

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2017



## **Introduction**

This Annual Report provides an annual 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, 2017.

## **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 (a) manage and (b) implement the Solid Waste Plan.

## **Board of Directors**

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### **Solicitor**

Douglas Paul Rauch, Esquire, Georgeadis Setley Attorney's and Advisors

## **2017 Highlights**

### **❖ SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS:**

Held four collection events servicing over 4,900 residents and collecting approximately 305,000 pounds of special wastes for proper disposal. Since 2007, 54,000 residents have participated in our special event collections properly disposing of over three million pounds of waste. Below is a breakdown from our 2017 events:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection (program began in 1994)
  - 2,547 residents participated in two events held in 2017, collecting 206,300 pounds of hazardous materials.
- Paper Shredding (Fall 2009 – Present)
  - 2,300 residents participated in two events shredding over 98,700 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. A horizontal baler for paper was installed, drastically reducing our transportation costs and a full-time electronic and tire collection center, now operates at this location.

- Cardboard, mixed paper, bottles and containers
  - 525 tons of recyclables were processed at this recycling center in 2017, which generated \$ 27,500 in revenue, from the sale of these materials. The Authority generated \$4,700 in revenue in 2017, after expenses. In 2008, the first year of Authority operation, 500 tons of material was recycled at this same facility at a cost of \$ 40,000. Since the installation of our baler in 2010, we have reduced our operating costs by approximately \$360,000.
- Electronic Waste Collection (full-time center opened July 1, 2010)
  - 21,000 residents visited the full-time center in 2017 collecting over 1,700,000 pounds, up from 378,000 pounds in 2011, our first full year of operation. 97,500 residents have used this site since opening, recycling 8.9 million pounds of electronic waste, in seven and a half years.
- Tire Collection (full-time center opened in April of 2012)
  - 500 residents recycled 103,000 pounds of tires at our full-time site in 2017.
- 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. Our land development plan was approved which included the construction of a new building and paving the remaining parking area during 2017.

## ❖ PROVIDE MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

The Authority offers assistance to our municipalities with their grants, bid specifications, ordinance updates and compliance issues. In addition, the Authority operated six full-time recycling drop-off centers at municipal buildings.

### ➤ Rural Recycling program

- In 2017, 617 tons of recyclables were collected through the rural recycling program, at a cost of \$68,000.
- In 2017, at the request of the County Commissioners', in order to eliminate an unequitable program, the Authority began developing a plan to transfer the operation of this program over to a few of the existing municipalities, with this plan scheduled for implementation in January of 2018. As of December 31, 2017, only Upper Tulpehocken agreed to convert their program to a regional program, servicing that part of the County. The Authority assisted in the startup costs of this program and submitted a grant request to DEP for reimbursement of these expenses in April of 2018. The other sites were closed in January of 2018, with that material now being collected by waste/recycling haulers, being taken directly to Cogle's Recycling or being brought to our recycling center on Hilltop Road in Leesport.

### ➤ Funding opportunities

- 904 Performance Grants – PADEP  
\$ 705,000 was awarded in 2017 for the 2015 performance grants
- 902 Equipment Grants – PADEP
  - DEP did not offer a 902 Equipment Grant program in 2017. An announcement was made by PADEP for grant applications in December of 2017 with grants due April 7, 2018. Fifteen municipalities and the Authority submitted applications for this funding, for various recycling related projects, totaling \$3.1 million dollars. Grant awards are anticipated in the fall of 2018.
- Assisted municipalities with bid specifications and grant submittals.
- Worked closely with newly effected municipalities in Berks, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection regarding issues related to the Spotted Lanternfly and the quarantined areas, as it related to composting of yard waste.

## ❖ 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 2016, the County recycled 207,725 tons of all recyclable materials with 101,601 tons being Act 101 materials. This represents 41% of the County municipal waste stream when looking at all types of recyclables and 25% including just Act 101 materials.

