

**CAMBRIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PA**

**2012 MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN UPDATE**



August 15, 2012

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## **MSW CONSULTANTS**

*MidAtlantic Solid Waste Consultants*

6225 Sawyer Road, New Market, MD (301) 607-6428

842 Spring Island Way, Orlando, FL (407) 380-8951

[www.mswconsultants.us](http://www.mswconsultants.us)



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>1. DESCRIPTION OF WASTE.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Municipal Waste Stream.....	1-1
1.3 Construction & Demolition Waste .....	1-2
1.4 Bio-Solids and Septage Waste .....	1-3
1.5 Yard Debris.....	1-3
1.6 Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste.....	1-4
1.7 Residual Waste.....	1-4
<b>2. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
<b>3. ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPACITY.....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
<b>4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Potential Recyclable Materials In The Muncipal Waste Stream.....	4-1
4.2 Current In-County Recycling Efforts .....	4-2
4.2.1 Municipalities With Mandated Recycling Programs.....	4-3
4.2.2 Non-Mandated Municipalities Recycling Programs .....	4-3
4.2.3 Residential Curbside Recycling Programs.....	4-5
4.2.4 Municipal Drop-Off Recycling Programs.....	4-6
4.2.5 Commercial Recycling Programs.....	4-6
4.2.6 Summary of County Recycling Programs .....	4-6
4.2.7 Other County Recycling Programs .....	4-8
4.3 Recycling Program Costs and Efforts Toward Sustainability.....	4-10
4.4 Recycling Program Environmental Benefits .....	4-11
4.5 Recycling Education Programs .....	4-12
4.6 Measures to Exceed The 35 Percent Recycling Goal .....	4-13
4.7 Private Recycling Operations .....	4-18
<b>5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION.....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	5-1
5.2 Waste Management System .....	5-2
5.2.1 Recycling Systems .....	5-2
5.2.2 Alternative Municipal Waste Systems.....	5-3
5.2.3 Selected System - Existing Municipal Waste Disposal System .....	5-4
5.2.4 Procedure to Add Facilities .....	5-5
5.2.5 Existing Alternatives .....	5-6
5.3 Biosolids and Septage Management System.....	5-8
5.4 Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste.....	5-8
5.5 Household Hazardous Waste.....	5-8
5.6 Inappropriate Methods of Disposal .....	5-8

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

5.6.1	Illegal Dumping.....	5-8
5.6.2	Waste Burning.....	5-9
<b>6.</b>	<b>LOCATION .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING ENTITY IDENTIFICATION .....</b>	<b>7-1</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>PUBLIC FUNCTION .....</b>	<b>8-1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS .....</b>	<b>9-1</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>ORDERLY EXTENSION .....</b>	<b>10-1</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>METHODS OF DISPOSAL OTHER THAN BY CONTRACTS .....</b>	<b>11-1</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>NON-INTERFERENCE .....</b>	<b>12-1</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .....</b>	<b>13-1</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>14-1</b>

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A.	Waste Hauler Ordinance and Resolution of Plan Approval
Appendix B.	Municipal Waste Hauling Registration Application, Reporting Forms, and Standards for Solid Waste Vehicle
Appendix C.	Disposal Capacity Agreement
Appendix D.	2000 Original Plan Section 5 Study Information
Appendix E.	Indiana County MRF Agreement
Appendix F.	Transfer Station Feasibility Study
Appendix G.	MRF Feasibility Study
Appendix H.	FQR Packet
Appendix I.	Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member List
Appendix J.	Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Dates
Appendix K.	Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Appendix L.	Notification Of Plan Revision Letter to Municipalities
Appendix M.	Summary Public Comments (comments given during 30 day comment period)
Appendix N.	PA Cleanways/Keep PA Beautiful Cambria County Illegal Dump Survey
Appendix O.	Cambria County Illegal Dumping Ordinance
Appendix P.	EPA Open Burning Brochures
Appendix Q.	List of Where to Take Hard to Recycle Items
Appendix R.	FQR Respondent Spreadsheet Evaluation Matrix
Appendix S.	County Designated Disposal Facilities

**List of Figures**

Figure 4-1 Cambria County Recycling Blue-Bin Sites..... 4-4  
Figure 4-2 Total Tons of Recyclables Generated, 2005 to 2009 [1] ..... 4-7  
Figure 6-1 Estimated FQR Respondent Disposal Facilities ..... 6-2

**List of Tables**

Table 1-1 Historical Waste Generation..... 1-2  
Table 1-2 Projected Waste Generation..... 1-2  
Table 2-1 Current Waste Disposal Facilities..... 2-1  
Table 3-1 Future Projected Municipal Waste Quantities for Disposal..... 3-2  
Table 4-1 Recyclable Materials Available in Cambria County Municipal Waste Stream - 2010..... 4-1  
Table 4-2 Cambria County List of Municipal Curbside Recycling Programs as of 2009 ..... 4-2  
Table 4-3 Mandated Recycling Programs Implemented in Cambria County [1]..... 4-3  
Table 4-4 Cambria County Collection Program Provider..... 4-5  
Table 4-5 Recyclable Materials Diverted (2009) [1] ..... 4-7  
Table 4-6 County List by Total Tons Recycled, Ordered by Rank, 2009 [1]..... 4-8  
Table 4-7 E-Waste Recycling Program (Items and Cost) ..... 4-9  
Table 4-8 Comparison of Expenses vs. Income for Cambria County ..... 4-11  
Table 4-9 Program Implementation Timeline ..... 4-16  
Table 6-1 Projected FQR Respondents for Disposal Capacity ..... 6-1  
Table 7-1 Cambria County SWA 2012 Adopted Budget..... 7-2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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# 1. DESCRIPTION OF WASTE

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Section 1 is to describe the types and quantities of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Cambria County that must be managed by the municipal solid waste system defined in this Municipal Waste Management Plan (Plan). Current and historical data were used to estimate the quantity of municipal waste generated annually, including: annual County Waste Destination Reports provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), annual Municipal Recycling Reports, and data from targeted surveys conducted in the County. A summary of this information is provided in this section.

This Plan updates Cambria County's 2000 Plan, which was submitted to the County and was subsequently approved by the DEP. The current plan updates all relevant and/or out-of-date information from the 2000 Plan. This Plan update follows the direction of "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of County Municipal Waste Management Plan Revisions" or Document Number 254-2212-504 issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. It should be noted that DEP does not require every section to be updated and therefore, only a minimal survey of municipal waste generators was performed, as there has been little change in the County's municipal waste management system over the past decade.

The information provided in Section 1 will be the basis for projecting the municipal solid waste disposal capacity needs of Cambria County for the next 10 years. Ultimately, this section will define the disposal capacity required by Cambria County based on waste generation and diversion practices.

## 1.2 MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM

Cambria County's municipal waste stream is generated by residences, businesses, institutions, industrial offices and cafeterias, and includes both wastes destined for disposal and also a wide range of source-separated recyclable materials. Table 1-1 on the following page presents historical population and municipal waste generation data for Cambria County as reported to DEP by various sources.

As shown in Table 1-1, Cambria County is experiencing a moderate decline in its population, with some expected fluctuation in waste generation based on economic factors. The per-capita generation rate for Cambria County, which amounted to 0.86 tons in 2009 and averaged 0.88 tons per year between 2006 and 2009, is slightly higher than the Commonwealth's reported average generation rate of 0.80 tons per person per year.

While in some instances it would be necessary to use the Commonwealth's generation rate (particularly if the County generation rate was lower than 0.80 tons per capita), for the purpose of calculating Cambria Counties waste projections and disposal requirements over the next 10 years, MSW Consultants will utilize actual disposal data adjusted for (negative) population growth. This is explained in more detail in Section 3.

# 1. DESCRIPTION OF WASTE

**Table 1-1 Historical Waste Generation**

	ANNUAL				Percent of Total, 2009
	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Waste Generation (tons)					
Municipal Solid Waste [1],[2]	103,887	107,622	104,682	100,541	81%
Construction & Demolition Debris [1]	12,579	8,719	11,227	8,476	7%
Recycled Materials [3], [4] [5]	9,290	12,810	12,021	14,313	12%
Total Waste Generation (tons)	125,756	129,151	127,930	123,330	100%
Population [5]	145,956	144,849	143,742	142,635	
<i>Per-capita Waste Generation (tpy)</i>	0.86	0.89	0.89	0.86	

[1] Includes municipal waste, sewage sludge and asbestos.

[2] Source: County Waste Destination Reports.

[3] Source: County Municipal Recycling (Re-TRAC™) Reports (2006-2009).

[4] Includes residential curbside, residential drop-off, commercial and organics recycling. Excludes HHW.

[5] Source: Pennsylvania State University Data Center.

[6] Table excludes waste disposed through illegal dumping or burning.

Table 1-2 applies the counties calculated per-capita waste generation rate to projected population growth through the 10 year planning period. The County believes these figures which rely on actual disposal data, reflect a more accurate assessment of MSW generation in Cambria County than the Commonwealth's reported figures. Therefore, this Plan update relies on the waste generation tonnages in Table 1-2 as the basis for estimating the future MSW disposal capacity requirement over the 10 year planning period. This will assure that the County will have sufficient capacity should currently exported wastes suddenly require in-state disposal.

**Table 1-2 Projected Waste Generation**

	2010	2015	2020
Population [1]	141,528	137,169	132,810
Municipal Waste Generation (tons)			
Municipal Solid Waste [2], [3]	99,760	96,688	93,615
Recyclables [4]	14,202	13,765	13,327
Construction & Demolition Debris [4]	8,410	8,151	7,892
Total Waste Generated (tons)	122,373	118,604	114,835

[1] Source: Pennsylvania State University Data Center.

[2] Calculated based on 2009 disposal data adjusted for (negative) population growth.

[3] Includes MSW, sewage sludge and asbestos but not illegal dumping or burning.

[4] Projected to decline at the same rate as population.

## 1.3 CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

Construction waste includes solid waste resulting from the construction or demolition of buildings and other structures, including but not limited to, wood, plaster, metals, asphaltic substances, bricks, block, and un-segregated concrete. Table 1-1 shows that the amount of construction and demolition (C&D)

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF WASTE

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waste reported disposed decreased approximately 4,100 tons between 2006 and 2009 with an average amount reported disposed during that time being 10,250 tons. As the economic recovery is anticipated to slowly take shape, but not reach the levels of the early to mid-2000's, the estimated amount of C&D disposed for the ten-year planning period was adjusted for population change based on 2009 disposal data (i.e., C&D is projected to track with population).

For each of the four years used to compile tonnage data, the majority of the County's C&D waste was delivered to Waste Management's Southern Alleghenies Landfill, Inc. in Davidsville, Pennsylvania; the Clinton County Solid Waste Authority Wayne Township Landfill in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; Shade Township Waste Management Landfill in Somerset County; Laurel Highlands Landfill in Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and the Mostoller Landfill located in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

No research has been done to determine the major components of the C&D waste stream in Cambria County and the potential to recover some of these components for recycling. With the C&D waste stream accounting for just under 8,500 tons in 2009 (out of an approximate total of 123,300 tons generated) the relatively small quantity compared to the overall waste stream makes aggressive recycling options difficult.

### 1.4 BIO-SOLIDS AND SEPTAGE WASTE

Sewage sludge and septage waste – commonly referred to as bio solids – is in Pennsylvania considered to be a type of municipal waste. As such, the municipal waste projections presented in this section and subsequent sections include septage waste. Sewage sludge is generated by waste water treatment plants as a result of removing and processing solids from the water during the treatment process.

Septage waste on the other hand is material that is removed from septic tanks and which generally has a higher liquid content than sewage sludge. Due to its high liquid content, septage waste collected from County sources has been found to largely be processed at wastewater treatment facilities in and around Cambria County. The solids from this waste stream then become part of the sewage sludge which is largely disposed of at landfills contracted with the County for disposal capacity.

In 2009, 6,985 tons (or 0.05 tons per capita) of sewage sludge originating from Cambria County was disposed in three separate landfills – with the majority of the waste being disposed of in the Laurel Highlands Landfill located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The per capita generation rate of 0.05 tons is consistent to what other Counties in Pennsylvania have recorded in their municipal waste management plans.

### 1.5 YARD DEBRIS

Yard debris composting in Cambria is largely limited to programs initiated by the mandated municipalities to fulfill their obligation to collect yard debris separate from municipal waste, most specifically leaf material in the fall. For example, in the City of Johnstown, residents have two (2) options for disposing of leaves and grass clippings. The first is to sweep the yard waste into the gutter on street cleaning night and the second is to bag the yard waste and place the bags by the curb for pickup.

It should be noted that the Blair County Compost Facility (Facility), located near the Village of Buckhorn (Dean Township and Gallitzin Township), is open to all residents/municipalities/businesses of Cambria County. While only a fraction of the material received at the Facility originates from Cambria County sources, some Cambria residents (especially for those with larger woody material not collected/accepted by the municipal mandated curbside programs in Cambria) do utilize the Facility's services.

According to the Cambria County, Southwest Region 2009 Re-TRAC report, in 2009, 2,423 tons of residential organic materials (yard and leaf waste) were collected from the residential curbside program. No organic materials were reported collected from residential drop-off. 42 tons were reported from the

## **1. DESCRIPTION OF WASTE**

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commercial sector at a municipal facility but that is believed to be a data entry error on the part of the municipality because the particular municipality does not accept drop-off commercial yard waste.

### **1.6 INFECTIOUS AND CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC WASTE**

Pennsylvania defines infectious and chemotherapeutic waste (ICW) generated by hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, dental and medical offices, as part of the municipal waste stream. Since the last plan update there has been no change in how ICW is managed. In Cambria County, each facility makes individual arrangements for handling and disposition of ICW via the private sector. According to the Pennsylvania DEP Waste Destination Reports, between 2006 and 2009 there was no reported infectious waste disposed of from Cambria County in designated disposal facilities.

### **1.7 RESIDUAL WASTE**

Residual waste is waste generated as a by-product of an industrial process. It can be composed of garbage, refuse, discarded material, or other waste, including solid, liquid, semi- solid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, mining, and/or agricultural operations. This could also, in theory, mean ash generated from combustion at a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF). However, as there are no RRF's in Cambria County, there is no need to account for or manage the disposal of ash.

