800,000 to be used to improve their food distribution programs. The Authority assisted these non-profits in filing their applications and developing new partnerships. In the fall of 2022, DEP announced another round of food recovery grants, those applications being due on March 17, 2023.

Compliance Issues:

During 2022, the Authority assisted Berks County Municipalities with the following issues:

- Assist Municipalities with PADEP reporting and communication including:
 - PADEP Grants
 - Reporting Forms
 - Ordinances
 - Educational programs
 - Contract language
 - Act 101 and Act 140 requirements
 - Assisted municipalities with yard waste collection programs and quarantine issues related to the Spotted Lantern Fly, which currently affects all of Berks County and beyond.
 - Assisted municipalities with permitting of yard waste sites that were not previously permitted, as well as permitting of farms for the land application of leaves in the fall of each year.

- Development of new programming
 - Yard Waste collection / composting
 - Assisting municipalities with electronic waste recycling

- Speaking Engagements
 - Civic Organizations
 - Schools
 - Environmental Groups
 - Municipalities

The Authority will continue to offer assistance to Berks County Municipalities as new programming is developed.

Financial Summary:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Expenditures	\$ 603,308	\$ 558,627	\$ 686,860	\$670,602	\$734,059
Revenues	\$ 593,600	\$ 541,336	\$ 629,763	\$537,538	\$760,426
Surplus/Deficit	(\$9,708)	(\$ 17,291)	(\$ 57,097)	(\$133,064)	\$ 26,367

Copies of the audit report are on file in the office of the Authority. Audited financial statements of the Authority for fiscal year 2022 have not been completed as of the date of this report.

From 2010 through 2022, the Authority has spent in excess of \$750,000 purchasing equipment and making improvements to the Recycling Center on Hill Top Road in Bern Township, of which 90% has been reimbursed by PADEP, through State grants.

The Year Ahead

The following collections are scheduled for 2023:

Household Hazardous Waste – 8:00 am – Noon

- April 15, 2023 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School (Pre-registration required)
- October 21, 2023 – Berks County Ag Center (Pre-registration required)

Paper Shredding Event- 8:00 am – Noon

- April 22, 2023 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School (Pre-registration required)
- October 14, 2023 - Berks County Ag Center (Pre-registration required)

Electronic & Tire Recycling Center – (1316 Hilltop Rd., Leesport, Pa.)

Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
8:00 am - Noon

New Projects for 2023:

- Improve existing County recycling programs.
 - Assist with grant writing and submittals.
 - Improve efficiency of programs while better managing costs
 - Reduce contamination in materials accepted for recycling
- Develop program to reduce operating costs of the electronic recycling center.
- Expansion of yard waste collection programs throughout Berks County and permitting of sites.
- Continue to improve website format and continuously update information
- Educate our municipalities on available grants and data management and help to educate their residents about ever-changing market conditions for recyclables.
- Expand our sponsorship program to help offset the costs of our special waste collection programs
- Organize volunteers for cleanups and collection events
- Continue working on the revision of the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan working with our newly created Solid Waste Advisory Committee.