## **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) for Berks County was developed in 1990, and was entirely paid for through a twenty million dollar bond issue. In September of 2009, these bonds were refinanced with \$ 6,290,000 in new bonds which resulted in a net savings of \$277,000. The final payment on these bonds was made in April of 2016. In December of 2005, the original Solid Waste Management Plan of 1990 was revised, as required by state law, at a cost of \$119,000 of which \$95,285 was paid for through a Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) grant. Since the major Plan revision of December 2005, the Authority has conducted four additional non-substantial revisions to the Plan. The first revision was approved by the PADEP on November 16, 2007 and allowed for the inclusion of the Western Berks Community Landfill and Recycling Center, LLC, to be added to the Plan. The Agreement to allow Western Berks Community Landfill and Recycling Center, LLC, to be added to the Plan required the payment of host fees on all out of County waste being disposed of at their facility.

The second non-substantial revision to this Plan was approved by PADEP on October 30, 2008, and allowed for the inclusion of the following disposal facilities: Community Refuse Services, WSI Sandy Run Landfill, Mostoller Landfill, Grows North Landfill, Tullytown Resource Recovery Facility and Grows Landfill. In addition, the revision to the Plan included the removal of the Dauphin Meadows landfill. Since all of the landfills added to the Plan on October 30, 2008 are located outside of Berks County, no host fees are required to be paid to Berks County.

The third non-substantial revision to this Plan was completed in October of 2013, and allowed for the inclusion of the York County Resource Recovery Center. Since this disposal facility is located outside of Berks County, no host fees are required to be paid to Berks County.

These facilities were added as nonexclusive disposal facilities for the disposal of municipal waste from the County of Berks.

In the fall of 2013, the Authority began working on revising the 2005 County Municipal Waste Management Plan Revision. This Plan revision was required in accordance with the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101 of 1988), Chapter 25 Pa. Code – 272.252 (a) and (e). The County Plan is an Open Menu Plan and allows waste from within Berks County to be disposed of at any permitted disposal facility, both in and outside of Pennsylvania. The revised Plan updated only specific sections of the existing 2005 Plan Revision which would have expired in December of 2015. As part of this Plan Revision the County secured adequate solid waste disposal capacity through December 31, 2025. The overall Agreements with each of the landfills require the payment of certain Host Fees to the County of Berks and is estimated to generate approximately \$30,000,000 over this ten year planning period. The Authority demonstrated through this Plan Revision how the County anticipates exceeding the 35% recycling diversion rate.

This 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 capacity for the County will be exhausted.

#### Waste Generation:

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

The following facilities have agreed to provide adequate disposal capacity over the next ten years under the existing Plan revision:

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

It is estimated that Berks County will generate approximately 1,400 tons per day of municipal waste, throughout this Planning period. Based on this evaluation, the County has sufficient capacity available for the ten-year planning period.

In 2017, twenty-five percent of Berks County waste was disposed of at the Conestoga Landfill, seventeen percent at the Western Berks Landfill, twenty percent at the Colebrookdale Landfill and seventeen percent at the Pioneer Crossing Landfill. The balance, twenty-one percent, was disposed of in out of County facilities, which is an increase of 5% of Berks County waste being disposed of at out of County facilities, over the past 5 year average.



Host Fees:

Berks County currently receives host fees from three landfills located in Berks County, those being the Conestoga, Rolling Hills and the Western Berks Landfills. Conestoga and Western Berks Landfills pay the County \$3.00 per ton for all waste generated outside of Berks County with Colebrookdale paying \$2.00 per ton.

The following is a table showing the actual and budgeted yearly host fees for 2015 through 2017:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Host Fees Received by the County	\$ 3,396,473	\$ 3,644,253	\$ 4,144,261
Debt Service Payment (Paid from Host Fees) (1990 Solid Waste Plan)	- \$ 992,556	- \$ 988,406	- \$ 0
County Recycling Programs (Paid from Host Fees)	- \$ 185,000	- \$ 185,000	-\$ 294,200
Received by Berks County (Landfill Settlement Fees from Conestoga Landfill)	\$ 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

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 2016, 101,601 tons of Act 101 eligible materials were recycled in Berks County representing 25% of our waste stream. A total of 207,725 tons of all types of recyclables were collected in 2016 representing 41% of the waste stream. Of our seventy-three municipalities only sixteen are mandated under Act 101 to implement curbside recycling programs for their residents. As of December 31, 2017, thirty-three of our municipalities provide curbside recycling collection; eleven provide drop-off programs for their residents, of which six were operated by the Authority, with twenty-eight municipalities in Berks providing no recycling services to their residents.

