

Act 101 Benefits to Butler County*

Tons Recycled: Calendar Years 2000 through 2015

- All reported materials recycled in Butler County (incl. non-standard) = 1,531,023 tons
- Standard 904 materials (basic curbside) = 397,730 tons

Tons of Waste Diverted from Landfills: 2000-2015 = 1,531,023 tons

Inter-Municipal Cooperation: From Act 101 funding and the resulting improved communication with our 57 municipalities, the county recycling coordinator has been able to assist any municipality desiring funding to help with their grant applications, technical assistance, etc. This has not only brought in additional Act 101 grant funding but has helped to improve the county's recycling rate over the years. As one example, the county recycling newsletter that is produced on a quarterly basis is now distributed by several municipalities and posted on various web sites.

Public Safety through HHW and Electronics Collections: Act 101 funding has provided all of the supplemental funding needed (in addition to Act 190 HHW funding) in order to provide our residents with much-needed ongoing collections for electronics and household hazardous waste. We offer these collections all year long on scheduled Saturdays and are only one of two counties in western Pennsylvania to offer this type of program at this frequency.

Accomplishments:

- Developed and continue to maintain the department web site – was successful in getting grant funding from DEP for this project.
- Developed a complete line of 14 educational brochures tailored specifically to Butler County on topics such as residential recycling, proper waste management and open burning – new brochures are developed yearly on an as-needed basis and are based on current statewide topics.
- Achieved State DEP “Certified Recycling Professional” status (in DEP’s 2002 first graduating class in Pennsylvania) with a specialization in Collection Systems. 903 grant funding made this possible.
- Developed and update yearly a countywide database of places where residents can get rid of “hard to recycle” and “hard to dispose of” items that are not accepted curbside.
- Developed and administer the current hazardous waste and electronics collection program, offering fourteen collections per year – Butler County is one of only two counties in western PA to offer a program such as this.
- Assembled a series of recycling and waste management lesson plans for use by schools in Butler County – this list grows as new statewide issues emerge.
- Worked with the US EPA’s justice department to develop an appliance recycling program as part of a settlement with AK Steel over environmental violations.

- Established a quarterly newsletter that is sent to all Butler County municipalities as well as residents, etc. who sign up to receive it. Some municipalities are now adding this information to their own newsletters and web sites.
- Developed a model Green Purchasing Policy for use by local governments.
- Develop and maintain detailed statistical databases and charts demonstrating Butler County's recycling accomplishments and waste trends.
- Worked with the Succop Conservancy to establish a compost demonstration site for residents of Butler County.
- Aided in the expansion of single stream recycling in Butler County by facilitating inter-municipal cooperation and attaining \$278,000 in grant funding for the needed recycling carts.
- Held the first two medication collections in Butler County before the US DEA began nationwide collections. Butler County's first collection was the 3rd collection ever held in Pennsylvania.
- Obtained grant funding for the purchase of farm newspaper shredders in order to expand newspaper recycling in Butler County.
- Have held tire collections for our residents.
- Set up an information booth each year at the Butler County Farm Show as well as attend many civic group meetings each year to speak on various waste and recycling topics.
- Established a loan program for special event recycling bins for use by residents holding smaller public or private events.
- Developed and held a series of rain barrel workshops in cooperation with Butler County Master Gardeners, Butler County Conservation District and Home Depot.
- Developed and held a series of home composting workshops in cooperation with the Butler County Master Gardeners and the DEP who provided funding for composters to be handed out to participants.
- Through better recycling by our residents, businesses and institutions, better service by our haulers, and more thorough tracking and enforced reporting, Butler County's recycling rate has grown from 9.4% in 2000 to 44.4% in 2015 (this includes all reported recyclables including non-standard items).

Community Impacts: Because of Act 101 regulations and funding, Butler County became the first county in Pennsylvania to offer residential curbside commingled recycling countywide. Through our county solid waste plan we licensed haulers, developed hard to recycle collection programs and resources for items that couldn't be recycled curbside, improved communications with our municipalities, businesses and residents, developed a large collection of tailored recycling educational information for our citizens and eventually received significant

funding for larger recycling carts that has helped our residents transition from commingled to single-stream recycling. This has not only benefitted our residents but also private industry and has improved our recycling rates overall. Act 101 funding has made all of this possible and my programs would not be continued without this funding support since the loss of Landfill Administrative Fees statewide in 2005.

Recycling Technical Assistance: One of these grants helped one of our newly-mandated communities comply with Act 101 after the 2010 Census.

901, 902, 903 and 904 Grants – What These Have Allowed:

901 - \$92,314 rec'd (2000-2015) and has funded two Solid Waste Plan updates and a technical assistance study

902 - \$1,063,585 rec'd (2000-2015) and has funded recycling bins and later carts which allowed the county to transition to single-stream recycling; web site development, many educational materials, newspaper shredders, various types of recycling equipment

903 - \$347,931 rec'd (2000-2015) and has funded half of the pay and expenses of a county recycling coordinator which otherwise the county would not have

904 - \$1,156,112 rec'd (2000-2014) has offset all of the remaining costs of running the Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management – this funding is totally relied upon for general expenses, match funding for other grants, etc.

**Compiler's Note: Data is from 2000 – 2015.*

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