

**ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES, INC.**

**FINAL REPORT**

**CHESTNUTHILL TOWNSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

**OVERVIEW:**

Chestnuthill Township is a rural municipality located in Monroe County, Pennsylvania with a population of 8,798 (1990 census) spread over 36 square miles. The Township has experienced considerable growth over the past decade and the Monroe County Planning Commission projects a population of 13,509 in the year 2000. In Pennsylvania municipalities with a population over 10,000 are required to institute a mandatory curbside recycling program. Given the fact that the Township will be required, by the State, to establish a curbside recycling collection program for residents, Township officials request this Technical Assistance Grant to prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) for recyclables. In addition to the RFP, ARI has prepared brief descriptions of the existing residential collection programs and costs, for comparison purposes.

**EXISTING RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION PRACTICES AND COSTS IN CHESTNUTHILL TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.**

**Township Owned Transfer Station:**

Chestnuthill Township operates (since 1982) a green box transfer station/recycling center, which is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM and services approximately 2,500 households in the Township. All residents who wish to utilize the facility must purchase an annual permit at the present cost (for 1999 the cost is \$15) and are then required to pay \$1.25 for each 30 gallon bag of trash disposed of at the transfer station. Bulky items brought to the center are charged for separately. Residents are not charged for recyclables delivered to the center, this provides a financial incentive to recycle as much as possible. Participating residents segregate their recyclables by type at the recycling center and place them in designated containers. Recyclables collected at the center include: clear, brown and green glass, aluminum cans, bimetal cans, PET plastics, HDPE plastics, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, used motor oil and car batteries.

An average cost for residents, who participate in this program, is estimated at \$155 per year, this is based on the annual permit fee of \$15, plus two (30 gallon) bags per week at \$1.25 per bag (2 X 52 X \$1.25 +\$130/year), plus one bulky item at \$10 (See attached list for bulky item disposal prices).

**Individual Homeowners Subscribe with Private Haulers for Residential Waste Collection Services:**

Residents, who do not wish to participate in the Township’s Transfer Station/Recycling Program, have the option to privately contract the haulers licensed to collect residential waste in Monroe County. Residents who contract with the private hauler are offered a variety of curbside service options which may or may not include; refuse bag limits (1, 2, 3 or 4 per week) and commingled recyclable collection.

ARI attempted to contact all (eleven) haulers that are licensed to collect residual waste in Monroe County. The majority of haulers indicated they do not provide curbside residential waste collection service to the Township. Four haulers which currently service the Township include; Norman Rinker Trash Collection, Day Sanitation, Quality Waste Disposal and Grand Central Sanitation. The following table identifies current collection costs and services provided.

<u>Hauler</u>	<u>Service Included</u>	<u>Cost/HH /Year</u>
Norman Rinker Trash Collection	Weekly refuse collection & every other week recyclable Collection (bulky items not included in cost) bag limit?	
Day Sanitation	Weekly refuse collection & recyclable collection (bulky Items not included in cost)	1 Bag = \$120 2 Bags = \$156 3 Bags = \$192 4 Bags = \$222
Quality Waste Disposal	Weekly refuse collection & every other week recyclable collection (bulky items not included in cost) bag limit?	\$180
Grand Central Sanitation, Inc.	Weekly refuse collection Does not include recyclable collection (bulky items not Included in cost)	1 Bag = \$167 2 Bags = \$200 3 Bags = \$242 4 Bags = \$287

Note: A bag is equal to 30 gallons

**Conclusions:**

Existing options for residential waste collection and recycling are typically \$155 per year at the drop-off facility (two bags of refuse per week and unlimited recycling) and range from \$120/year (weekly curbside collection of one bag of refuse and unlimited recyclables) to \$278/year (weekly curbside collection of four bags refuse and no recyclable collection). The cost for participation in the drop-off facility does not include cost estimates for the individual's time and associated delivery.

Contracting with one hauler will meet requirements of Act 101's mandatory recycling program in addition to providing curbside refuse collection service for all residents most likely at lower cost for services rendered.

In order to establish the services and costs associated with a contract collection system, ARI in cooperation with Chestnuthill Township and its representatives prepared a Request For Proposal (RFP) for curbside collection of Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclables. Bids for the requested services will allow the Township to do a comparative analysis of various options for residential MSW and recycling collections.