In 2009, it was reported that 33,022 tons of residual waste (or 0.23 tons per capita) was disposed. While the Plan is not required to account for the composition of, or provide capacity for this waste stream, it does recognize the volume generated as it can compete for capacity with the County's municipal waste. The amount of residual waste generated annually in the County has increased since 2006, averaging just over 20,000 tons per year between 2006 and 2009.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

This section describes the facilities currently being used to manage the municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Cambria County.

In 2009, there were six (6) disposal facilities that accepted municipal waste generated within Cambria County. As of 2009, the majority of the municipal waste was disposed of at the Southern Alleghenies Landfill located in Somerset County. Only one of the six disposal facilities described in this Plan are located within Cambria County (Laurel Highland Landfill). Instead, three of the disposal sites are located in Somerset County, one in Indiana County, and one in Elk County. To the extent municipal waste is being exported to out-of-state facilities, it is not reported to DEP and is not known to the County.

Nineteen drop-off recycling container sites are located throughout Cambria County. The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority provides a link on their website (<http://www.cambriarecycles.org>) that displays the location of each of the sites. Table 2-1 below contains a list of the approved disposal facilities designated under the previous plan update.

**Table 2-1 Current Waste Disposal Facilities**

Southern Alleghenies Landfill, Inc. 843 Miller Picking Road Davidsville, PA 15928 Somerset County <i>Owner: Waste Management</i>	Evergreen Landfill Center Township, PA Homer City, PA 15748 Indiana County <i>Owner: Waste Management</i>
Veolia ES Greentree Landfill 635 Toby Road Kersey, PA 15846 Elk County <i>Owner: Veolia Environmental Services</i>	Shade Township Landfill 1176 No. 1 Rd Cairnbrook, PA 15924 Berlin Township, PA Somerset County <i>Owner: Waste Management</i>
Laurel Highland Landfill, Inc. 260 Laurel Ridge Road Johnstown, PA 15909 Cambria County <i>Owner: Waste Management</i>	Mostoller Landfill, Inc. [1] 7095 Glades Pike Somerset, PA 15501 Somerset County <i>Owner: Waste Systems International</i>

[1] The County recognizes the fact that some municipal waste generated in Cambria County is taken to the Burgmeier's Transfer Station in Blair County then ultimately disposed of at the Mostoller Landfill in Somerset County. While the County has a Disposal Agreement with Burgmeier, there have been instances where Burgmeier has delivered waste to unapproved disposal facilities.

All of the facilities shown in Table 2-1 are located in Pennsylvania and have been issued a permit by the Department of Environmental Protection to operate under Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Regulations which meets the Federal Subtitle D criteria. In addition, all of the existing facilities anticipate being granted expansion permits. Therefore, regardless of remaining capacity of the disposal facilities listed in Table 2-1 above, the anticipated expansion permits will provide any needed future disposal capacity for the 10-year plan process.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

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It should be duly noted that the previous 10-year Cambria County MSW Plans have both required waste haulers to utilize one (or more) of the County-designated disposal facilities such as those referred to above in Table 2-1. In essence, all County-generated municipal solid waste was flow-controlled to these facilities as a means of assuring disposal capacity and to fulfill the County's duties outlined in Act 101, among other reasons. However, pursuant to the enactment of Act 90 (The Waste Safety and Transportation Act), which occurred unexpectedly during the term of the last Plan update, the County's jurisdiction to license haulers and regulate waste haulers was essentially and unequivocally revoked by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, leaving Cambria County without the ability to effectively enforce the Plan in general, and the flow control portion in particular. Consequently, the County has not actively enforced the flow control provision but has continued to monitor hauler disposal operations and waste destination reports to assure waste flows only to facilities approved under the previous Plan. Across the Commonwealth, it is understood that any disposal facility that acts contrary to a county's approved MSW Plan would do so in violation of their disposal permit. Similarly, waste haulers that act contrary to county-approved plans do so in violation of their State hauling permit under Act 90. Violations such as this are the jurisdiction of the PA DEP. Should such a violation occur, the County could notify the DEP and seek their assistance in an effort to resolve the matter.

### 3. ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPACITY

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As described in Section 1, population is a reasonable indicator of waste generation. Further, Pennsylvania's average per-capita waste generation rate of 0.80 tons per year is almost identical to Cambria County's estimated 2009 reported disposal quantity of 0.86. The reported disposal quantity of 0.86 tons per capita (which uses existing disposal, Re-TRAC and population data) is the best (i.e., most conservative) basis for projecting municipal waste generation figures and as shown, is similar to Pennsylvania's state data. This will be the basis for projecting municipal waste generation figures for the next ten years and to determine the waste disposal/processing capacity required by the County. Table 3-1 contains the data, sources, and assumptions used to project future capacity needs. The parameters contained in the table include:

- ◆ **Population:** Municipal waste generation is a function of a number of socio-economic factors; however, population has been found to serve as a reasonable indicator of waste generation. According to the Pennsylvania State Data Center, Cambria County's population is forecast to decrease 7.3 percent (in total) from 2000 to 2010 and decrease another 6.2 percent (in total) from 2010 to 2020. The percent decline in population between 2000 and 2010 is even greater than the 4 percent decline predicted in the 2000 Plan. Table 3-1 shows annual population estimates assuming level annual growth during the planning period or from 2009 through 2020.
- ◆ **Impact of Recycling:** Cambria County has an installed base of residential and commercial recycling programs. These recycling programs, which include residential curbside collection, residential drop-off collection, and commercial on-site collection, will reduce the amount of generated waste that ultimately requires disposal. Table 3-1 assumes that reported recycled material quantities will escalate at the rate of (negative) population growth for the duration of the planning period. Implicit in this assumption is that the County will maintain its current level of recycling and waste reduction, which as of 2009 was 12 percent of its municipal waste stream - through public and privately-initiated recycling and waste reduction efforts. The programs currently in place are under the State's recycling goal of 35 percent.
- ◆ **Future Disposal Capacity Needs:** Future disposal needs are calculated by deducting recycled wastes from generated wastes. As shown in Table 3-1, beginning in 2010 Cambria County will need to dispose of roughly 108,200 tons per year initially, falling to just under 101,600 tons at the conclusion of the 10-year Plan. No additional need to secure capacity is required as the County has sufficient disposal capacity to handle the net waste requiring disposal in the ten year planning period.

In an effort to validate this projection, it should be noted that the calculated per-capita generation value of 4.2 pounds per person per day (2009-2020 estimated) appears slightly higher relative to what would be expected or about 3.5 pounds per person per day. This higher generation rate is most likely due to the large number of commercial and institutional generated waste.

In conclusion, Cambria County will meet future disposal needs by planning for the disposal quantities contained in this section.

### 3. ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPACITY

Table 3-1 Future Projected Municipal Waste Quantities for Disposal

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Demographics [1]												
County Population	142,635	141,528	140,656	139,784	138,913	138,041	137,169	136,297	135,425	134,554	133,682	132,810
Population Growth Rate	(0.8)%	(0.8)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.6)%	(0.7)%
Reported MSW Disposed (Tons)												
Municipal	93,403	92,678	92,107	91,537	90,966	90,395	89,824	89,253	88,682	88,111	87,540	86,969
Sewage Sludge	6,985	6,931	6,888	6,846	6,803	6,760	6,718	6,675	6,632	6,590	6,547	6,504
Asbestos	152	151	150	149	148	147	146	146	145	144	143	142
<u>C&amp;D</u>	<u>8,476</u>	<u>8,410</u>	<u>8,358</u>	<u>8,307</u>	<u>8,255</u>	<u>8,203</u>	<u>8,151</u>	<u>8,099</u>	<u>8,048</u>	<u>7,996</u>	<u>7,944</u>	<u>7,892</u>
<i>Sub-Total MSW Disposed</i>	109,017	108,171	107,504	106,838	106,172	105,505	104,839	104,173	103,506	102,840	102,174	101,507
Recycled Quantities												
Residential [2]	2,866	2,844	2,827	2,809	2,792	2,774	2,757	2,739	2,722	2,704	2,686	2,669
Commercial [3]	8,982	8,912	8,857	8,802	8,747	8,692	8,637	8,583	8,528	8,473	8,418	8,363
<u>Organics</u> [4]	<u>2,465</u>	<u>2,446</u>	<u>2,431</u>	<u>2,416</u>	<u>2,401</u>	<u>2,386</u>	<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,355</u>	<u>2,340</u>	<u>2,325</u>	<u>2,310</u>	<u>2,295</u>
<i>Subtotal Recycled</i>	14,313	14,202	14,114	14,027	13,939	13,852	13,765	13,677	13,590	13,502	13,415	13,327
<i>Recycling Rate</i>	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Total Generated	123,330	122,373	121,619	120,865	120,111	119,357	118,604	117,850	117,096	116,342	115,588	114,835
Net Waste Requiring Disposal	109,017	108,171	107,504	106,838	106,172	105,505	104,839	104,173	103,506	102,840	102,174	101,507
<i>Disposed Lbs/Capita</i>	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19

[1] Source: Pennsylvania State Data Center.

[2] Includes recyclables from the residential curbside and drop-off programs. Tonnages expected to track with population using 2009 as the base year.

[3] Includes curbside and drop-off programs. 2010-2020 tonnages expected to track with population growth. [4] Includes organics from both residential and commercial sources.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

The recycling industry is estimated to generate \$23.4 billion in economic activity in Pennsylvania. In 2009, the Northeast Recycling Council performed a study that found recycling generates over 52,000 jobs in Pennsylvania, resulting in \$2.2 billion in payroll alone. Cambria County, along with many other counties in Pennsylvania, is actively striving to enhance its recycling program and increase recycling tonnages within its borders. This section describes the recycling activities taking place in Cambria County and the impact of recycling on the amount of municipal waste requiring disposal/processing capacity.

### 4.1 POTENTIAL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM

Using United States Environmental Protection Agency Data, an examination of municipal waste generated in Cambria County likely indicates that approximately 50 percent of the municipal waste stream is made up of materials that could potentially be recycled. However, there are many factors that determine which materials are actually removed from the waste stream. These factors include but are not limited to: availability of markets for the materials, economics of a recovery system, competing options and how easily the materials can be segregated for recovery.

Table 4-1 below shows the percent of the municipal waste stream by material and the potential number of tons available for recovery. This is based on the estimated tons of municipal waste disposed<sup>1</sup> - or 101,089 tons for 2010. As seen in the values presented in Table 4-1, there is 50,342 tons of municipal waste disposed in Cambria County that could potentially be recovered.

**Table 4-1 Recyclable Materials Available in Cambria County Municipal Waste Stream - 2010**

Material	Percent of MSW [1]	Potential Tons Available
Glass Containers (Clear and Colored)	4.0	4,044
Aluminum Cans	0.6	607
Steel and Bimetallic Cans	0.9	910
Newsprint and Insert	3.5	3,538
Office Paper	2.4	2,426
Corrugated Paper	11.9	12,030
Plastic Containers (PET, HDPE only)	2.7	2,729
Yard Waste	13.2	13,344
Tires	1.9	1,921
Appliances	2.1	2,123
Wood	6.6	6,672
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>50,342</b>

[1] Based on 2008 U.S. EPA data

<sup>1</sup> Municipal waste and C&D waste only. This excludes sewage sludge, and asbestos where recycled materials would most likely not be part of the waste stream.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

### 4.2 CURRENT IN-COUNTY RECYCLING EFFORTS

Pennsylvania Act 101 mandates that larger communities in the Commonwealth establish curbside recycling programs. According to 2009 Recycling Data provided by Cambria County, curbside service of either recyclables and/or yard waste is offered in 12 Cambria County municipalities as shown in Table 4-2 below. Four of the twelve communities are mandated by Act 101 to provide residential and commercial recycling services.<sup>2</sup> One municipality, Cresson Borough, while not mandated by Act 101, has a curbside recycling program mandated by a local Ordinance.

Four municipalities – Cambria, Dale, Geistown, and Portage have voluntary yard waste only curbside collection services while three communities – the Boroughs of Carrolltown, Ebensburg and Lilly – have voluntary curbside recycling programs collecting fibers, metals, glass and plastics.

Although the Borough of Lilly has a curbside collection program, the material is not taken directly to a MRF or other processing center once collected from the residents. Instead, the Public Works department collects recyclable materials once per month from Borough residents. The material is taken to one of the County’s drop-off bins, sorted and combined with the existing recyclables in the bin. Because of this unique situation, in Lilly Borough, it is not possible to determine the amount and composition of materials collected exclusively from the curbside program versus the amount and composition of materials deposited directly into the drop-off containers from residents not utilizing the curbside program.

For those municipalities that do not have curbside or drop-off programs within their borders, the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority operates a network of Big Blue Bin drop-off recycling sites throughout the County. Each municipality's program differs slightly and residents and business owners may contact the municipal office for additional details or to request educational materials.

**Table 4-2 Cambria County List of Municipal Curbside Recycling Programs as of 2009**

Municipality Name	Program Type	Frequency of Collection	Materials Collected
City of Johnstown	Mandatory Curbside	Bi-Weekly	Metals, Glass, Plastics, Yardwaste
Westmont Borough	Mandatory Curbside	Weekly	Metals, Glass, Plastics, Yardwaste
Richland Township	Mandatory Curbside	Bi-Weekly	Metals, Glass, Plastics, Yardwaste
Upper Yoder Township	Mandatory Curbside	Bi-Weekly	Metals, Glass, Plastics, Yardwaste
Cresson Borough	Ordinance Curbside	Monthly	Newspaper, Metals, Glass, Plastics, Yard Waste
Carrolltown Borough	Voluntary Curbside	Monthly	Metals, Glass, Plastics
Ebensburg Borough	Voluntary Curbside	Monthly	Metals, Glass, Plastics
Lilly Borough	Voluntary Curbside	Bi-Weekly	Fibers, Metals, Plastics
Cambria Township	Voluntary Curbside	[1]	Leaves and Yard Waste
Dale Borough	Voluntary Curbside	[1]	Grass, Leaves, Yard Waste
Geistown	Voluntary Curbside	Weekly	Grass, Leaves, Yard Waste
Portage Borough	Voluntary Curbside	N/A	Branches, Grass, Leaves, Yard Waste

[1] Weekly – as needed during the Fall months.