In 2017, 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 41% in 2016 simply by evaluating the County's non-mandated municipalities and including all of their recyclable materials in our year end reports.

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, in 2017, as well as the full time recycling center on Hilltop Road in Bern Township. In March of 2013, the rural recycling programs were changed from monthly service to full-time locations, making these facilities more accessible to our residents,

while increasing the amount of materials collected. During the past nine years the Authority has invested much needed funds into the appearance and operation of the recycling centers, and has installed equipment which 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.

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.

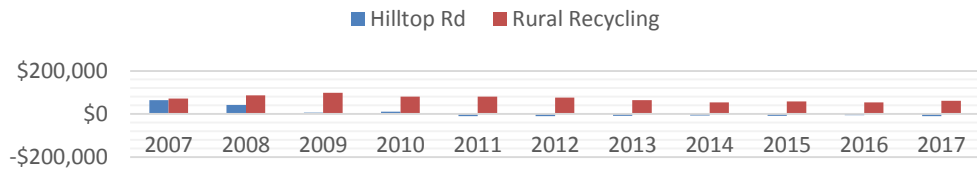
In 2010, the Authority opened a full-time recycling center for electronics. In addition, the Authority, utilizing state grants, covering 90% of these costs, invested approximately \$633,000 from 2010 through 2017 completing the following projects at the recycling center:

- 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 OCC
- 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.

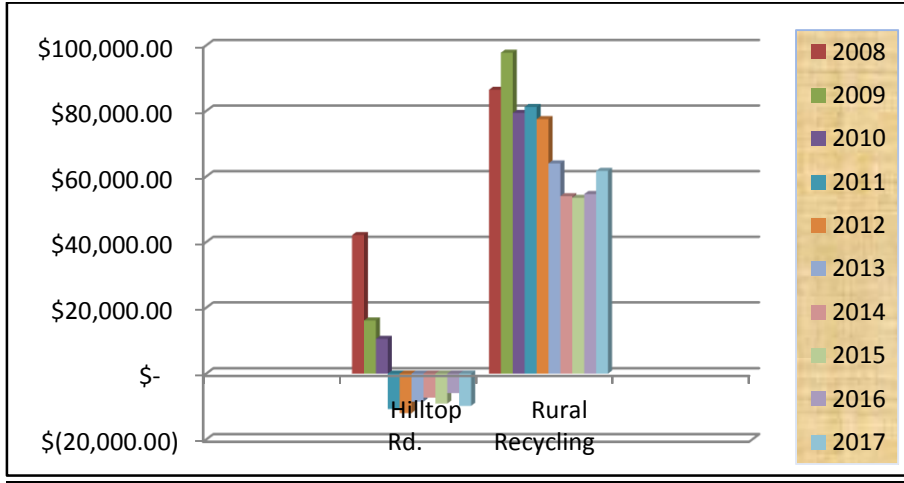
The completion of these projects have improved the appearance and operation of the center, as well as the economics of our center, by increasing the value of our cardboard and mixed paper with the installation of the baler. Ninety percent of the costs for these improvements have been reimbursed to the Authority through our 902 Equipment Grants from PADEP. In 2017, 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 500 tons of recyclables (cardboard, newspaper and commingled bottles and cans) were recycled at our center, each year, in 2010, 2011 and 2012. That number increased by 10%, to 550 tons in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and to 585 tons in 2016 and 525 tons in 2017. The cost of processing that material in 2010 was \$21,300. That same material was processed using the baler for all mixed paper and cardboard at a profit of \$ 4,700 in 2017, even with the value of recyclables decreasing. The installation of the baler has had a net effect of over \$360,000 in savings in the first seven years of operation.



