## **ACT 101 Grant Funding Impact on Lancaster City**

Following is a brief overview of the recycling and waste management program established in Lancaster City and outlines some of the key benefits that Act 101 grant funding has provided to the city.

Program: After 15 years of ineffective reliance on 25 independent haulers to collect both waste and recyclables from 18,000 residential units, the city implemented a single hauler contract collection program in October 2006. The program currently serves about 18,100 households including several dozen small businesses/institutions that voluntarily opt for service. The \$4 million program is operated as a separate user fee funded program and is not dependent on tax dollars or grant monies. However, the \$100,000 received annually by the city in 904 performance grants is directed back to the residents and offsets about \$5.50 that would need to be assessed to each household each year. Aggressive recycling education and enforcement along with the direct savings of avoided disposal costs resulting from recycling has enabled the city to keep its trash and recycling collection fee stable for the past 5 years at a rate of \$210/unit/year.

902 Grants: The city has benefited from 902 funding in the past 25 years. 902 grant monies purchased the original recycling containers and educational brochures distributed to each household for the current program established in 2006. Funds have purchased a rear load compactor for collecting recyclables and many grants over the years have funded educational efforts and the purchase of classroom office paper collection containers for the school district. In 2013 city was able to establish a permanent, staffed recycling drop off center that increased the recovery of paper generated by both residents and small businesses. We have seen customer deliveries increase steadily as the word spreads from our promotions and word-of-mouth. The following shows the impact of this program.

Year	Customer Deliveries	Tons of Paper Marketed
2013	800	145
2014	1,100	217
2015	1,300	283
2016	1,500*	300+* forecasted performance

This facility processes/bales 6 types of paper and is designed to accept paper separated by grade by residents and businesses. Baling increases the value of the materials for which we are paid based on market indices. This facility would not have been possible without the \$250,000 grant that the recycling fund provided. We are proud of the fact that we were able to repurpose an unused former fire station and purchased refurbished balers, compactor, forklift, and platform scale making the most of the dollars provided by the grant.

The city currently has a 902 that funded two replacement leaf collectors to replace the aging equipment which picks up about 800 tons of street leaves annually. We are also in the process of planning the distribution of a limited number of larger recycling containers – 64-gallon curb carts – to be rolled out next spring. Without grant monies it is unlikely that this initiative would be undertaken.

Summary: these monies are not seen as a total gift without local contribution from the local level. The city contract program collects about 18,000 tons of refuse each year which at \$2/ton generates \$36,000 for the recycling fund just from Lancaster City residents each year. The grants program allows us to get back those funds plus capitalize on other monies in that fund that are not utilized by other communities. If these grant funds are eliminated a great financial incentive will be lost to not only Lancaster City, but to many municipal and county governments to carry out the goals and objectives of the Act.