<sup>2</sup> The four (4) communities mandated by Act 101 to provide recycling in Cambria County include: Johnstown, Richland, Upper Yoder, and Westmont.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

This remainder of Section 4.2 provides a more descriptive overview of the county’s current recycling efforts as they relate to the collection of curbside materials from residential establishments as well as from municipalities that have implemented drop-off programs for their customers.

### 4.2.1 MUNICIPALITIES WITH MANDATED RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Per §272.411 of the PA Code, a municipality that has a population of more than 5,000 but less than 10,000 persons and which has a population density of more than 300 persons per square mile, must establish and implement a source separation and collection program for recyclable materials.

Municipalities which fall within these specific demographic criteria are referred to as “mandated municipalities.” As of the 2000 Census, the following four municipalities shown in Table 4-3 are mandated to provide a recycling program.<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that there will be no newly mandated communities in Cambria County as a result of the 2010 Census as none have grown in population sufficiently to reach “mandated” status.

**Table 4-3 Mandated Recycling Programs Implemented in Cambria County [1]**

Municipality	Curbside Materials Collected	Drop-off Materials Collected
Cresson Borough [2]	Newspaper; Aluminum cans; Steel/Tin cans; Brown, Clear and Green Glass; Plastic Containers #1 and 2; Leaves.	No County or Municipal Drop-off Site Located Within Municipal Boundary.
Johnstown City [3]	Aluminum cans; Steel/Tins cans; Clear Glass; Plastic Containers #1 and 2; Branches, Brush and Christmas Trees; Grass, Leaves and Yard Waste.	Newspaper; Magazines; Corrugated Cardboard; Aluminum; Tin or Steel Food and Beverage Cans; and Plastic Jugs, Bottles & Jars.
Richland Township [3]	Aluminum cans; Steel/Tin cans; Brown and Clear Glass; Plastic Containers #1 and 2; Leaves and Yard Waste.	Cardboard; Mixed Glass; PET/HDPE Bottles & Jugs; Aluminum & Steel Cans and Office Paper.
Upper Yoder Township	Aluminum cans; Steel/Tin cans; Clear Glass; Plastic Containers #1 and 2; Leaves and Yard Waste.	No County or Municipal Drop-off Site Located Within Municipal Boundary.
Westmont Borough	Aluminum cans; Steel/Tin cans; Brown and Clear Glass; Plastic Containers #1 and 2; Leaves and Yard Waste.	No County or Municipal Drop-off Site Located Within Municipal Boundary.

[1] Source: 2009 Re-TRAC report.

[2] Mandated by local ordinance – not by Act 101.

[3] Drop-off site operated by the Solid Waste Authority also available within this municipality.

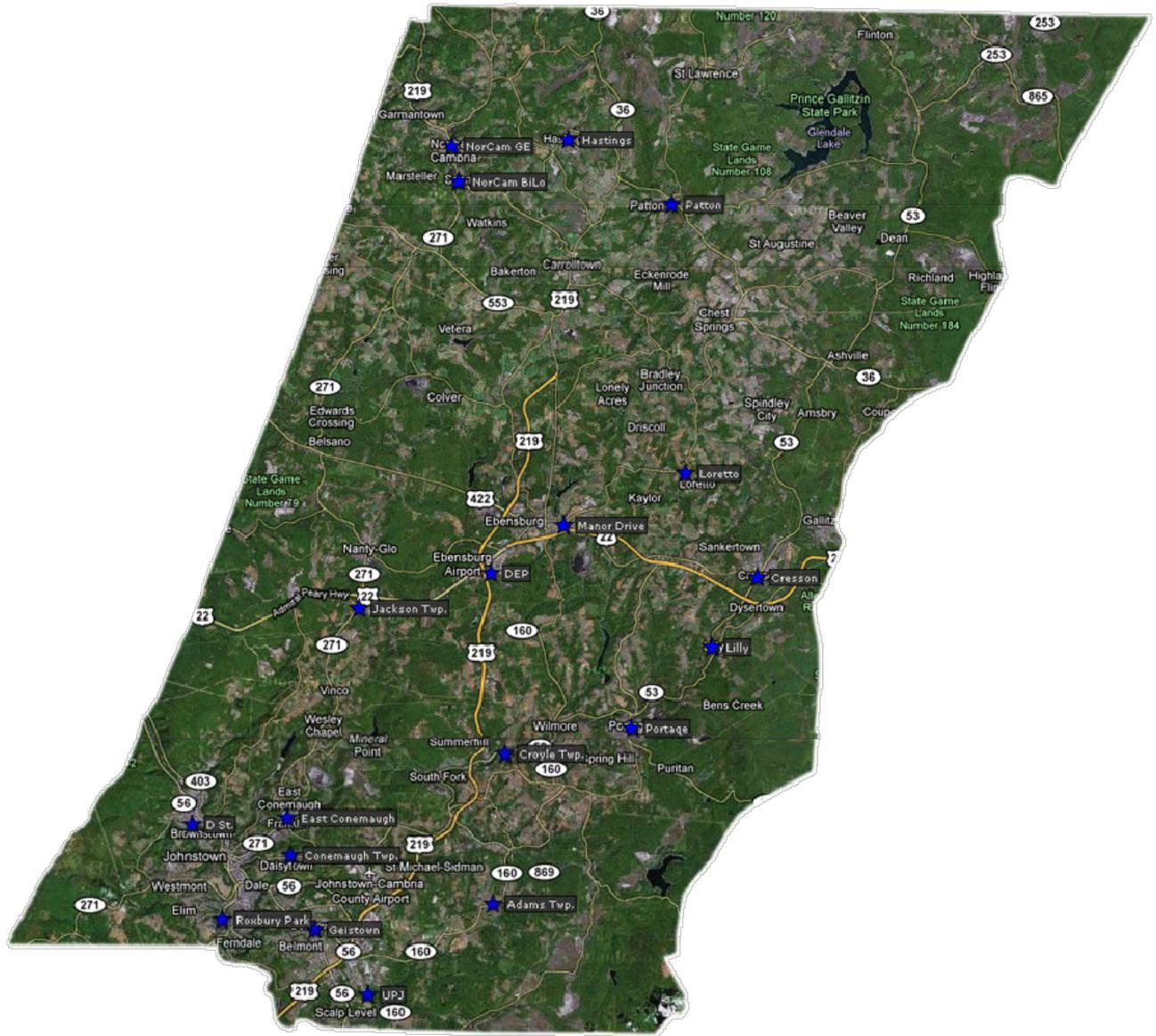
### 4.2.2 NON-MANDATED MUNICIPALITIES RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Five of the sixty-three municipalities in Cambria County are mandated - either by Act 101 or via local ordinance to provide a curbside recycling program. The remaining 58 communities are not mandated to provide a recycling program, however seven communities currently have some sort of voluntary curbside program in place. The remaining 51 municipalities in Cambria County are free to utilize drop-off sites strategically placed throughout the County. Residents in the non-mandated municipalities can drop-off their recyclables at one of nineteen recycling “Blue-Bin” sites as shown in Figure 4-1 below.

<sup>3</sup> Although not mandated, Cresson Borough is included as residents are required to recycle via local Ordinance.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Figure 4-1 Cambria County Recycling Blue-Bin Sites



Note that the “Blue Bin” sites are available for use to all residents and small businesses of the County regardless of the status of their respective curbside recycling program. This is of import because the sites accept some materials for recycling that are not accepted in all curbside programs. These 19 sites are strategically located throughout the County and accept a variety of materials. The materials accepted at the blue bin drop-off sites are provided below and include instructions for proper placement.

### Newspapers

- ◆ All Newspaper and Glossy Inserts
- ◆ Put in bin loose. Do not bag or bundle

### Magazines

- ◆ Magazines, catalogs and similar periodicals
- ◆ Put in bin loose. Do not bag or bundle

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

### Corrugated Cardboard

- ◆ Packing boxes and similar material
- ◆ Flatten and put in bin loose. No food boxes

### Aluminum and Bi-Metal Cans

- ◆ Beverage cans, soup and other food cans
- ◆ Empty and rinse cans. Put in bin loose.

### #1 and # 2 Plastic Bottles and Jugs

- ◆ Soda, shampoo, detergent bottles; milk jugs and similar materials
- ◆ Empty and rinse containers. Put in bin loose. No bags.

Note: three locations, DEP, UPJ and Loretto, also accept office paper for recycling

Currently the population of Cambria County is decreasing and thus it is not expected that any new municipalities will become mandated to implement a curbside program. However, any municipality may request assistance from the County to develop recycling programs. The County Recycling Coordinator will assist in developing appropriate programs tailored to each municipality.

### 4.2.3 RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Seven of the twelve municipalities that have curbside collection programs (mandated or voluntary) involve collection by private contractors. Six communities have municipal collection. Table 4-4 shows the collection program by Municipality. It should be noted that in Lilly Borough, the Public Works department collects the materials and deposits them at one of the Big Blue drop-off bins. The recycling vendor is typically contracted directly by the municipality to provide the service. In the future, municipalities will continue to contract for recycling services.

**Table 4-4 Cambria County Collection Program Provider**

Municipality Name	Provider
City of Johnstown	Contract
Richland Township	Contract
Upper Yoder Township	Contract
Westmont Borough	Contract
Cambria Township	Municipality
Carrolltown Borough	Contract
Cresson Borough	Contract
Dale Borough	Municipality
Ebensburg Borough	Contract
Geistown	Municipality
Lilly Borough	Municipality
Portage Borough	Municipality

In Cambria County, the collection of fall leaves in the curbside program is handled by municipal staff or addressed in municipal waste collection contracts. Cambria, Dale, Geistown and Portage all currently provide curbside collection of fall leaves for their residents. Throughout the County, the leaves are taken to farms for direct land application or a municipal composting facility.

In 2009, Cambria County municipalities reported collecting 1,004 tons from the residential recyclables curbside program and 2,423 tons from the residential organics (yard and leaf waste) curbside program for a combined total of 3,427 tons.

## **4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS**

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### **4.2.4 MUNICIPAL DROP-OFF RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

Numerous municipalities in Cambria County feature drop-off facilities operated and serviced by the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority which accept a wide range of recyclable commodities. Many municipalities that are not mandated to recycle have drop-off centers with other municipalities supplementing existing curbside collection programs with one or more drop-off sites. Operating additional drop-off centers and expanding materials collecting at existing centers will in the long run help the County meet and maintain the state required 35 percent recycling goal. In addition, the County intends to work with municipal officials to expand opportunities for yard waste collection programs.

According to the 2009 Re-TRAC report, the residential recycling drop-off program (Big Blue Bins) collected 1,863 tons of residential and 74.9 tons of commercial recyclable materials, but did not collect any organic (yard, leaf, food waste) materials. By expanding both the number of municipal drop-off centers and organics diversion programs, and educating citizens, the County hopes that the municipal programs will help increase the overall recycling rate from 12 percent to the 35 percent mandated goal.

### **4.2.5 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

In Cambria County, the collection and processing of recyclables is performed by private haulers. Commercial, municipal and institutional establishments within a mandated municipality are required to recycle aluminum, high-grade office paper and corrugated paper in addition to other materials chosen by the municipality. Businesses which wish to start up a recycling program can contact the Solid Waste Authority, or their local municipality for assistance.

In 2009, it was reported by Re-TRAC (as inputted by Cambria County) that commercial businesses within Cambria County recycled 8,880 tons of regular recyclables (aluminum, glass, plastics, etc.) from the curbside program. In addition, it was reported that commercial establishments recycled 101 tons of material at the County Solid Waste Authority's "Big Blue Bin" recycling drop-off locations.

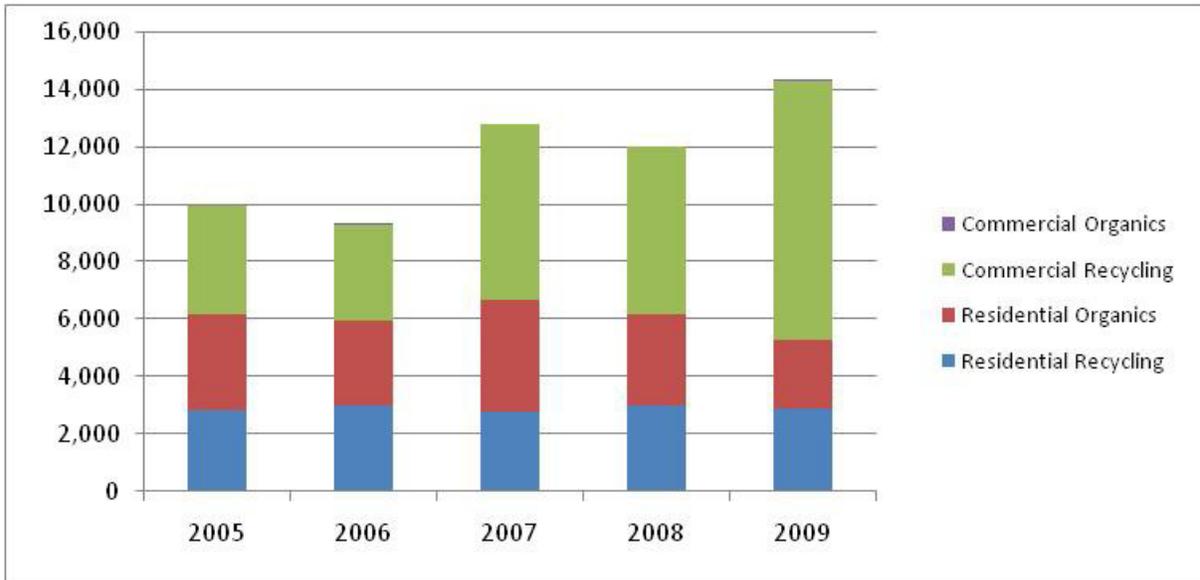
### **4.2.6 SUMMARY OF COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

In 2009, the residential curbside program (recyclables and organics) diverted 3,427 tons, while the residential drop-off programs (Big Blue Bins) diverted approximately 1,863 tons of material from the landfill for a sub-total of 5,289 tons from the residential sector. In the same year, it was reported that the commercial recycling program (recyclables and organics) diverted 9,024 tons from disposal. In total it was reported that 14,313 tons of material from the commercial and residential sectors were recycled in 2009.

