

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kathy Kilbane

Job #: 36075.011

FROM: Ray Regan

cc: Carl Hursh
Tom Herlihy

DATE: March 29, 2000

RE: Summary Report for Adam's Township

Background

The Adams Township volunteer recycling program was developed in 1988. The program includes one segregated drop-off container, and one enclosed roll-off container (newsprint) located at the municipal building. Recyclable materials collected include newsprint, glass (brown and clear), bi-metal, and aluminum cans. In 1998, plastics were dropped from the recycling program due to market saturation and a lack of local buyers.

Adams Township contracts Mainline Sanitation as their municipal waste hauler and transporter of recyclable materials. Mainline provides the drop-off containers, collects the recyclables periodically, and keeps any resulting proceeds.

Township officials noticed a drop in participation when plastics were eliminated from the recycling program. To evaluate the alternatives available for recycling plastic, Adams Township consulted Gannett Fleming, Inc. through a SWANA grant. Adams Township asked Gannett Fleming to evaluate the alternatives for keeping program costs low while increasing participation in the recycling program.

Scope

Gannett Fleming completed the following tasks:

Task #1 Gannett Fleming evaluated the drop-off recycling program. The evaluation included interviews with the recycling coordinators for Mainline Sanitation, Richland Township, and Cambria County. Additionally, a survey of residents was conducted. The evaluation process will include: 1) an assessment of the recycling program from the view of the participants; 2) changes/improvements that could be incorporated into a new or overhauled drop-off recycling program; and 3) recommendations on future program initiatives.

Task #2 Gannett Fleming developed a plan of action with recommendations to improve current recycling program participation by Township residents.

Gannett Fleming also evaluated reintroducing plastics recycling to the drop-off collection program. This evaluation included interviewing equipment vendors of compactors or shredders.

Results

Three alternatives were considered for reintroducing plastics to the Adams Township recycling program. Those alternatives are the following:

1. Purchase a shredder or compactor for the plastics, and find a use for the product within Adams Township.
2. Become part of the Cambria County recycling program, which currently offers recycling opportunities for paper, glass, aluminum/metal cans, and type 1 and 2 plastics.
3. Find a local buyer for the plastics.

Adams Township produces at most six tons of recyclable plastic annually. According to several vendors, a shredder or compactor is cost effective when the annual tonnage is in excess of 30.

Cambria County was willing to help Adams Township with their recycling program. The recycling coordinator for Cambria County suggested a drop-off location at the Galleria Mall, which is a location often frequented by Adams Township residents. The drop-off location would include bins for several types of recyclable materials, including plastics.

One problem with the Galleria Mall location is that it is in Richland Township. In order for the County to place drop-off bins at the mall, the approval of both Richland Township and the ZeMias Corporation (the mall owners) would be required. Richland Township officials expressed concern about a drop-off location at the Galleria Mall since it might affect their performance grant earnings. Richland Township has its own curbside recycling program.

Adams Township was also interested in retaining its performance grant earnings for recycling. Therefore, the third alternative became the most plausible. A list of plastics buyers were located for the Pennsylvania area, and faxed to Keith Wright, the recycling coordinator for Mainline Sanitation. Mr. Wright contacted Total Recycling of Boswell, Pennsylvania, and found that they are currently accepting #1 and #2 type plastics. On the following day, Mainline Sanitation placed a plastics recycling bin in Adams Township.

Gannett Fleming will continue to support Adams Township by providing education materials on recycling, and monitoring the success of the enhanced recycling program.