

Plymouth Township Environmental Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2016

Rick, Greg, Bill, Walt, MikeV, Scott, MikeM, Dean, ChrisL and David in attendance

Chris Loschiavo indicated we are paying \$39/ton to recycle. Trash costs \$53/ton. So, we save \$14 for every ton we can remove from the trash stream.

A few insights into recycling:

- Plastic bags to go landfill.
- Electronics recycler is offering us .18 / pound for electronics without tubes
- We don't recycle Styrofoam.
- Flattened cans don't work in the conveyor that separates plastic paper and aluminum.
- We can't recycle lids for plastic bottles, either.
- Food contaminants prevent recyclability--like peanut butter jars

According to Huff Assoc who does our processing for the grants--our dollar amount per resident--we make the most in the county as a township by what we do collectively with recycling. Almost 50% of solid waste is recycled. We won the State's Wastewatcher award 7 years in a row.

In 2007, actual budget for trash collection was \$570K. In 2015, it was \$260K. Getting money from the trash to steam also helps offset our trash collection costs.

We are always in the top 60 municipalities in the state for recycling.

We now double-grind the yard waste which has improved the cleanness of the mulch. We delivered 750 yards of mulch in 2015 plus whatever residents come to pick up themselves.

Huff Associates sends a survey out to every commercial enterprise in the township and requires that they submit details on their tonnage of recycling. They believe the township businesses do a really good job at recycling.