A summary of the quantities and types of materials diverted by both the residential and commercial county-wide drop-off collection sites in 2009 are shown in Table 4-5 (listed alphabetically). Figure 4-2 below shows a graph of recycling activities (total tons generated) between 2005 and 2009 in the County by commodity type from both the residential and commercial sectors.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

**Figure 4-2 Total Tons of Recyclables Generated, 2005 to 2009 [1]**



[1] Source: 2009 Re-TRAC™ Reports Cambria County, Southwest Region.

**Table 4-5 Recyclable Materials Diverted (2009) [1]**

Material Name	Residential Curbside	Residential Drop-off	Commercial Curbside	Commercial Drop-off	Total [2]
# 1 Plastic (PET) (PL1)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1
# 2 Plastic (HDPE) (PL2)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1
Aluminum Cans (AA1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Brown Glass (GL4)	24.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6
Cardboard (CO1)	0.0	247.6	6,782.8	13.0	7,043.4
Clear Glass (GL1)	36.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.6
Commingled Materials (XXX)	435.7	26.2	245.6	0.0	707.5
Ferrous Metals (FO1)	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	4.8
Film Plastic (PL8)	0.0	0.0	46.7	0.0	46.7
Magazines (PA1)	0.0	382.9	0.0	20.2	403.1
Miscellaneous (MIS)	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
Mixed Cans (MX2)	107.2	0.0	0.0	4.4	111.6
Mixed Glass (GL2)	213.5	0.0	13.0	0.0	226.5
Mixed Papers (PA3)	0.0	0.0	534.3	0.0	534.3
Mixed Plastic (PL7)	50.1	231.9	92.6	13.2	387.8
Newsprint (PA2)	0.0	926.7	0.0	48.8	975.5
Non-Ferrous Metals (NO1)	0.0	0.0	10.2	0.0	10.2
Office Papers (PA4)	0.0	31.9	1,051.0	1.7	1,084.6
Other Plastic (PL9)	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	3.6
Rubber Tires (MO1)	0.0	15.3	60.0	0.0	75.3
Single Stream (SS1)	133.1	0.0	33.1	0.0	166.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,003.9</b>	<b>1,862.5</b>	<b>8,879.9</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>11,848.0</b>

[1] Source: 2009 Re-TRAC™ Reports Cambria County, Southwest Region.

[2] Excludes 2,465 tons of residential and commercial organic materials (yard and leaf waste) and 41 tons of residential household hazardous wastes.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

For municipalities that reported diverting material in 2009, the recycling tonnage by material type and by sector is shown in Table 4-6 in order of the amount of material recovered (or rank). It should be noted that although a municipality is not listed, this does not necessarily mean residents did not recycle. Instead, as all municipalities in the County have access to the Blue Bin program, it is likely that material from these municipalities may be included in the County-wide data row and not tracked or reported separately.

**Table 4-6 County List by Total Tons Recycled, Ordered by Rank, 2009 [1]**

Municipality	Residential Recycling	Residential Organics	Commercial Recycling	Commercial Organics	Total
Richland	136.4	948.0	4,385.7	0.0	5,470.1
County-wide Data	1,905.3 [2]	0.0	2,815.5	0.0	4,720.8
Johnstown	147.2	0.0	1,496.8	0.0	1,644.0
Westmont	133.1	1,165.0	181.0	0.0	1,479.1
Upper Yoder	429.4	0.0	102.7	0.0	532.1
Cambria	0.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	150.0
Geistown	0.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	150.0
Ebensburg	37.7	42.0	0.0	0.0	79.7
Jackson	41.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.5
Carrolltown	21.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.1
Cresson (Borough)	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.7
Dale	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,866.4</b>	<b>2,423.0</b>	<b>8,981.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>14,313.0</b>

[1] Source: 2009 Re-TRAC™ Reports Cambria County, Southwest Region. Excludes 41 tons of HHW.

[2] Mostly from Big Blue Bins program.

### 4.2.7 OTHER COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAMS

In addition to the County's curbside and drop-off collection programs for recyclables and organic waste, the county operates book recycling, e-waste (electronics) and household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. These special programs are yet another illustration of the County's commitment to assist with achieving the 35 percent State diversion goals.

In the past, the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has held book recycling events during the month of June. In 2009, due to poor markets and low demand for book fiber, the SWA had to cancel the event. However, the County SWA resumed the book recycling collection event in June 2010 as an "on-going" collection rather than a "special event" collection because a private MRF agreed to accept the books for recycling.

The electronics recycling (e-waste) collection is by far the most popular special collection in the county. Until just recently, the only outlet for electronics recycling in Cambria County is within the Authority's office in Ebensburg, PA. The Authority accept electronics during normal business hours which are Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. After-hours drop-offs cannot be accepted and are considered illegal dumping, punishable by fines. The Authority does not pick up materials nor is e-waste accepted at the blue bin drop-off sites. For larger quantities, the SWA requests that patrons call ahead of time special instructions and availability. Bulk rates are \$0.15/pound and material must be weighed at a certified weigh station. Table 4-7 below provides a listing of all e-waste collected for recycling and the corresponding charge(s) as of January 1, 2012. Due to Act 108, fees will be eliminated in 2012.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

**Table 4-7 E-Waste Recycling Program (Items and Cost)**

E-Waste Item Type	Cost per item
Answering Machines	\$2.00
Camcorders & Digital Cameras	\$2.00
CD & DVD Players	\$2.00
Copiers (large office)	\$0.15 per pound
Duplicators	\$0.15 per pound
Electric Typewriters	\$2.00
Fax Machines (size dependent)	\$2.00 - \$5.00
Laptops	\$5.00
Mainframe Computer Equipment	\$0.15 per pound
Mobile Phones	\$2.00
Modems	\$2.00
Pagers	\$2.00
Personal Computers (whole)	\$10.00
Monitors (up to 27")	\$10.00
Keyboards, Mice, Speakers	\$5.00
Small Home PC Printers	\$2.00
Large Printers	\$0.15 per pound
Printed Circuit Boards	\$2.00
Radios (size dependent)	\$2.00 to \$5.00
Tape Players	\$2.00
Televisions (size dependent)	\$5.00 to \$20.00
Testing Equipment	\$0.15 per pound
Transparency Makers	\$0.15 per pound
Uninterrupted Power Supply Systems	\$0.15 per pound
VCR's	\$2.00
Word Processors	\$5.00

Each year, the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority hosts an annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event for County residents. The event usually occurs on a Saturday morning in May and is located at the Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) ETF building on Industrial Park Road in Richland Township. In 2009 this HHW Collection Event collected 22,011 pounds, or 11.0 tons, of hazardous materials. As reported by the County to Re-TRAC, in 2009 41 tons of HHW (which included 30 tons of e-waste) was recycled. Similar amounts were collected in 2010 and 2011.

The HHW items below were collected.

- ◆ Adhesives
- ◆ Aerosol Cans
- ◆ Automotive Fluids (motor oil, transmission, antifreeze, kerosene, brake fluid and gasoline)
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Chemistry Sets
- ◆ Cleaners (ammonia, drain openers, acid cleaners, oven cleaners)
- ◆ Mercury (thermostats, thermometers, elemental mercury)
- ◆ Solvents
- ◆ Paint Products (latex, oil-based, alkyd based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, sealers, paint thinners, furniture strippers)

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

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- ◆ Pesticides and Garden Chemicals (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, mothballs, fertilizer)
- ◆ Photo Chemicals
- ◆ Pool Chemicals

In addition to the programs mentioned above, the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) operates a fishing line recycling and Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) collection program. For the fishing line recycling program, used monofilament line and spools can be dropped off at the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) at their office located at 507 Manor Drive in Ebensburg, PA. Monofilament fishing line of any color and any weight, and fishing line spools are accepted for recycling. The line is then sent to Berkley, maker of Berkley Trilene fishing line, who recycles all of the used fishing line to make artificial habitats for fish and other aquatic life.

The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority will also accept compact CFL's for proper disposal at their Ebensburg office during their normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm. Although CFL bulbs last up to 10 times the life of a regular incandescent light bulb, small traces of mercury found in the energy-saving bulbs warrant a disposal outlet capable of handling the materials safely and effectively.

The CFL collection is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to provide a safe outlet for the disposal of the bulbs. CFL bulb sales have increased nationwide in efforts to save energy and greenhouse gasses. Bulbs collected at the Solid Waste Authority office are held in sealed plastic containers which are then shipped to AERC Recycling, located in Allentown, PA for recycling. Because of mercury content, and although small, proper CFL handling must be ensured in order to prevent the mercury from escaping into the environment. Therefore, the SWA recommends that great care be taken to not break CFLs. For more information on this collection or any other recycling opportunities, the Solid Waste Authority can be contacted toll-free at 1-877-237-6748 or via its web site [www.cambriarecycles.org](http://www.cambriarecycles.org).

### 4.3 RECYCLING PROGRAM COSTS AND EFFORTS TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

Concurrent with expanding the county-wide drop-off collection program, the County last updated its Municipal Waste Management Plan in 2000. Given the expectation that the County would continue to own and operate a drop-off recycling collection system, efforts were made in the planning process to ensure the financial sustainability of the program. In this effort, the value of State grants and potential material revenues were considered. Revenues from material sales have diminished in recent years due to a downturn in the national and international economies (although sale prices have climbed off their lows). Material markets are subject to severe up and down trends based on the demand for the commodities as raw materials, which is generally a function of the economy.

From the early 2000's to as late as September 2008, the material markets were strong and revenue generated from the sale of the recycled materials had been significant in defraying the costs to operate the program. Table 4-8 shows total revenue of over \$32,000 from sale of recycled materials in 2010 with projected revenue of \$35,000 in 2011. Aside from County allocation income, the sale of recyclables is the largest contributor to defraying the Department's annual costs.

Not factored into any of the economic details in Table 4-8 is the avoided costs of disposal, which is realized by diverting materials from disposal and not needing to pay the associated tipping fee on this tonnage. This is primarily due to the fact that all municipal waste collection contracts are administered by local government units operating within Cambria County. As a result there are no direct financial benefits to the Authority from avoided disposal costs.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

**Table 4-8 Comparison of Expenses vs. Income for Cambria County**

County Expenses For Solid Waste/Recycling			County Income for Solid Waste/Recycling		
Type of Expense	2010 [1]	2011 [2]	Type of Income	2010 [1]	2011 [2]
Payroll & Benefits	\$262,926	\$345,976	County Allocation	\$250,000	\$130,000
Collection O&M	\$55,256	\$105,700	Grants	\$66,028	\$66,500
All Other Expenses	\$30,446	\$47,094	Material Revenues	\$33,065	\$35,150
			Other Revenues	\$12,451	\$17,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$348,628</b>	<b>\$498,770</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$361,544</b>	<b>\$248,770</b>
			<i>Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$12,916	(\$250,000)

[1] As of October 1, 2010.

[2] Draft budget based on meetings with County Commissioners.

### 4.4 RECYCLING PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Since 2002, the Department has reported the progress of recycling in Pennsylvania through an analysis of economic and environmental benefits rather than simple tonnage and percentage rate. This calculation can also be of use to counties. Each county should calculate the appropriate environmental benefits of the most recent year's recycling using the NERC, the EPA WARM, or the NRC calculator, and indicate these benefits as part of Chapter 4 in the plan.

The environmental benefits of recycling in Cambria County were calculated using the NERC calculator, which was suggested as the preferred calculator by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC's) Environmental Benefits Calculator generates estimates of the environmental benefits of a study area, based on the tonnages of materials that are source reduced, reused, recycled, landfilled or incinerated (includes waste-to-energy). The Calculator is based on per ton figures of the estimated energy use and emissions from several lifecycle analysis studies. The estimates are average figures based on "typical" facilities and operating characteristics existing in the United States. The Calculator incorporates U.S. EPA's most recent WARM Calculator, as well as facts and figures from the U.S. Department of Energy, Steel Recycling Institute, Glass Packaging Institute, and U.S. Climate Technology Cooperation Gateway, to name a few.

The following bullets summarize the environmental benefits of county, municipal and commercial recycling activities for 2009, according to the NERC calculator. It should be noted that the NERC Environmental Benefits Calculator does not contain cells to enter amounts for household hazardous waste (HHW). As such these tonnages were excluded from the overall Environmental Benefits calculation.

- ◆ Total Quantity Recycled: 14,313 tons.
- ◆ Net Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 9,795 Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent.
- ◆ Net Energy Savings: 190,271 Million BTUs.
- ◆ Net Gas Saved: 1,531,503 gallons.
- ◆ Landfill Space Saved: 33,135 cubic yards.
- ◆ Number of Tree Seedlings Grown: 716,152 seedlings.

A copy of the complete Environmental Calculator results can be requested from the County. The complete report outlines all the benefits, while the summary above addresses the key points only.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

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### 4.5 RECYCLING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority, through the County Education Coordinator, provides free recycling educational programs, exhibits, presentations and materials to municipalities, special interest groups, commercial and institutional establishments and local school districts throughout the County. The Coordinator's primary means of education is through free programming available to schools, scouts, and groups of any age, any size, and any location within Cambria County. The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority education program is a multiple winner of the Waste Watcher Award for Excellence in Public Education. Educational materials include information on recycling, solid waste (including landfills and trash habits), reuse of home items, litter and illegal dumping, and how recycling and Pennsylvania's economy and environment are intertwined.

As part of the SWA's effort to educate the public of Cambria County, the Authority produces publications and an official newsletter that are distributed at events as well as inserted into local papers.

The official newsletter of the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority is called "The Recycler". For years, the newsletter had been inserted into local newspapers, including the Tribune Democrat, Somerset Daily American, and the papers of the Mainline News Agency. Due to budget constraints and an unexpected funding issue a printed version was not published in local newspapers in 2010 or in 2011. Instead, "The Recycler" was available in electronic format, which is viewable from the SWA's recycling website at <http://www.cambriarecycles.org>, or a paper copy could be requested. Paper copies are also made available to the public at the Authority office, at all public exhibits/presentations and by request.