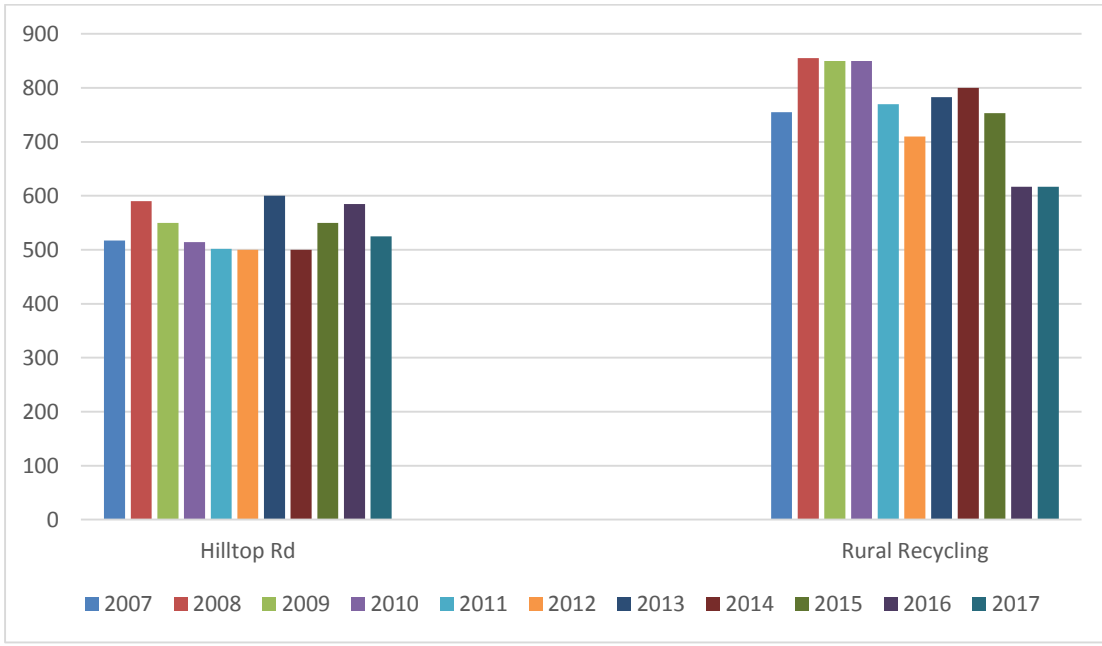
### RECYCLING CENTER - OPERATING COST



### TOTAL COST PER YEAR



### TONS COLLECTED PER YEAR



### Special Waste:

The Authority operated four collection events and a full-time electronic and tire recycling center in 2017 for the collection and recycling of the following special wastes:

### Household Hazardous Waste:

The Authority operates a spring and fall collection program for household hazardous waste from Berks County residents. Since 2007, 38,700 residents have disposed of approximately 1,978,200 pounds of hazardous waste at our collection events. In 2017, 2,547 residents disposed of 206,300 pounds of hazardous waste, a slight decrease from 2016. Participation and the amount of wastes collected during these six hour events has continued to grow, as residents become educated about the programs and have begun to rely on the semi-annual events, for proper disposal.



The following is a table outlining the costs and revenue sources associated with the operation of the Authority's hazardous waste collections since 2010:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Collection Costs	\$ 99,502	\$104,300	\$104,000	\$137,500	\$ 167,686	\$ 197,832	150,226
PADEP	\$ 49,751	\$ 52,144	\$ 56,537	\$ 68,750	\$ 83,843	\$ 93,581	75,113
Sponsorships	\$ 14,400	\$ 13,575	\$ 17,875	\$ 17,600	\$ 16,000	\$ 14,900	12,800
Solid Waste Authority *	\$ 35,351	\$ 38,581	\$ 29,588	\$ 51,150	\$ 67,843	\$ 89,351	62,313

\* The funds received by the Authority from Conestoga Landfill under a lawsuit settlement are used to 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 2017.

Amity Township	East Penn	Leesport Borough	Spring Township
Bern Township	Exeter Township	Longswamp Township	St. Lawrence Borough
Bernville Borough	FirstEnergy	Lower Heidelberg	Tulpehocken Township
Birdsboro Borough	First National Bank	Maidencreek Township	UGI, Utilities
Brecknock Township	Hamburg Borough	Muhlenberg Township	United Document Destruction
Centerport Borough	Heidelberg Township	Ontelaunee Township	Waste Management
City of Reading	Jefferson Township	Quaker Maid Meats	Wernersville Borough
Cogle's Recycling	Kenhorst Borough	Reading Area Water Authority	West Reading Borough
Cumru Township	Kutztown Borough	Shillington Borough	Womelsdorf Borough
Douglass Township	Lamar Advertising	Sinking Spring Borough	Wyomissing Borough
	Laureldale Borough	South Heidelberg	Yuasa Battery

Electronic Waste:

The Authority held its first electronic waste collection event in 2007, with approximately 3,000 residents dropping off over 200,000 pounds of electronic waste, for recycling. That number increased to nearly 3,000 residents disposing of over 228,000 pounds of electronics in 2008, 3,900 residents disposing of 478,060 pounds in 2009 and 2,200 residents disposing of 254,000 in a single collection in the spring of 2010.

