

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2020**



## **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, 2020.

## **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 – (As of April 1, 2021)**

### **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

## 2020 Highlights

### ❖ SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS:

Due to COVID-19 all of our Spring collections were canceled and only the Fall Household Hazardous Waste collection was able to be held. The Household Hazardous Waste collection was 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, over 68,500 residents have participated in our special event collections properly disposing of over four million pounds of waste. Below is a breakdown from our 2020 events:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection (program began in 1994)  
1,550 residents participated in our two-day event which was held in October of 2020, collecting 120,000 pounds of hazardous materials. The Fall collection required mandatory pre-registration which worked well and allowed us to control the flow of traffic and number of residents and workers on site, at any one time.
- Paper Shredding (program began in 2009)  
Both our Spring and Fall paper shredding events were canceled due to COVID-19.

### ❖ 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 recycling center was closed for ten weeks in early spring due to COVID-19. Once the center reopened in mid-June, we brought on an extra part-time employee to assist in the daily operations. The trustees from the Berks County prison, that we had three days a week prior to COVID-19, have not been reinstated, so the extra staff person allows for a steady work flow for all employees.

- Cardboard, mixed paper, bottles and containers  
357 tons of recyclables were processed at this recycling center in 2020, which generated \$ 3,400 in revenue from the sale of our corrugated cardboard. Due to depressed market conditions and the processing costs for recycling those materials, expenses exceeded revenue by \$19,625 for the second consecutive year since taking over the operation twelve years ago. 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, operating costs have been reduced in excess of \$400,000.
- Electronic Waste Collection (full-time center opened July 1, 2010)  
17,800 residents visited the full-time center in 2020 collecting over 1.35 million pounds of electronic scrap, up from 378,000 pounds in 2011, our first full year of operation. 155,300

residents have used this site since opening, recycling nearly 13 million pounds of electronic waste, in nine and a half years.

- Tire Collection (full-time center opened in April of 2012)  
430 residents recycled 47,800 pounds of tires at our full-time site in 2020.
- 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. 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.

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  
\$ 656,419 was awarded in 2020 for the 2018 Performance. 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  
\$1.69 million was awarded in November of 2020 to Berks County municipalities for 902 Recycling Equipment Grants. 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 Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection regarding obtaining a permit to hold our Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection during COVID-19, which required a COVID plan to be filed in addition to the Health and Safety Plan and registration forms.

#### ❖ **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 2019, the County recycled 195,060 tons of all recyclable materials with 113,500 tons being Act 101 materials. This represents 38% of the County municipal waste stream when looking at all types of recyclables and 27% including just Act 101 materials. Act 101

materials include the following materials: 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 2020 the 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 and 311,641 in 2020.

## **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. It is anticipated that our next Plan revision will be undertaken early in 2023.

### **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, for Berks County municipal solid waste, 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 the original and current evaluation, the County has sufficient capacity available for the remaining three years of the current planning period. In 2020, Berks County generated approximately 1,407 tons per day of municipal waste, similar to 2019. 853 tons was disposed of in landfills and/or resource recovery facilities located in Pennsylvania and 554 tons was recycled.

In 2020, 20% of Berks County waste was disposed of at the Conestoga Landfill, 23% at the Western Berks Landfill, 18% at the Colebrookdale Landfill and 25% at the Pioneer Crossing Landfill. The balance, 14%, was disposed of in out of County facilities, which is a decrease of 10% of Berks County waste being disposed of at out of County facilities, over the past 5 years. In 2016, 24% of Berks County's waste was disposed of in out of County facilities, which was the highest in the past five years.

Host Fees:

Berks County currently receives host fees from two landfills, those being the Conestoga, and the Western Berks 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 also has an Agreement with Berks County to pay \$2.00 per ton, however they are currently in litigation with Berks County and in March of 2019 they stopped paying those fees.

The following is a table showing the actual and budgeted yearly host fees for 2018 through 2020:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Host Fees Received by the County	\$ 4,593,805	\$ 3,577,456	\$ 3,415,282
Host Fees outstanding from Delaware County Solid Waste Authority		\$ 1,054,501	\$ 1,079,521
County Recycling Programs (Paid from Host Fees)	(\$ 220,000)	(\$ 250,000)	(\$ 300,000)
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 2019, 113,500 tons of Act 101 eligible materials were recycled in Berks County representing 27% of our waste stream. A total of 195,060 tons of all types of recyclables were collected in 2019 representing 38% of the waste stream. 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-three municipalities only sixteen are mandated under Act 101 to implement curbside recycling programs for their residents. As of December 31, 2020, thirty-three of our municipalities provide curbside recycling collection; five provide drop-off programs for their residents, with thirty-four municipalities in Berks providing no recycling services to their residents.