The Authority recognizes that eliminating the publication of hard copies of *The Recycler* in area newspapers may have lessened the number of residents in the county reached by this educational effort. In the least, certain demographics may have been more greatly impacted by this program change, namely those sectors that depend upon local newspapers as their main source of information. Conversely, consideration must also be given to the fact there is growing trend among the public, both locally and nationally, away from newsprint and toward electronic sources for information and entertainment purposes. Being cognizant of this trend, the Authority recently began a social media campaign in an effort to broaden the audience that receives recycling educational messages. This has been accomplished by utilizing social media sites such as Twitter and Face Book to promote the Authority's recycling programs and special collection events. Though in its infancy, the use of this social media has helped expand recycling education. It is the Authorities intent to grow its use of social media and the number of "followers" on these sites by mentioning it at all public presentation events and noting it on all publications, both in hard and electronic copy.

In addition, so as to not neglect those that rely on newsprint, the Authority plans to advertise at least twice per year in one or more of the local newspapers. (This will be in addition to the special events advertising such as the HHW event ads which already run in the newspaper multiple times prior to each event.) The advertisement will contain a listing of where the Authority's "Big Blue Bins" are located, what materials the Authority accepts for recycling, and will also promote the Authority's electronic media campaign. More specifically, the advertisement will direct readers to contact the Authority to be added to a list for a direct mailing of *The Recycler*, in either hard or electronic copy and encourage readers to "follow" the Authority on social media internet sites for constant updates on MSW and recycling programs/issues/events. Similarly, the add will direct readers to visit the Authority's web site to view the latest edition of *The Recycler* and also to view other information about solid waste and recycling at [www.cambriarecycles.org](http://www.cambriarecycles.org).

Interestingly, surveys conducted over the past 6 years at special collection events indicate that more participants heard about the event as a result of the newspaper/newsletter than from other outreach efforts (radio, TV, word of mouth, other). However it should also be noted that during that time period the bulk of the education effort focused on newsprint. Recently however anecdotal evidence has

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

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suggested that residents also rely heavily on local TV news reports. Following a special event, the Authority received an inordinate amount of phone calls when the event was reported on local TV news. The callers all noted they saw it on the news program and wanted more information. As such, the Authority will attempt to utilize local TV as a means of outreach whenever feasible. Though budget constraints may not permit large scale TV advertising, media releases will be made to TV stations. Media releases have always been a part of special event promotion in particular and the Authority's recycling programs in general, but there will be enhanced focus on personally contacting TV news media and building a relationship with reporters to facilitate TV news coverage of recycling efforts.

The Authority is also intends to begin an outreach program aimed at encouraging businesses and institutions within Cambria County to start and/or improve their recycling efforts. The program will utilize the expertise and contacts of Cambria County's finance and business staff to aid the Authority in this endeavor. Said staff already has a working relationship with many area businesses which will help facilitate this education program. Small business will be encouraged to utilize the Big Blue Bins for recycling and/or utilizing a private contractor to collect recyclables while larger business will be encouraged to utilize a private contractor for recycling services. The Authority intends to aid these businesses by offering waste audits and other expert advice regarding establishing a more sustainable and "green" waste handling procedure for each organization's business model. These businesses will be reached through the use of direct mail, email, exhibits/presentations and direct contact.

### 4.6 MEASURES TO EXCEED THE 35 PERCENT RECYCLING GOAL

As calculated in Table 3-1, Cambria County's recycling rate for 2009 is estimated to be 12 percent, based on the reported disposal and recycling quantities from Pennsylvania DEP disposal data and Re-TRAC reports. Given that Table 4-1 shows approximately 50 percent of the County's waste stream is composed of recyclable materials, the County seems to have sufficient opportunity for additional recycling. However, to maintain the current diversion rate and capture the remaining available fraction of recyclable materials, the County will need to continue to encourage municipal programs, continue to expand the drop-off program, and encourage additional efforts in capturing and composing the organic fraction of the waste stream, specifically the yard waste component. Also the County should maintain educational efforts and aggressively pursue recycling figures from the commercial/industrial sectors that often go unreported.

Areas where additional potential recycling opportunities exist include:

- ◆ Increasing the type of materials collected at the curb – especially plastics.
- ◆ Increasing the amount of material composted, especially yard waste collected curbside by municipalities.
- ◆ Expanding drop-off collection system at existing locations and incorporating additional locations into the program.
- ◆ Implementing some type of food waste diversion program.
- ◆ Increasing recycling at small businesses and institutions that have been difficult to reach thus far.

Communities and counties both nationally and throughout Pennsylvania have diversion systems that have achieved and exceeded the Pennsylvania State goal of 35 percent per year. This has been achieved by requiring municipal curbside collection programs for all Act 101 materials, plus additional materials such as, all plastic containers, aluminum foil, paperboard, mixed residential paper and others. Also, these communities generally have a greater commercial sector and institutional base that are often required to recycle by law. Additionally, these communities are typically more aggressive in diverting organics from the waste stream, beyond the typical leaves and yard debris to include restaurant and grocery store organics diversion and processing. Finally, areas that are experiencing high levels of development have taken advantage of recovering and processing C&D waste materials.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

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However, these communities and counties with higher diversion rates are commonly more suburban or urban in nature with denser population centers and more commercial enterprises than Cambria County. Nevertheless, achieving an increase in diversion from one of the various waste streams should increase Cambria County's overall diversion rate.

Cambria County will continue to pursue cost-effective programs to increase the diversion rate and offer expanded services to residents and businesses throughout the county in its quest to reach the Pennsylvania recycling goal of 35%.

More specifically, In June 2012 the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority applied for a DEP 902 Grant to facilitate the purchase of a new recycling collection truck to service the Big Blue Bins. The new truck would be able to compact and haul a greater volume of OCC or plastic per route than the older collection truck. If the application is successful, the new vehicle, because it provides for greater collection efficiency, will allow the Authority to collect a greater volume of recyclables. To increase recycling tonnages the Authority intends to begin collecting office paper/junk mail at more of its Big Blue Bin drop-off recycling locations (currently only 3 sites collect this material). Moreover, the Authority will also expand its OCC collection by adding additional OCC containers to existing sites and possibly adding new sites to encourage the recycling of OCC which is a large and growing component of the waste stream. Plus the Authority will initiate a public outreach campaign aimed at small businesses to encourage them to recycle in general and to recycle OCC in particular. This will be accomplished by utilizing contacts/ mailing lists for area small businesses already compiled by other County departments. It is projected that this could lead to the recycling of an additional 600 tons of material annually in the short term. The program could be expanded depending on demand, resulting in the diversion of more tonnage. See table 4-9 for program implementation timeline.

In addition, the 2009 Cambria County Solid Waste Authority MRF Feasibility Study (see appendix) calculates that an increase of nearly 1000 tons annually could be realized with the construction and implementation of an Authority owned/operated MRF. However, the limiting factor to this project is the substantial start-up capital. As such the Authority has and will continue to pursue funding for this project while it remains feasible. One of the factors making an Authority MRF plausible is a lack of other processing capacity from another source from within Cambria County or near-by. At the time of this update, several private organizations have expressed an interest to initiate and provide recycling materials processing either by constructing a MRF or "consolidation center". As such, the Authority will also investigate and entertain the possibility of collaborating with another organization, public or private, on a MRF or consolidation center project or will evaluate the possibility of utilizing such services which may be provided by another organization. In an effort to facilitate this, and the sustainability of the Big Blue Bin program, the Authority will initiate an RFP for the sale of its recyclable material from the Big Blue Bin program.

Another area of focus will be organics diversion. Organics, specifically yard waste, account for the largest amount of recyclable materials found in the waste stream according to Table 4-1 and thus should be targeted to aid in reaching the 35% recycling rate. Organics recycling in the county as it pertains to recycling rate raises several issues. First, though residential yard waste collection is provided curbside in at least 9 of the 63 municipalities there is limited availability to recycle yard waste at a drop-off location for residential or commercial generated material. While the Blair County Yard Waste Compost Recycling facility, located on the Cambria/Blair County line near the Borough of Ashville, is open to all residents and businesses of Cambria County, its distance from Cambria County's population center around Johnstown limits its use by those in the southern part of the county. This coupled with the fact that none of the municipal compost sites in the county accept drop-off material from either residents or commercial establishments inhibits yard waste recycling.

Second, commercial establishments such as lawn service and landscaping companies must generate a significant amount of organic material. It is evident that due to state regulations this material is not

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS**

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finding its way to area landfills so apparently the generators are handling it otherwise. One could assume that while this material is not being processed at a permitted composting site it is nevertheless being diverted from disposal and being treated in another manner such as being stockpiled and/or even processed on private property.

Third, until recently the Cambria County Penn State Cooperative Extension office held regular distribution of backyard compost bins and provided education on backyard composting. This was the most notable effort to recycle food waste in the county.

Finally, while organics do make up a large portion of the waste stream, providing for the collection and processing of such materials, particularly the capital costs, make initiating a new program prohibitive.

Despite these challenges the Authority will investigate expanding composting during the 10 year planning period. The authority will work with municipalities that currently compost, with organics generators and with other entities in an attempt to capture greater organic tonnages for recycling.

The Authority will also investigate and consider a regional approach to address many of the above issues and challenges as they relate to meeting the goal of 35% recycling rate. Many of the surrounding counties are facing similar challenges and some have indicated they would be willing to discuss opportunities to work together to improve each respective county's recycling program.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

**Table 4-9 Program Implementation Timeline**

Year	Legal and Administrative	Education and Research	Collection and Processing
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize Plan Update</li> <li>• Submit to municipalities for comments</li> <li>• Resolution to adopt plan</li> <li>• Submit plan to DEP for official approval consideration</li> <li>• FQR for Disposal Capacity</li> <li>• Adopt revised Solid Waste Ordinance</li> <li>• Adopt revised Hauling Ordinance</li> <li>• Execute documents with disposal facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Initiate education of Cambria businesses program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue pursuit of funding for Cambria County SWA MRF Development as feasible</li> <li>• Submit 902 Grant Application for new collection truck for Big Blue Bin drop-off program</li> <li>• Perform RFP for electronic waste collection for a 3 year contract</li> </ul>
2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> <li>• Re-start Recycling Summer Camp or similar kids education one day event/fair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate/perform RFP for Sale of Recyclable Materials from Big Blue Bin Recycling Program</li> <li>• HHW Collection</li> <li>• Implement expanded OCC/Junk mail recycling if 902 Grant application was successful</li> </ul>
2014		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate initiating permanent drop-off freon Appliance Collection at SWA</li> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>
2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> <li>• Perform RFP for electronic waste collection for a 3 year contract</li> <li>• Investigate expanding electronics recycling program for additional site or materials</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review illegal dumping ordinance and illegal dumping program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and Consider expanding municipal composting program(s)</li> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>
2018		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> <li>• Perform RFP for electronic waste collection for a 3 year contract</li> <li>• Evaluate and consider holding multiple HHW events annually</li> </ul>
2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate Cambria County MSW Plan Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>
2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> <li>• Perform RFP for electronic waste collection for a 3 year contract</li> </ul>
2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>
2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise in Newspaper 2X about BigBlueBins</li> <li>• Publish Newsletter electronically 2X per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHW Collection</li> </ul>

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

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### 4.7 PRIVATE RECYCLING OPERATIONS

The section above detailed the County and Municipal recycling programs and systems. There is a limited amount of private entity recycling in Cambria County other than the multiple scrap yards that operate in the area. These scrap yards accept a multitude of metal items from industry/businesses and the public. A full list of scrap yards, the materials they accept and a listing of outlets for “hard to recycle items” is provided in Appendix Q. Hard to recycle items include items such as tires, batteries and used motor oil which a variety of retail outlets often collect as a service to their customers as the wastes relate directly to the products these stores sell. For example, larger auto parts stores except used oil and automotive batteries free of charge, while most tire dealers will accept old tires for a small fee.

Conversely, private drop-off collection for typical bottle, cans and paper recyclable materials is limited in the County, which is one of the main reasons that the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority began its drop-off recycling program in the late 1990’s. The Authority’s approach to providing recycling and solid waste services/programs is to not offer services that are readily offered in the area by the private sector or by other organizations. This is done so as not to impact local businesses and also to more effectively utilize the Authority’s resources. Essentially, the Authority’s program aims to fill the voids in recycling and disposal options not provided by other organizations in the County. The Authority openly works with businesses and organizations in the waste industry to facilitate an ever broadening range of waste management options. Moreover, one of the Authority’s goals is to educate the public about these opportunities and serve as a centralized source in the County for this information. Information is available on the Authority website, brochures and by directly contacting the Authority.

Only one entity other than the Authority, a private company called Waste Management, Inc., operates a “bottle and can” drop-off recycling program. The company has a roll off container in two locations, one at the Jackson Township Municipal building near Mundy’s Corner and the other at the company’s landfill located near Vintondale. The items collected include Brown Glass, Clear Glass, Aluminum Cans and Steel Cans. Waste Management does this not with an intent to make a profit from the materials it collects. Rather the company performs this service as a condition of its disposal permit for their in-County facility, Laurel Highlands Landfill, as an accord with their host municipality, Jackson Township, and as a good will gesture to the community.

Similarly, processing options in Cambria County have historically been very limited as there has not been a functioning modern MRF locally. Recently However, Pro Disposal, a waste hauler serving the area and located in Portage, has initiated their own small MRF and is continuing to make upgrades to that facility. In the near future the facility, which currently operates two manual feed balers, plans on adding a sorting line in an effort to accept commingled materials. Currently the company processes the material it collects from its local curbside contract and subscription customers, both residential and commercial. In the future this MRF may provide an option to other local haulers, including the Authority, which now takes recyclables out of the County for processing. It should be noted that traditionally most waste haulers have taken recyclables to the Burgmeier’s transfer station or the Waste Management transfer station, both located just north of Altoona, PA in neighboring Blair County.

