

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Here we are in December once again doing a review of the year! The Grinch decided that the first order of business is your favorite topic and mine.....



ANNUAL REPORTS

Act 101 Annual Recycling reports will be sent to all municipalities before the end of this month. We ask that everyone please contact your haulers early and often to request any and all weight slips you will need. This report and can also be used for the **904 Performance Grant**. **ANNUAL REPORTS** will be due **FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021**. Each municipality can expect to receive three reports in one packet. The first is a municipal report, the second a commercial report and the third a hauler report. Please only fill in and return the reports that affects your individual municipality. **ONLY THE REPORTS RETURNED WITH THE COUNTY LOGO WILL BE ACCEPTED.** **Be sure to read the cover sheet sent with each report. All municipalities, whether you recycle or not, must complete and return the ANNUAL RECYCLING REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021.**

2021 MUNICIPAL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS X 2

The 2021 Municipal Special Collections saw **22** municipalities participate in **17** Electronic Collections and **25** municipalities participate **31** Paper Shredding events! Some towns even held a second type of similar event this year. Both numbers are up significantly from the previous year! **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to everyone who hosted an event and all that participated! Because of this success, the Luzerne County Recycling Department will once again offer both of these programs in 2022. We will also cover an additional collection for any municipality that wishes to hold two events next year. This applies to both electronics and paper shredding events.

Correspondence concerning rules and guidelines for each will be mailed in early January! Please reserve your dates early as they will fill up quickly and as always don't forget to register with this office and DEP, prior to holding your collection. We appreciate and are grateful for all the hard work and time that each of you have contributed to holding these successful events. As usual funding will be available from this office to assist with these collections. Tonnages from these events can be used on the annual report.

TELEPHONE BOOK/MAGAZINE RECYCLING-Postponed until we can find a hauler that has containers.

TIRE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS-We are planning on holding a Fall Tire Recycling collection in 2022. Dates and any additional information will be made available sometime in the late summer.

KEEP THE EDUCATION GOING

We will once again be offering financial incentives, (up to \$2,500.00) to each municipality that does **RECYCLING EDUCATION** advertising during the 2022 calendar year. Whichever collection you are offering your residents, (Single Stream or Source Separated), remember that the most important word is **EDUCATION**.

Three very important factors to consider for newspaper ads are:

- **WHAT IS ALWAYS ACCEPTED**
- **WHAT IS NEVER ACCEPTED**
- **HOW TO PROPERLY RECYCLE ITEMS**

This grant will cover signs at a drop-off center, newspaper advertising, flyers, etc. Advertisements must be pre-approved by this office BEFORE any printings are done in order to receive reimbursements. Information will be sent along with the Special Collections specifications, in January. Now more than ever we need to educate our residents!! Three other points that are worth making residents aware of are:

- 1-BUYER BEWARE**-Can the container that a product comes in be recycled?
- 2-THINK**-Does my town accept this item for recycling?
- 3-RECYCLE IT**-Rinse item and place in recycling bin.

GLASS RECYCLING

In 2021 we were able to come up with a ‘pilot’ program to help municipalities with the glass recycling problem. Know that it will be offered again during the 2022 calendar year and we encourage any and all municipalities, especially those that have or had, a drop-off option for their residents, to please take advantage of this grant.

Remember recycling glass, instead of throwing it in the trash will save precious landfill space and help to keep refuse costs low.

902 or 904 GRANTS-Please direct all questions or concerns on reimbursements for these two grants to Berit Case, DEP Northeast Regional Representative @ 570-826-2108, bcase@pa.gov or www.dep.pa.gov

And finally.....**THANK YOU.....EVERYONE**



On one last note, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Luzerne County Recycling Department to personally thank *everyone* for your help, dedication and support with recycling matters throughout the year. It has been a difficult one for recycling, but we managed to get through it once again and fingers crossed that better days and markets are on the horizon for the 2022. Know that I couldn't do my job without you and everything that you do on a municipal level is greatly appreciated!! I wish for all a SAFE, HEALTHY and HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON! I look forward to seeing working with each of you next year!





Help save the Planet this holiday Season-Here are a few great ideas to help you keep the holidays as eco-conscious as possible.

- 1. Christmas Cards:** Send your Christmas cards via email (E-card), buy cards made of eco-friendly stock, or use a holiday photo card which may be used as a keepsake instead of thrown away. Save the cards you get in the mail this year, use them the next year for kids' Christmas activities or crafts.
- 2. Holiday Decorations:** Before throwing out old Christmas decorations, consider if someone else may appreciate them. Donate them to a thrift store like the Salvation Army or other organizations if they are in acceptable condition.
- 3. Christmas Trees:** Don't throw away your natural Christmas tree. Most areas have some Christmas tree recycling options such as curbside recycling, non-profit pickups, or other creative ways to re-use Christmas trees such as mulching programs, soil erosion barriers, and bird feeders.
- 4. Re-Usable Shopping Bags:** Just like any time of year, utilize re-usable shopping bags to reduce the number of plastic bags that are thrown in the trash later.
- 5. Gift certificates:** Gift cards are a great way to minimize waste and drive down your transportation footprint by keeping business local.
- 6. Handmade Christmas gifts:** Get creative (or help your kids get creative) with Christmas crafts and holiday baking. Homemade Christmas gifts like goodies, bread or Christmas ornaments and decorations made of materials around your home make meaningful and resourceful gifts.
- 7. Buy earth-friendly gifts:** Consider giving green gifts, or gifts made of durable materials or recycled content to minimize the impact on the environment.
- 8. Gift Wrapping Paper:** Most Christmas wrapping papers are not recyclable, especially if they are made of foil or metallic materials. Other green wrapping paper substitutes include the Sunday comics or the Sports section of your newspaper.
- 9. Gift Tags:** Make your own gift tags using recycled wrapping paper or last year's Christmas cards.
- 10. Wrapping Accessories:** Re-use ribbons, bows, gift bags, and boxes whenever you can. Reusing ribbon may seem like a small step, but if every family in the US re-used just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, it would save 38,000 miles of ribbon and tie a bow around the planet!