In 2020, 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 2019 simply by evaluating the County's non-mandated municipalities and including all of their recyclable materials in our year end reports.

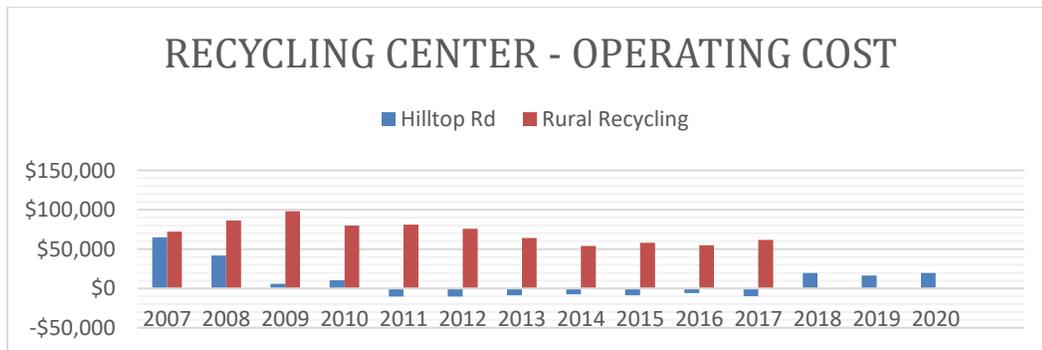
In January of 2008 the Authority assumed all recycling operations for the County, which included the operation of both the rural recycling program, which serviced six municipalities, as well as the full-time recycling center on Hilltop Road in Bern Township. In January of 2018, the rural recycling program was canceled due to extreme 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 DEP which reimbursed both the Authority and Upper Tulpehocken Township for 90% of those costs. During the past thirteen years the Authority has invested much needed funds into the appearance and operation of the Hilltop Road recycling center, 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., and hired additional part-time employees in both 2018 and 2020.

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.

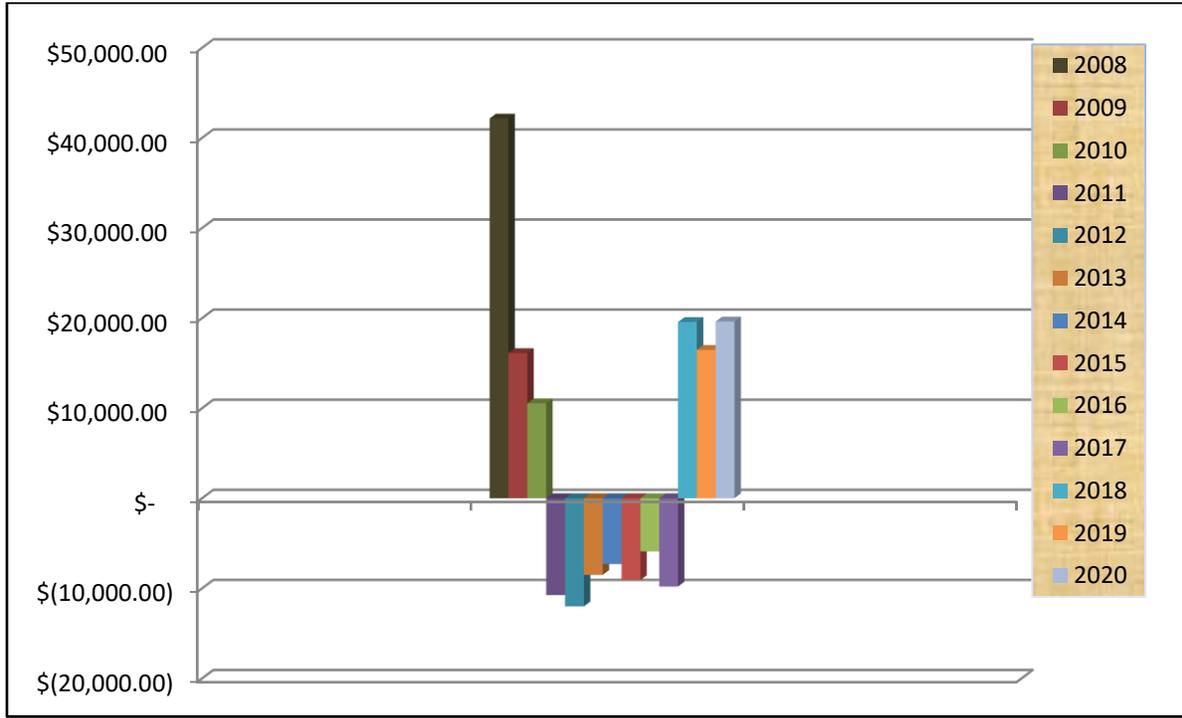
In 2010, the Authority opened a full-time recycling center for electronics. In addition, the Authority, utilizing state grants covering 90% of these costs, invested approximately \$675,000 from 2010 through 2020 completing the following projects at the recycling center:

- 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)
- Fencing and secured property.