Other “specialty” processing in Cambria County occurs at companies whose main business is something other than recycling but recycling processing serves to facilitate the main business operation. One such company is Cambria Plastic (a.k.a Pandya or PA Wood Products) in the Hornerstown section of Johnstown. The company processes plastic bottles and jugs as well as other types of residential, commercial and industrial plastics. Cambria Plastic segregates the plastic. Some grades are baled or otherwise processed and sold in bulk, while other types are processed and used as a raw material to fabricate various products on site like deck boards, bumper stops, retaining wall block and similar items. The business recycles approximately 200 to 250 tons annually from commercial and residential sources and additional tonnage from industrial/agricultural sources.

## **4. DESCRIPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS**

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Likewise, Business Records Management is a document shredding company that operates in Richland Township. The company provides secure document destruction for a fee and then bales the resultant shredded fiber for recycling. In 2010 the company recycled 419 tons of sorted office paper from Cambria County sources.

In the category of reuse there are several not-for-profit organizations that operate facilities in Cambria County such as Goodwill (locations in Richland Twp, Ebensburg, and Northern Cambria Borough), The Salvation Army (located in Johnstown), and St. Vincent Depaul Society (locations in Cresson Borough, Carrolltown, Ebensburg, Lilly Borough, Nanty Glo Borough, Northern Cambria Borough and Johnstown). It should be noted that these organizations perform a small amount of recycling for items they collect which cannot be utilized for reuse, which manly consists of scrap clothing and scrap metal.

Goodwill also operates a somewhat clandestine e-waste processing operation for the donated electronics they receive. While the service Goodwill provides may be appreciated, it is not clear at this juncture if they have or are required to have permits from the PA DEP to operate. This is an issue that has been discussed by the Authority with DEP, and an inquiry by the DEP is pending. On another matter related to Goodwill, the organization and the Authority have initiated some discussions about how the two entities may be able to collaborate on common waste management efforts. Though several communications have occurred, such talks are in their infancy and coordinating efforts are in the investigative stage.

It is the intent of the Authority to communicate with all the organizations engaged in recycling and solid waste in Cambria County and throughout the region in an effort to improve the effectiveness of waste management measures including proper disposal in general and waste reduction, reuse and recycling efforts in particular.

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section is to describe the process used to select the overall waste management system for the County and provide justification for the selection. The County must ensure that the selected system provides the required capacity needed to properly dispose of all municipal waste generated within its boundaries for the next ten years.

This plan must provide for a fair, open and competitive market for the management of municipal waste generated in the County.

To ensure a fair, open and competitive market for the management of the County's municipal waste stream, it is important to understand what this means. Below are definitions of these three terms:

- ◆ Fair – marked by impartiality and honesty, free from self-interest, prejudice or favoritism.
- ◆ Open – not restricted to a particular group or category of participants.
- ◆ Competitive – having multiple entities available to supply goods and services, rather than only one or two entrenched entities.

The system defined in this Plan must ensure that the County meets its legislative mandate of securing disposal capacity for all municipal waste generated in the County and creates the fair, open and competitive market place required by the State's policy on the content of County Municipal Waste Management Plans.

The current municipal waste system implemented by Cambria County involves the use of a combination of private facilities, and allows County haulers and municipalities the choice of disposal facility.

- ◆ Most waste collection and all waste disposal services are managed by the private sector.
- ◆ Curbside recycling service, where available, is handled mostly by the private sector while only a small percentage is handled by municipal crews.
- ◆ The County Solid Waste Authority manages the operation of a recyclable drop-off collection system and oversees special waste programs.
- ◆ Disposal of C&D waste are managed by the private sector.
- ◆ Other recyclables such as scrap metals, used oil and other non-Act 101 recyclables are managed largely by the private sector.
- ◆ Biosolids and septage are managed by a combination of private and municipal entities.
- ◆ Infectious and chemotherapeutic waste is managed privately.

It is the intent of this Plan update to maintain current system as summarized above by securing disposal capacity with multiple facilities and continue to allow registered haulers and municipalities to select the facility that best meets their needs for managing the municipal waste they collect from the list of County designated disposal facilities. However, C&D and Sewage Sludge disposal will not be required to occur at a designated facility

The reasons for selecting to continue with the current system are as follows:

- ◆ **Fulfills Public Goals**—The system defined herein was the preferred system selected by Cambria County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and local officials when the current Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan was developed and designated. This fully integrated system was selected on its technical, economical, environmental and long-term merits that are discussed in detail in the original Plan.

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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- ◆ **Convenience**—Materials are currently flowing from points of generation to disposal or recycling sites with little or no difficulty. The locations of the facilities designated for disposal of municipal waste are within a direct haul driving distance for County registered haulers. The processing facility for recyclable materials is regionally accessible (located in Indiana County) to haulers and the County, which operates a recycling drop-off collection system. Some haulers also utilize Waste Management Inc’s Altoona Transfer Station or Burgmeier Hauling’s Blair County Resource Recovery Facility for marketing recyclables.
- ◆ **Cost-Effectiveness**—Registered haulers have the option of selecting the designated disposal facility that offers the best opportunity to meet their individual needs to deliver municipal waste collected from County sources. Therefore, they are at liberty to use the facility offering the most competitive tipping fee, within the most reasonable driving distance from the areas serviced by the haulers. The locations of facilities are generally convenient to the haulers.
- ◆ **Flexibility**—The County has not committed any specific amount of municipal waste to any of the disposal facilities designated in this Plan. Therefore, if a County registered hauler, municipality or business can secure a more competitive tipping fee at a facility other than those designated; additional facilities can be added as opportunities arise. This Plan defines a specific process and time-line for facilities to be added to the Plan in the future. There are options within a reasonable direct-haul driving distance from the County for managing recyclables, yard waste, biosolids and septage, and other special wastes. Having a number of facilities available results in competition that helps keep costs under control.
- ◆ **Sufficient Capacity**—The system has more than adequate capacity to manage all municipal waste and recyclables generated in Cambria County. There is no need to seek additional facilities or consider other management options unless substantial changes occur in waste generation or unless costs and opportunities change related to other management options. As mentioned, the County is investigating the benefits and viability of an in-county transfer station for consolidating and transferring county generated waste and/or recyclables.

### 5.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Since the previous plan update, changes as a result of legislation, court decisions and State policy adversely affected some of the components of the waste management system which the year 2000 Plan developed. As a result when considering the waste management plan for the next 10 years many alternatives were explored. The SWAC spent several meetings and many hours discussing the pros and cons of numerous possibilities (see SWAC Minutes in the Appendix). The SWAC determined that two options were the most logical and feasible. One option was the “Transfer Station” option while the other option was to continue on with the “status quo” or existing system that had operated over the previous two planning periods with some modifications to comply with current standards (see section 5.2.3).

The system selected was the existing waste disposal system (see 5.2.3).

#### 5.2.1 RECYCLING SYSTEMS

The County will depend on privately and publicly operated material recovery facilities (MRFs) that currently provide for the processing and marketing of recyclables collected in Cambria County during this ten-year planning period. While these MRFs have sufficient capacity to manage the recyclables now being generated within the County, the location of some of these facilities requires longer than ideal hauling distance for the delivery of materials. Therefore though the County has not played a role in the processing of these materials in the past, and the likelihood it would do so during this ten-year planning period is small, the County will not limit options that may improve the sustainability of the program. While the County completed a feasibility study for the construction and operation of its own MRF in 2008, the startup costs have proven to be prohibitive. However if opportunities arise the County may

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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continue to explore that possibility. Similarly the County intends to prepare an RFP in the near future for the sale of the recyclable material it collects. New developments in local and regional waste and recycling industry suggest that there may be interest from different organizations to purchase the County's material, whereas in the past the processing/marketing options were limited.

The County continues to operate a system to collect recyclable materials from County residents and visitors through a countywide drop-off program with at least 19 collection locations. Until the RFP mentioned previously is complete, recyclable materials collected will be delivered to existing facilities within the region. Currently the County delivers materials to the Indiana County MRF primarily, however the County reserves the right to market/deliver its own materials elsewhere should opportunities present themselves. The agreement between the County and the Indiana County MRF can be found in the Appendix.

The County actively encourages schools and other institutions to recycle. For example two of the County's big blue bin drop-off locations are located at local colleges (University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Saint Francis University) in an effort to facilitate recycling on the respective campuses. (Note: these locations are open to the public as well.) In addition the County often responds to requests from K-12 schools for help with establishing recycling programs and has had success with establishing and improving recycling at several districts in the county.

The County will also encourage additional recycling when it is economically feasible, directing generators to deliver materials to existing facilities within the region. This includes: 1) allowing for the greater collection of materials (ex. adding plastics #3-7); 2) providing technical assistance to help non-mandated municipalities establish curbside recycling if the interest exists; 3) encouraging greater collection and processing of woody vegetation/brush, using equipment purchased by municipalities with Act 101 Section 902 Grant funds; 4) encouraging businesses and institutions to reassess their efforts and develop and /or expand recycling programs when it is economically feasible; and 5) pursue more efficient tracking/data collection of recyclable material tonnages not being taken to the Indiana County MRF for processing and marketing.

### 5.2.2 ALTERNATIVE MUNICIPAL WASTE SYSTEMS

The County evaluated alternative management options for managing all or portions of the municipal waste generated in the County as part of the original Plan development. At that time, landfill disposal appeared to offer the best option for management of the County's municipal waste, particularly given the amount of available landfill disposal capacity in and around the County. Additionally, landfill-tipping fees in the region were and remain economically competitive with alternative management options.

In addition the County will continue to rely on the public operations that compost county generated yard waste.

As part of this update process, the County evaluated the feasibility of operating a county owned transfer station.

#### **The Transfer Station Option**

As part of the transfer station option a County owned transfer station would be constructed and county generated MSW would be flow controlled to that facility. To fully explore and evaluate the transfer station option a feasibility study was undertaken (see Appendix for Transfer Station Feasibility Study) which considered the costs and impacts of such a waste management system.

Some of the advantages of a County owned transfer station include the following:

- ◆ all haulers in the County would pay the same tipping fee at the transfer station
- ◆ some haulers would have a shorter direct haul to the transfer station than to a landfill

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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- ◆ the County would have considerable leverage in bidding/negotiating a tipping fee with one or more landfills given that they would control 100% of the county generated municipal waste and should result in a lower tip fee based on economies of scale
- ◆ with a lower tipping fee, the County could include a recycling sustainability fee to the gate rate at the transfer station without a substantial change to the total costs to municipalities and County residents
- ◆ the County could expand the transfer station to include a recycling MRF and/or composting facility with a relatively small additional capital expenditure
- ◆ the County Solid Waste Authority would have immediate access to refuse and recycling data (as opposed to relying on the landfills and MRFs to supply them periodically)

However there were several major draw backs to implementing the transfer station option. The two most notable were the initial cost of construction and the fact that it would require the cooperation of the municipalities in Cambria County to assure that the MSW generated in the County be delivered to the County transfer station. Also, this would imply that a Substantial Plan Revision to the current Municipal Waste Management Plan Update be developed by the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority to implement Flow Control of MSW through the transfer station. Substantial Plan Revisions require ratification by more than ½ of the municipalities, representing more than ½ of the County population, and would also require additional public meetings to present the advantages and costs of the proposed revisions.

Ultimately, because of the current economic and political climate there is little to no financial support available to construct a transfer station and ultimately this is why the transfer station option was deemed unfeasible at this point in time. It will however remain a possibility to consider in the future.

This option was dismissed due to the start-up costs and lack of financial support as previously noted. See the Transfer Station report in the Appendix for details.

### 5.2.3 SELECTED SYSTEM - EXISTING MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

The County will provide for the required disposal capacity through agreements with numerous regional landfills. Specifically, the County will have agreements with one or more facilities to accept municipal solid waste from Cambria County. It is speculated that there will be multiple facilities designated, as there were in the past Plan and given the fact that waste now flows to several facilities. Facilities will be identified through an FQR during the implementation portion of the Plan. The complete FQR and the subsequent resultant designated facilities list is/will be provided in the Appendix. All factors indicate that the total capacity that will be available to Cambria County through these agreements will significantly surpass the projected capacity required for 2011 (108,170 tons, the highest year projected over the ten year planning period). This is supported by the amount of facility responses; eight in total, to a failed FQR which was performed in December 2010 (see Chapter 6 for details). This would have potentially resulted in capacity assurance of 208,000 tons annually or nearly twice the highest project annual tonnage. With multiple designated facilities, even if there is a disruption in service for any reason at any one facility, there will be more than sufficient backup capacity for the foreseeable future.

The facility qualification process will be conducted by collecting pertinent information on disposal facilities interested in being considered for inclusion in the Cambria County Plan through a process called “Facility Qualification Request” (FQR). The FQR packet is contained in the Appendix. The primary criteria for qualifying the facilities include: (1) willingness to comply with the terms and conditions of the County’s Disposal Capacity Agreement (Agreement); (2) demonstration that the facility is accepting waste from County sources or indication of intent to accept Cambria County waste; (3) possession of all necessary State and local permits to operate facility; (4) a good compliance record; and (5) willingness to assure capacity for all or part of the municipal waste generated in the County. All

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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qualified respondents will be disposal facilities; waste processing facilities such as transfer stations will not be qualified. Any municipal waste delivered to an intermediate facility for processing must ultimately be disposed at an approved facility.

In addition the facilities will be encouraged to donate some tonnage for waste disposal from non-profit activities such as litter prevention road adoptions and illegal dump clean-ups.

Cambria County's Municipal Waste Hauling Ordinance (located in the Appendix) requires that all municipal waste generated in Cambria County must be delivered to County Designated Facilities. This ordinance requires that all persons and municipalities that collect and transport municipal waste in Cambria County must be registered with the County and must deliver Cambria County municipal waste only to facilities qualified and so designated in the Plan. This is how the County assures delivery of waste only to designated facilities. The Cambria County Municipal Waste Hauling Registration application, reporting forms, and Standards for Solid Waste Vehicles are also included in the Appendix.