## 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 July of 2010, 101,300 residents participated in our collections and brought 9.1 million pounds, 4,514 tons, of electronic for recycling. Thirty-eight percent of the material collected since opening six and a half years was collected in the last two years, with Forty percent of the total number of residents visiting the site in the last two years.



## 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 4,973 residents have recycled nearly 700,000 pounds of tires. Residents are charged a per tire disposal fee, which covers most of the program costs. The Authority opened a fulltime tire collection center in April of 2012 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.

#### Paper Shredding:

The Authority held its first paper shredding event in October of 2009. From the fall of 2009 through the fall of 2017, 17,344 residents disposed of 735,767 pounds of confidential documents for shredding. The Authority expects this 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 currently being held free of charge with United Document Destruction and Storage providing their services free of charge.

#### Funding:

The Authority spent a significant amount of time from 2009 through 2017 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 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. From 2003 through 2005, Berks County Municipalities received only 2.9% of the total 902 grants awarded for the State and only 10% of the total awarded in our region. In the last seven grant application periods (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015), 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, with over four million dollars being awarded in Berks County since 2010.

In 2012, six of our municipalities submitted applications for funding with all six being awarded in February of 2013 for a total award of \$ 1.39 million.

In 2013, eight of our municipalities and the Authority submitted applications for funding, totaling \$ 1.06 million, all of which were awarded in early 2014.

In 2014, ten of our municipalities submitted applications for funding totaling \$ 1.35 million, all of which were awarded in January of 2015.

In November of 2015, five municipalities and the Authority submitted applications for funding totaling \$825,500. All of these grants were awarded in July of 2016.



Over the past twenty-five years, from 1990 through 2016, Berks County received \$11.72 million in 902 Recycling Equipment Grants. \$8.27 million, 71 percent was received in the past nine years.

Below is a listing of 902 grants awarded to Berks County municipalities since 2003.

2003 - \$ 16,200  
2004 - \$ 660,677  
2005 - \$ 279,772  
2006 - \$ 546,933  
2007-2009 – No 902 grants were awarded by PADEP.  
2010 –\$ 1.4 million (Authority received \$297,507 of this award)  
2013 - \$ 1.39 million  
2014 - \$ 1.06 million  
2015 - \$ 1.35 million  
2016 - \$ 825,500

In December of 2017, DEP announced another grant round with applications due on April 7, 2018.

#### 903 Recycling Coordinator:

903 Grants are only available to counties and covers 50% of the salary, benefits and expenses of the County Recycling Coordinator. Berks County and the Authority have received \$ 509,411 since 2003. Below is a breakdown of the grants received over the past thirteen years.

2003 - \$ 2,802  
2004 - \$ 33,685  
2005 - \$ 16,736  
2006 - \$ 30,405  
2008 - \$ 20,513  
2009 - \$ 43,383  
2010 - \$ 45,866  
2011 - \$ 47,000  
2012 - \$ 50,600  
2013 - \$ 49,700  
2014 - \$ 52,958  
2015 - \$ 58,631  
2016 - \$ 57,132

An application for reimbursement was not submitted for the 2007 calendar year since those expenses were reimbursed under the 901 Planning Grant that was awarded in October of 2006 to the County.

## 904 Performance Grants:

904 Performance Grants are available to both municipalities and counties. 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 \$ 12.3 million has been awarded to Berks County municipalities since 2001. In 2010, DEP changed the formula for this grant program, reducing the grant awards by 40%. Below is a breakdown of the grants received over the past twelve years.