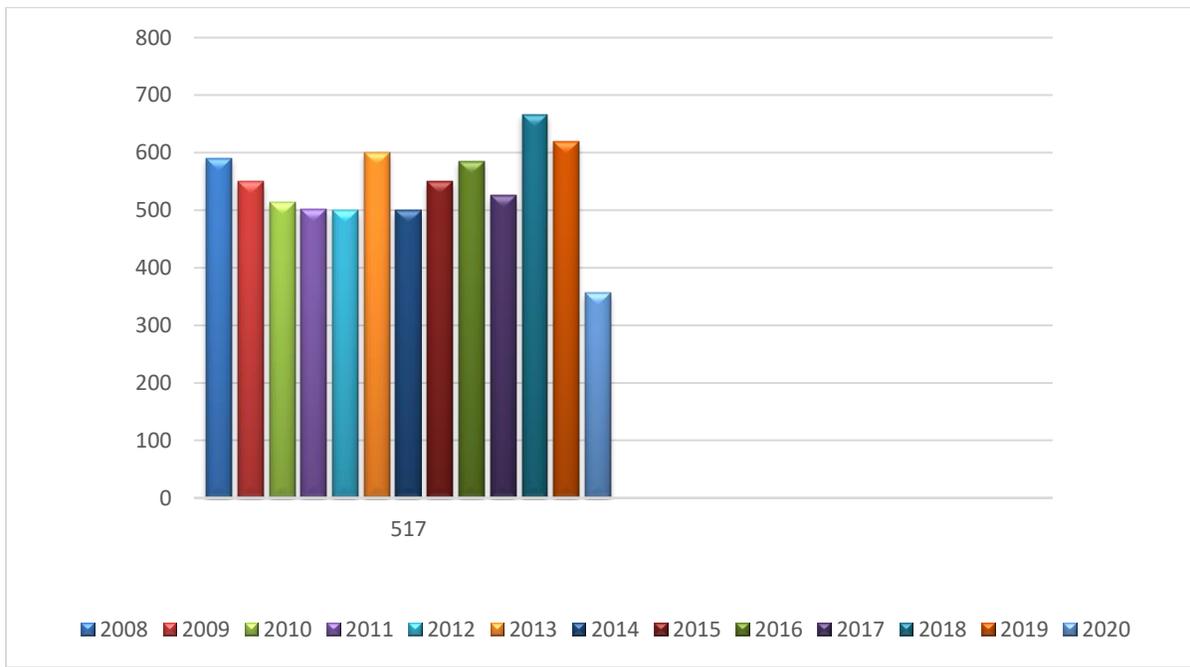
In June of 2020 the recycling center was fenced to allow for better control of the site, which also allows for set operating hours and allows us to control access, if needed. This has also drastically decreased the amount of illegal dumping at our site. The completion of all of these projects has improved 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 reimbursed to the Authority through our 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, 357 tons of recyclables were collected at our center in 2020 at a cost of \$19,625. The installation of the baler had a net effect of over \$400,000 in savings in the first ten years of operation.



**TOTAL COST PER YEAR  
1316 HILLTOP ROAD, LEESPORT**



**TONS COLLECTED PER YEAR  
1316 HILLTOP ROAD, LEESPORT**



Special Waste:

The Authority operated only one hazardous waste collection event in 2020 due to COVID-19 and our full-time electronic and tire recycling center operated for ten and a half months in 2020, rather than the entire year.

Household Hazardous Waste:

Historically, the Authority has operated a Spring and Fall collection program for household hazardous waste from Berks County residents. Since 2007, 46,500 residents have disposed of approximately 2.53 million pounds of hazardous waste at our collection events. In 2020, our Spring collection was canceled and our Fall collection was held on two consecutive days in an attempt to accommodate for a larger number of residents wishing to participate. 1,550 residents disposed of 120,000 pounds of hazardous waste at our Fall collection.