The planned disposal system appears to be efficient and cost-effective. Having multiple facilities available should help to promote competition that will help to keep the system cost-effective. Having several facilities should also promote efficiency by giving haulers the option of using the closest facility. As noted above, the disposal system is more than sufficient to meet the disposal needs of the County.

### 5.2.4 PROCEDURE TO ADD FACILITIES

If a County registered hauler, municipality or business desires to utilize a facility for the disposal of municipal waste other than those currently under Agreement with the County and duly designated in this Plan, the procedure described below must be followed to obtain County authorization to use another facility. The County is ultimately responsible for disposal of County generated municipal waste. When refuse is delivered to facilities in Pennsylvania, the facility operator is required to identify the origin of the waste by County if from in-state sources. Therefore, the County assumes certain liabilities for refuse delivered from County sources. The County must be certain that any facility used for the deposition of its waste minimizes the County's risks by operating a facility that is in full compliance with State and federal rules and regulations. The following procedure will enable the County to be reasonably assured that County generated waste is being properly managed. Additional designation of facilities will be predicated on the facility complying with all the terms and conditions of the Disposal Capacity Agreement, consistent with all the other designated disposal facilities.

The procedure is as follows:

- ◆ First, a County registered hauler, municipality or business must petition the County using the one page form shown in Exhibit 5-1 to have a facility considered for adding to this Plan.
- ◆ Within in ten working days of receiving the completed petition form, the County will forward a copy of the FQR to the facility being requested for inclusion in the Plan
- ◆ Upon receipt of the completed FQR from the facility in question, the County will review and respond to the information in the FQR within 20 working days.
- ◆ If all information is in order, the County will mail a Disposal Capacity Agreement to the facility.
- ◆ After fully executing the Agreement, the County will notify in writing all County municipalities, registered haulers, and to PA DEP that an additional designated disposal facility has been added to the Plan as a non-substantial plan revision.
- ◆ At that time any registered hauler, municipality or business will be at liberty to use the facility for disposal of Cambria County generated municipal waste.

It is the intent of the County to make the process of adding a facility as simple and expeditious as possible. If the facility representative responds in a timely manner to the FQR, the entire process could take less than sixty days.

## **5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION**

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A complete packet with instructions to successfully complete the process of adding a facility to this Plan is included in the Appendix.

### **5.2.5 EXISTING ALTERNATIVES**

There are currently no known options in Cambria County, other than those described within this plan, for the processing and marketing of recyclable materials, disposal of MSW (including C&D waste), and management of septage, white goods, and infectious and chemotherapeutic wastes.

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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### Exhibit 5-1

#### Cambria County Disposal Facility Petition Form to Add a Facility

**Purpose of Petitioning Process** – Cambria County has, through Disposal Capacity Agreements, secured a sufficient amount of disposal capacity for all municipal waste generated from County sources. However, business opportunities may arise for County registered haulers, municipalities or businesses with disposal facilities other than those designated in the County’s Municipal Waste Management Plan (Plan) that attract the interest of these parties to use another facility. Therefore, the County’s Plan has defined a process by which additional facilities can be added to the Plan. This form is used to notify the County of a party’s interest in using another facility and provides the County with the necessary information to contact a facility representative to qualify the facility as a participant in the Plan. Please complete this form and forward to the:

**Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority**

**PO Box 445  
507 Manor Drive  
Ebensburg, PA 15931**

**Petitioning Party’s Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Requested Facility:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Explanation for requesting additional facility:**

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**(Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary)**

## **5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION**

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### **5.3 BIOSOLIDS AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Cambria County will continue to rely on the current system for managing biosolids and septage. Biosolids management involves processing of waste water in facilities located throughout the County into biosolids that are primarily landfilled. The designated disposal facilities contained in this Plan accept biosolids for disposal and this material is included as part of the disposal capacity reserved for Cambria County. Further information regarding the management of septic waste is described in Section 1.

Because the existing system is capable of managing biosolids and septage generated in Cambria County, no further options are being considered for the disposal of this material at this time.

### **5.4 INFECTIOUS AND CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC WASTE**

The current system for managing infectious and chemotherapeutic waste generated in hospitals, nursing homes and other medical facilities, which is managed solely by the private sector, is adequate for handling this material. The County will continue to rely on this system and is not considering other options for this ten-year planning period.

### **5.5 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Information regarding the management of household hazardous waste is presented in Section 1.

### **5.6 INAPPROPRIATE METHODS OF DISPOSAL**

Every county in Pennsylvania has had to address problems that result if its residents do not dispose of the wastes they generate in a legal, responsible manner. This section addresses issues that are of concern to Cambria County.

#### **5.6.1 ILLEGAL DUMPING**

Like most counties in Pennsylvania, illegal dumping occurs in both urban and rural areas of Cambria County. While most would view illegal dumps as eyesores, they also create significant concerns for public health and safety, property values, and the general quality of life. When they are ignored, these sites often become chronic dumping areas. Preventing illegal dumping will require the County to address factors that contribute to this problem. Cleaning up existing dumps will require cooperation from residents, businesses, haulers, and disposal facilities in the area.

Many counties in Pennsylvania have a problem because of the large number of municipalities that manage residential waste through individual subscription systems. In these municipalities, some residents choose to dump their waste illegally rather than pay for a hauler to collect their waste and dispose of it properly. However, there are other factors that contribute to the problem. Some haulers will not collect what might be considered construction and demolition waste generated at the residential level as a result of remodeling and similar activities—materials such as drywall, roofing shingles, siding, lumber, bricks, and concrete. Other difficult to dispose of items such as tires, auto parts, appliances, and furniture also end up in illegal dumps. Proper disposal of these materials may require hauling them to a disposal facility during operating hours and paying to dispose of them, an inconvenience or expense that dumpers may wish to avoid. In Cambria County some municipalities are working diligently to identify, reduce and eliminate the illegal dumping.

The County addresses illegal dumping of waste through its Illegal Dumping Ordinance and the work of its Compliance Officer as well as thru educational programs and the Education Coordinator. In addition nearly all municipalities have ordinances that prohibit illegal dumping though it is not clear whether or not the municipalities are fully enforcing these.

Even with the County's Illegal Dumping Ordinance to prohibit illegal dumping and provide for punishment for the activity, the effectiveness of the prohibition requires the cooperation of (1) law

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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enforcement personnel in responding to calls from the Authority's Compliance Officer and investigating/prosecuting illegal dumpers and (2) the court system in trying/sentencing offenders.

Therefore additional action is needed to address the cleanup and safe disposal of materials in existing dumps and to prevent further dumping. Cambria County has an active chapter of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB), a non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, remediating and ending illegal dumping and littering. This organization, through a network of local volunteers, works with municipalities, businesses, law enforcement personnel and disposal facilities to clean up existing dumps, identify and punish those who dump illegally, and monitor problem areas to help prevent future dumping. KPB also regularly hold collection events for bulky waste and hard to dispose items as a means of providing proper disposal for items that people may otherwise be tempted to illegally dump. The Authority will continue to work with the organization to address the illegal dumping problem through the ten-year planning period and into the future.

KPB has surveyed 49 Pennsylvania counties and identified 5,386 illegal dump sites with an estimated 16,367 tons of waste. Cambria County was part of a group of counties that had this survey completed in 2010. According to the study there were 203 dumpsites identified in Cambria County on public lands along roadways. These sites contained and estimated 254.13 tons of trash. Eighty-four percent of the sites were determined to be active and eighty-seven percent of the sites were located in rural areas. Fifty-five percent of the sites were within 50 feet of a waterway or body of water. Of those, 27 sites had waste directly in the waterway. Of the items inventoried at each dumpsite, 82% of the sites contained household trash, 80% had recyclables, 79% had tires, 58% had some sort of construction and demolition waste and 47% of the sites had bagged trashed. A full copy of the report may be found at the KPB website which is <http://keepbeautiful.org>

### 5.6.2 WASTE BURNING

Cambria County does not prohibit burning of waste nor does the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is the responsibility of municipalities to determine rules for any waste burning that takes place within their borders. Though a number of municipalities permit some types of open burning most limit open burning or prohibit it completely. Burning is not a preferred method of waste disposal because of environmental problems that result.

Regulating burning and enforcement is the responsibility of municipalities. The County does not hold responsibility for these activities within municipalities. If a municipality permits its residents to burn waste, the municipality is encouraged to establish rules/regulations that safeguard residents and to enforce them to protect the residents' health and safety. The County encourages all residents to store and dispose of waste safely, preferably through collection by a County registered hauler and disposal at a County approved facility. It should be noted that much of the County's population resides in the Johnstown air basin which is a "non attainment area" under the Clean Air Act where open burning is strictly regulated.

It is theorized however that due to the rural nature of much of the county, many residents choose to burn their trash in backyard burn barrels. This open burning practice is one reason why the reported amount of waste disposed from the county differs from the state-wide average per capita generation rates established by PA DEP.

Brochures from the US EPA explaining the dangers of and alternatives to open burning are included in Appendix P.

## 5. SELECTION AND JUSTIFICATION

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## 6. LOCATION

The purpose of this section is to identify the physical location of disposal facilities which will be used for the disposal of municipal solid waste generated in Cambria County. These facilities will be identified through the fair, open and competitive procurement process discussed in Section Five and will serve as the designated disposal facilities of Cambria County generated waste for the next ten years.

Because the FQR process for disposal capacity will occur as part of the implementation portion of this plan update, only speculation can be made as to the exact successful respondents. However, in December 2010 a similar FQR was advertised as part of the Plan update process. Due to unforeseen issues, all responses to the December 2010 FQR were rejected and it was deemed that a new FQR would be performed. As a means of projecting plausible disposal facilities, which will be qualified during the implementation phase, Table 6-1 lists the respondent facilities to the failed December 2010 FQR. Figure 6-1 shows a map of these facilities' locations. Note that these facilities would have provided more than sufficient assured capacity to provide disposal capacity required for Cambria County generated municipal waste over the next ten years.

**Table 6-1 Estimated FQR Respondents for Disposal Capacity**

<b>Cumberland County Landfill</b> 620 Newville Road Newburg, PA 17240 Cumberland County Contact Person: Kevin Bush Phone Number: (717) 423-5393 Owner: <i>Interstate Waste Services</i>	<b>Sandy Run Landfill</b> 956 Landfill Road Hopewell, PA 16650 Bedford County Contact Person: Barry L. Clark Phone Number: (814) 928-5001 Owner: <i>Interstate Waste Services</i>
<b>Mostoller Landfill, Inc.</b> 7095 Glades Pike Somerset, PA 15501 Somerset County Contact Person: Scott Lambert Phone Number: (814) 444-0112 Owner: <i>Interstate Waste Services</i>	<b>Wayne Township Landfill</b> P.O. Box 209 McElhattan, PA 17748 Clinton County Contact Person: Jay Alexander Phone Number: (570) 769-7600 Owner: <i>Clinton County Solid Waste Authority</i>
<b>Laurel Highlands Landfill</b> 260 Laurel Ridge Road Johnstown, PA 15909 Cambria County Contact Person: Brad Minemeyer Phone Number: (814) 525-0910 Owner: <i>Waste Management</i>	<b>Shade Landfill</b> 1176 No. 1 Road Cairnbrook, PA 15924 Somerset County Contact Person: Darrell Klink Phone Number: (814) 754-1110 Owner: <i>Waste Management</i>
<b>Southern Alleghenies Landfill</b> 843 Miller Picking Road Davidsville, PA 15928 Somerset County Contact Person: Darrell Klink Phone Number: (814) 479-2537 Owner: <i>Waste Management</i>	<b>Evergreen Landfill</b> 118 N. Luciousbrus Road Coral, PA 15731 Indiana County Contact Person: Brad Minemeyer Phone Number: (814) 525-0910 Owner: <i>Waste Management</i>

The only disposal facility from the 2000 Plan Update that did not respond to the failed December 2010 FQR is Veolia Greentree Landfill. (See Table 2-1 for the complete list of facilities designated under the 2000 Plan). In addition, all disposal facilities approved under the 2010 plan were sent notification of the FQR. It should be noted that Veolia Greentree receives only a modicum of MSW from Cambria

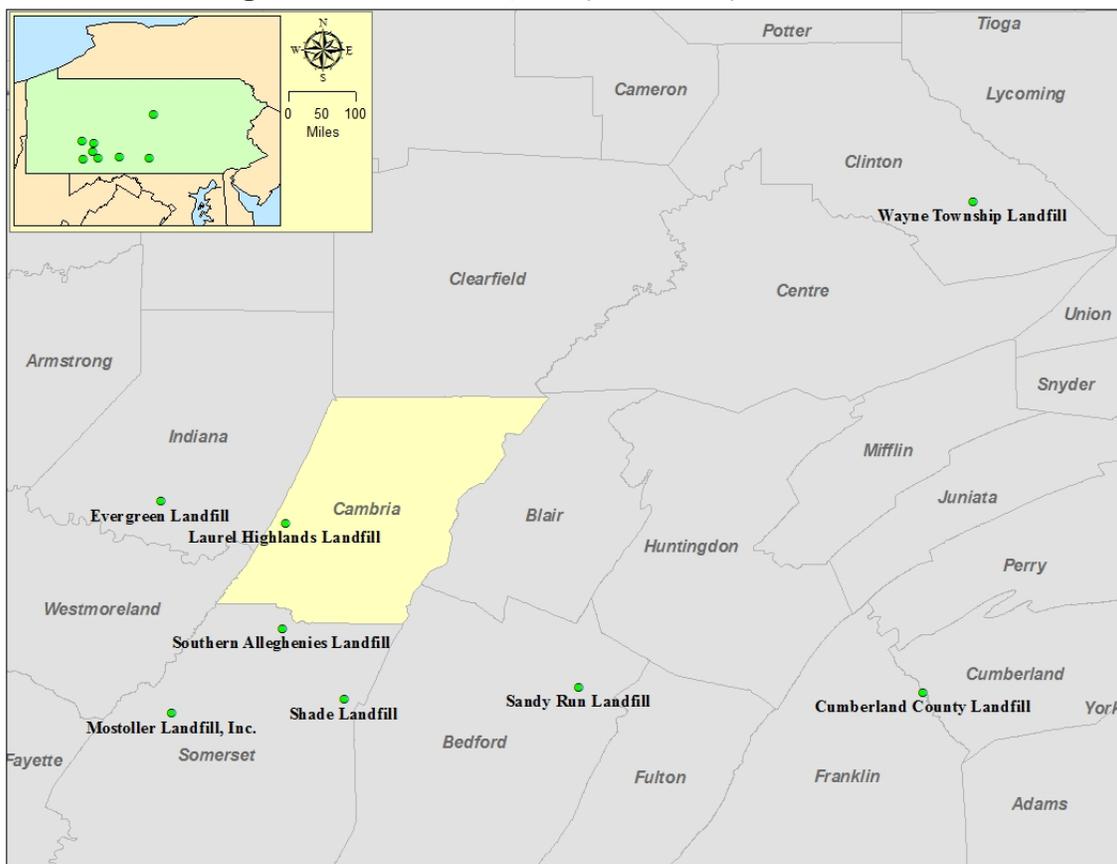
## 6. LOCATION

County (only 24 tons in 2011) and that the facility has changed ownership since the 2000 plan update so these may be reasons why they did not respond.