2001 - \$	792,416	(28 applicants)
2002 - \$	750,720	(31 applicants)
2003 - \$	792,235	(32 applicants)
2004 - \$	928,600	(33 applicants)
2005 - \$	840,619	(37 applicants)
2006 - \$	1,120,912	(38 applicants)
2007 - \$	1,081,343	(40 applicants)
2008 - \$	1,107,147	(42 applicants)
2009 - \$	1,045,000	(42 applicants)
2010 - \$	578,199	(45 applicants)
2011 - \$	547,000	(50 applicants)
2012 - \$	577,152	(50 applicants)
2013 - \$	700,576	(47 applicants)
2014 - \$	711,445	(47 applicants)
2015 - \$	705,026	(47 applicants)

Act 140 of 2006 requires any Municipality receiving in excess of \$10,000 in Performance Grants to meet the following requirements:

- Implement residential and commercial recycling programs or participate in a county or multi-municipal program.
- Require, through ordinance, that all residents have waste and recycling service.
- Have a residential and commercial educational program.
- Have an enforcement program that periodically monitors participation.
- Participate in a county or multi-municipal program for recycling of special materials.
- Facilitate a program or support an organization to address illegal dumping.
- Have a person designated as recycling coordinator.

Both Tilden and Heidelberg Townships fell under this category in 2008. The Authority worked with both of these municipalities in 2008 and 2009 in the development of comprehensive plans to enable them to come into compliance with the Law. Heidelberg Township implemented their curbside trash and recycling program on January 1, 2009, for all residents of their Township and also require all commercial establishments to

develop recycling programs. Tilden Township has not come into compliance and is currently not receiving Performance Grants from the State.

#### Composting:

#### Yard Waste:

The Authority has assisted seven municipalities with siting and permitting their yard waste sites since 2008. The Authority has also, assisting Hopewell Nursery in Amity Township in obtaining their yard waste permit to accept yard waste from Amity and Colebrookdale Townships. Lower Heidelberg and Wernersville entered into Inter-Municipal Agreements with South Heidelberg Township to use their yard waste site and received grant money to make necessary improvements.

#### Food Waste:

The Authority worked closely with PADEP and the Conrad Weiser School District in the development of a post-consumer food waste composting project, which was implemented throughout the School District in 2009. 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 the success of this program in both 2011 and 2012. The Authority awarded the collection contract to Cogle's Recycling in November of 2010 and moved forward with the purchase of our collection equipment, with the program kicking off in April of 2011.

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>

## Compliance Issues:

During 2017, the Authority assisted Berks County Municipalities with the following issues:

- Assist Municipalities with PADEP reporting and communication including:
  - DEP Grants
  - Reporting Forms
  - Ordinances
  - Educational programs
  - Contract language
  - Act 101 and Act 140 requirements
  - Assisted municipalities with yard waste collection programs with quarantine issues related to the Spotted Lantern Fly, currently found in twenty-one municipalities in Berks.
  - Assisted municipalities with permitting of yard waste sites that were not previously permitted.
- Development of new programming
  - Yard Waste collection / composting
  - Assisting municipalities with electronic waste recycling
  - Transition the Rural Recycling program into regional type program, effective January 1, 2018.
  - Assisted the Berks County Conservation District with their free tire collection program.
- Speaking Engagements
  - Civic Organizations
  - Schools
  - Environmental Groups
  - Municipalities

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

Finance:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$ 727,481	\$ 621,913	\$ 569,914	\$ 551,816	\$ 560,023
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 613,922	\$ 557,343	\$ 622,579	\$ 534,154	\$ 572,450
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	- \$ 113,559	- \$ 64,570	\$ 52,665	- \$ 17,662	\$ 12,427

Copies of the audit report are on file in the office of the Authority. Audited financial statements of the Authority for fiscal year 2017 have not been completed as of the date of this report.

From 2010 through 2017, the Authority has spent in excess of \$624,901 purchasing equipment and making improvements to the Recycling Center on Hill Top Road in Bern Township, of which ninety percent has been reimbursed by PADEP, through State grants.

## The Year Ahead

The following collections are scheduled for 2018:

### Household Hazardous Waste

- April 14, 2018 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
- October 20, 2018 – Berks County Ag Center

### Paper Shredding Event

- April 21, 2018 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
- October 13, 2018 – Berks County Ag Center

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

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

### New Projects for 2018:

- Improve existing County recycling programs.
  - Assist with grant writing and submittals.
  - Improve efficiency of programs while better managing costs
  - Transition the current Rural Recycling program into a Regional program, with municipal operation.
  - Increase 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
- Expand our sponsorship program to help offset the costs of our special waste collection programs
- Organize volunteers for cleanups and collection events