The following is a table outlining the costs and revenue sources associated with the operation of the Authority’s hazardous waste collections since 2014:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Collection Costs	(\$137,500)	(\$ 167,686)	(\$ 197,832)	(\$150,226)	(\$ 170,449)	(\$ 173,875)	(\$99,281)
PADEP	\$ 68,750	\$ 83,843	\$ 93,581	\$ 75,113	\$ 86,953	\$ 86,938	\$ 48,095
Sponsorships	\$ 17,600	\$ 16,000	\$ 14,900	12,800	\$ 9,140	\$ 15,575	\$ 14,975
Solid Waste Authority *	\$ 51,150	\$ 67,843	\$ 89,351	62,313	\$ 74,356	\$ 71,362	\$ 36,211

\* 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 2020.

Amity Township	Exeter Township	Mohnton Borough	UGI, Utilities
Bern Township	FNB Bank	Mount Penn Borough	Wernersville Borough
Birdsboro Borough	Hamburg Borough	Muhlenberg Township	Womelsdorf Borough
Brecknock Township	Jefferson Township	Ontelaunee Township	Wyomissing Borough
Centerport Borough	Kenhorst Borough	Shillington Borough	
City of Reading	Kutztown Borough	Sinking Spring Borough	
Cogle's Recycling	Laureldale Borough	South Heidelberg Township	
Cumru Township	Leesport Borough	Spring Township	
Douglass Township	Lower Heidelberg	St. Lawrence Borough	
East Penn	Maidencreek Township	Tulpehocken 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, 155,300 residents participated in our collections and brought nearly 13 million pounds (6,500 tons) of electronics for recycling. In 2020, 17,800 residents disposed of 1.35 million pounds of electronics for recycling. The center was closed for ten weeks in early spring due to COVID-19, which accounted for the slight decrease in visitors and material, compared to prior years. Participation and the amount of wastes collected at this site continued to grow, as residents become educated about the programs and have begun to rely on our full-time center, for proper disposal.



### 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 7,100 residents have recycled nearly 969,000 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 2020, 430 residents recycled 47,800 pounds of tires through our center.

### Paper Shredding:

The Authority did not hold any paper shredding events in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Authority held its first paper shredding event in October of 2009. Since the start of our program 22,286 residents disposed of 933,090 pounds of confidential documents for shredding. Once we are once again able to hold collection events 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. In the past this event was held free of charge with Vital Records Corporation (VRC) providing their services at a significant discount.

### Funding:

The Authority spent a significant amount of time from 2009 through 2020 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. Since the start of this grant program, Berks County has received approximately 18 million dollars of these funds. 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 nine grant application periods (2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2020), 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 award. Over thirteen million dollars has been awarded in Berks County since 2010, representing 73% 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 %

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. Berks County and the Authority have received \$ 757,663 since 2003. In 2020, the Authority received reimbursement in the amount of \$60,887, covering 50% of eligible expenses incurred in 2019.

904 Performance Grants:

904 Performance Grants are available to both municipalities and counties and are based on 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 \$ 14.86 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%. In the most recent grant year, 2019, \$ 656,419 was awarded to 50 applicants in Berks County. The 2020 application deadline has not yet been announced by PADEP.

### Composting:

### Yard Waste:

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. 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.

In 2019, as part of the 902 Recycling Grant application process the Authority worked with three municipalities to obtain permits for either their new or existing leaf waste drop-off sites. 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 in similar agreements with a local farmer who has also received his permit for the land application of leaf waste from PADEP.

### 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 DEP grants was sold and those funds were returned to DEP in 2013.

### Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant:

\$9.6 million in grants were awarded in May of 2002 to assist charitable food systems. All eight non-profits in Berks County that requested this funding were fully approved totally 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.

## Compliance Issues:

During 2020, 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, which currently affects most if not 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
  - Assisted the Berks County Conservation District with their free tire collection program.
  
- Speaking Engagements (Limited due to COVID-19)
  - 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>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$ 558,627	\$ 686,860	\$670,602	\$734,059	\$ 727,481
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 541,336	\$ 629,763	\$537,538	\$760,426	\$ 613,922
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	(\$ 17,291)	(\$ 57,097)	(\$133,064)	\$ 26,367	(\$ 113,559)

Copies of the audit report are on file in the office of the Authority. Audited financial statements of the Authority for fiscal year 2020 have not been completed as of the date of this report.

From 2010 through 2020, the Authority has spent in excess of \$675,000 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 2021:

Household Hazardous Waste – 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

- April 17, 2021 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School (Pre-registration required)
- October 23, 2021 – Berks County Ag Center (Pre-registration required)

Paper Shredding Event- 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

- October 16, 2021 - 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 2021:

- 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 helping 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