Two disposal facilities, Sandy Run Landfill and Wayne Township Landfill, were not part of the 2000 Plan Update. Neither of these facilities currently receives MSW from Cambria County sources.

Most importantly, all the facilities that currently accept an appreciable amount of MSW responded to the December 2010 FQR. When the new FQR is issued during the implementation phase, all facilities currently accepting MSW from Cambria County sources will be directly notified so that they will have every opportunity to respond. Nevertheless, as detailed in Section 5.2, disposal facilities may still be added after the FQR process is complete. This provides some flexibility but it appears that any changes through this mechanism would be minor. This estimation is supported by the current waste disposal factors, economic issues and the fact that geographic distance and related transportation expense often dictates that waste flows to facilities closest to the source of waste. All the facilities which one might consider being a feasible distance for standard was transportation responded. Therefore, it is expected that respondents to the new FQR will be quite similar if not exactly the same as those in table 6-1 this has been supported by a review of the DEP's Waste Destination reports. A look at these reports covering the last year and a half supports all the statements above regarding which facilities are accepting significant amounts of MSW from Cambria County sources. Correspondingly, no additional disposal facilities requested to be added during the term of the 2000 plan, as it also had a similar mechanism to add facilities as described for this plan update in Section 5.2.

**Figure 6-1 Estimated FQR Respondent Disposal Facilities**



## 7. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY IDENTIFICATION

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The Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority, which was established in 1979 as an administrative arm of the County government is responsible for implementing the County's Municipal Waste Management Plan. The County Commissioners authorized organization of the Authority with the stated purpose of planning and regulating the storage, collection, transportation, processing and disposal of solid waste in Cambria County.

The function of this office involves the following principal activities:

- ◆ Overseeing municipal solid waste collection, storage, transportation and disposal services.
- ◆ Reviewing the operation of private solid waste collection, storage, transportation and disposal services.
- ◆ Aiding and assisting the Commonwealth in the application and enforcement of rules and regulations pertaining to solid waste management.
- ◆ Assisting communities in adopting, issuing and enforcing local rules and regulations.
- ◆ Assisting in informing the County and municipalities about changes in federal and state laws, rules and regulations that may affect or would affect solid waste management in the County or municipalities.
- ◆ Operating the Countywide drop-off recycling collection program which includes coordinating the electronic drop-off program.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance to municipalities in implementing municipal recycling and composting programs.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance to commercial establishments and institutions in implementing recycling programs.
- ◆ Operating any special projects sponsored by the County.
- ◆ Planning and implementing County-wide programs to provide general education to the public about recycling and composting, and to provide information about the range of recycling opportunities throughout the County.
- ◆ Collecting and evaluating data on recycling and waste generation by municipality and County.
- ◆ Collecting and evaluating data on recycling and waste generation by commercial, institutional and industrial establishments in the County.
- ◆ Preparing required reports to the DEP.
- ◆ Applying for grants to carry out Countywide recycling and composting programs, administering grants received, and reporting on results

The Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority has historically served as the entity responsible for implementing and operating the Plan, and will continue to do so in conjunction with the Commissioner's Office.

The County's 2011 operating budget is approximately \$350,000 to \$550,000, which includes:

- ◆ Personnel and related expenses
- ◆ Office expenses
- ◆ Solid waste planning expenses
- ◆ Recycling Program services—operation of the County Recycling Drop-off Collection System.

## 7. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY IDENTIFICATION

Below is a summary of the revenues and costs incurred by the Solid Waste Authority to fulfill its obligation as the implementing entity for Cambria County.

**Table 7-1 Cambria County SWA 2012 Adopted Budget**

Budget Line Item	Actual 2011	Adopted 2012
<b>Income</b>		
Cambria County Allocations	\$280,000	\$380,000
Electronics Drop-Off Fee Rev	\$4,726	\$5,000
Electronics DEP Grant	\$6,871	\$5,000
Host Municipality Inspection Grant	\$554	\$400
Household Hazardous Collection	\$5,000	\$0
Interest Income	\$68	\$50
PA DEP Act 101 Grants	\$91,796	\$54,000
Recycled Material Sales	\$99,815	\$88,000
<b>Subtotal Income</b>	<b>\$488,830</b>	<b>\$532,450</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
902 (possible matching funds)	\$545	\$5,050
903 Grant (50% reimbursed)	\$844	\$1,990
County MSW Plan Update	\$860	\$3,000
Electronic Recycling (50% Reimbursed)	\$6,307	\$13,975
Employee Compensation (incl. benefits)	\$327,073	\$337,800
Hazardous Waste Collection	\$5,021	\$5,000
HMI (Landfill Inspection)	\$100	\$100
Building Maintenance	\$34	\$200
Miscellaneous	\$266	\$490
Office Administration	\$8,741	\$12,621
Recycling Program	\$2,590	\$33,160
Recycling Fleet Expenses	\$94,509	\$118,900
<b>Subtotal - Expenses</b>	<b>\$446,890</b>	<b>\$532,286</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$41,940</b>	<b>\$164</b>

## 8. PUBLIC FUNCTION

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Cambria County does not intend to purchase or operate its own disposal facility, though it will investigate the feasibility of transfer station as part of this update process. Consequently, this Plan does not contain any information relative to the costs or development of such a disposal facility. The County does plan to continue operating its current drop-off recycling program, and where applicable, continue marketing materials collected from depots at the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority's Recycling Center. However opportunities improve the drop-off program will be evaluated as they arise, including the possibility of utilizing local recyclable materials processing whether it be publicly or privately operated. The County reserves the right to do such as detailed in its agreement with Indiana County Solid Waste Authority.

Cambria County utilizes the private sector to manage most aspects of the municipal waste collection and disposal system. The County intends to continue to rely on the private sector to provide municipal waste collection and disposal services. It is more than likely that the private sector will remain responsible for managing recyclable materials generated by commercial and institutional entities in Cambria County, including collection, processing and marketing, and for collection of materials from municipal curbside recycling programs. Ultimately, however, this decision lies with the individual municipalities. While the private sector is responsible for managing commercial/institutional and curbside recyclables, these materials can be delivered by private haulers to the Indiana County Recycling Center—a public facility—for processing, or to any private facility that has agreed to process these materials.

The public sector will continue to process wastewater into sewage sludge that is generally disposed in private sector facilities. The private sector will continue to be responsible for the collection, processing and disposal of liquid sludge and septage and infectious and chemotherapeutic waste.

## 8. PUBLIC FUNCTION

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## 9 IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS

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The documents necessary for implementation of this Plan are:

- ◆ **Sample Municipal Waste Disposal Capacity Agreement.** This is the mechanism by which the County will assure capacity for County-generated municipal wastes at County Designated Facilities as defined in this Plan. Any facility that wishes to qualify as a County Designated Facility must agree to the provisions of this Agreement, which ensures consistent treatment among all facilities that are to be used for Cambria County waste. This Agreement would also apply to any facilities that are added to the Plan in the future.
- ◆ **Facility Qualification Request.** This is the document that will be used to qualify facilities to provide all or part of the municipal waste disposal capacity Cambria County needs to fulfill its legislative obligation under Act 101 for a ten year planning period. It will be used to qualify the facilities in this Plan update and is available to qualify additional facilities in the future, should one become available and desirable to a business, waste hauling company, municipality or other source a municipal waste that wants to utilize a facility not already identified in this Plan update.
- ◆ **Cooperative Agreement between the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority and the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority** for recycling processing and marketing services. The Cooperative Agreement between the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority and the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority for recycling processing and marketing services ensures that all recyclables collected at the County's drop-off recycling depots have sufficient processing capacity at the Indiana County materials recovery facility and that these materials will then be marketed. The Agreement also ensures that Cambria County will receive appropriate data from Indiana County for reporting purposes and, as markets dictate, the specified portion of revenue from the marketing of the material.
- ◆ **Cambria County Municipal Waste Hauling Ordinance.** The ordinance designates disposal facilities, provides flow control requirements to direct waste to designated facilities; provides a registration program for all persons that collect and transport municipal solid waste in Cambria County and provides penalties for violation of the ordinance.
- ◆ **Cambria County Illegal Dumping Ordinance.** The ordinance prohibiting the illegal dumping of County managed and regulated waste on land in Cambria County.
- ◆ **Cambria County Resolution.** Upon completion of this Plan revision, the Cambria County Board of Commissioners will adopt the revised Plan in the form of a resolution. These documents are included as Appendices to the Plan.

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## 10. ORDERLY EXTENSION

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This Plan has been updated to provide for the orderly extension of municipal waste management programs in a manner that is consistent with the needs of Cambria County. The Plan update has been developed with consideration of best available estimates of population and economics, use of best available technologies and good engineering practice, and in accordance with current federal, state and local laws and regulations. It is also substantially in accordance with the management concepts presented in the 2000 Plan.

This Plan does not conflict with any state, regional or local plans.

## 10. ORDERLY EXTENSION

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## **11. METHODS OF DISPOSAL OTHER THAN BY CONTRACTS**

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As described in Section 5, the current municipal waste system in Cambria County is operated by the private sector. Residential and commercial municipal wastes are designated to be processed and/or disposed of in County Designated Facilities with which Cambria County has executed agreements for waste disposal capacity, with the exception of materials that may be reclaimed through beneficial reuse (some biosolids, for example, may potentially be land applied). These agreements are for five years with five one-year renewal periods, effectively giving the County ten years of disposal capacity for its municipal waste. Sufficient capacity is available to dispose of sewage sludge and C&D waste at these facilities as well, although the County supports management options that eliminate the need for disposal, such as land application and other methods of beneficial reuse or processing, as long as these options meet all state and federal requirements.

Management of recyclables is carried out by a combination of public and private sector efforts. The Authority operates a County-wide drop-off program, and has executed an agreement with the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority to process materials generated through this program, and the private sector manages materials generated by the commercial and institutional sectors. Management of ICW is carried out by the private sector through individual arrangements between facilities and processing/disposal operations. The County is not required by this planning process to arrange for processing or disposal capacity for these materials and has elected not to do so (though, as noted above, the Authority is managing recyclable materials received at drop-off locations in the County). The current system has been efficient and cost-effective. There is sufficient capacity for handling these materials, and they are being managed responsibly at this time.

Sewage sludge and septage are managed through a combination of public and private efforts, with public wastewater treatment plants processing most of this material prior to landfill disposal at privately operated facilities. The County includes capacity for sewage sludge in its disposal capacity agreements with designated facilities.

Collection of all types of waste and recyclables (with the exception of the Authority's drop-off collection program, and individual municipal drop-off programs) is managed by the private sector, with some public sector involvement, sometimes under contract, sometimes through open subscription systems (where individual households arrange for collection by any of a number of haulers). Commercial hauling vehicles are required to register with the County. The County's hauling ordinance contains requirements that haulers must observe to operate in Cambria County.

The current system has been efficient and cost-effective. There is sufficient capacity for handling all materials cited above, and they are being managed responsibly at this time.

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## **11. METHODS OF DISPOSAL OTHER THAN BY CONTRACTS**

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## 12. NON-INTERFERENCE

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The Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan will not interfere with the design, construction, operation, financing or contractual obligations of any municipal waste processing or disposal facility. There are facilities in Cambria County and the surrounding counties that can and do accept recyclables and other wastes for processing and/or disposal. The County has not, nor does it plan to, interfere with any part of the construction or operation of these facilities.

## 12. NON-INTERFERENCE

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### 13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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In preparing this Plan update, several methods of public participation were utilized. The primary source of citizen input came from the Cambria County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee is composed of representatives from all classes of municipalities (County, City, Borough, and Township) within Cambria County, the Solid Waste Management Authority, Pennsylvania Cleanways, an industrial representative, and representatives from the solid waste industry located within Cambria County (haulers and landfill operator).

The Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority also was instrumental in providing public participation in the Plan Update. The Authority's executive director facilitated and other staff members of the Authority attended each of the Advisory Committee meetings held at the Penn State University Cooperative Extension Office in Ebensburg, PA.

The SWAC met regularly during the time of the County's involvement in this Plan update process. The group has been involved in every phase of the plan revision process, and the group's input was very important to the process and was taken into consideration in preparing this revised plan. The Committee reviewed and commented on each section of this plan during its preparation. The SWAC did not meet for a length of time from 2011 to 2012 due to circumstances while the County and the DEP worked to resolve several issues. There were no alterations made to the plan that the SWAC did not have a chance to review and comment on. Once the issues were satisfactorily resolved, the SWAC convened to discuss and consider any and all of the proposed modifications.

Dates of all meetings and the minutes generated from each meeting are included in the Appendices.

In October 2012, the Final Plan Update was distributed to the SWAC members, County Board of Commissioners, the County Attorney, Cambria County Municipalities and the public for review and comment. Comments were reviewed and appropriate revisions were incorporated into the Plan. The SWAC voted to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2012 Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan. The Board of Commissioners voted to approve the 2012 Plan and execute the Resolution of Plan approval found in Appendix A.

## 13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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## 14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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There is no additional information that needs to be reported to PA DEP for the development or the implementation of the Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan.

## 14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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