

# Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan Update 2026–2035

Draft Plan

September 2025



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# MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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# MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

## DEFINITIONS

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**ACCEPTABLE WASTE** - Municipal waste and all other wastes the facility is permitted to accept under applicable laws and regulations.

**ACT 101** - The Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988 (SB 528, Act 1988 - 101, July 28, 1988).

**ALTERNATIVE FACILITY** - Any duly licensed or permitted facility designated by the Operator to accept County-generated acceptable wastes during temporary or protracted cessation of operation at the facility.

**AUTHORITY (SWA)** - The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority

**COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT** - An establishment engaged in non-manufacturing or non-processing business, including, but not limited to, stores, markets, office buildings, restaurants, shopping centers, and theaters.

**CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION (C&D) WASTE** - Solid waste resulting from the construction or demolition of buildings and other structures, including, but not limited to, wood, plaster, metals, asphaltic substances, bricks, blocks, and unsegregated concrete. The term does not include the following if they are separate from other waste and are used as clean fill:

- (i) Uncontaminated soil, rock, stone, gravel, brick and block, concrete and used asphalt,
- (ii) Waste from land clearing, grubbing, and excavation, including trees, brush, stumps, and vegetative material.

**COUNTY** - The County of Cambria, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, solely and acting through its designated agent, the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority.

**DISPOSAL FACILITY(IES)** - The disposal facilities identified in the Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan and eligible to receive municipal solid waste from Cambria County in accordance with the executed Disposal Capacity Agreements. It may include other permitted disposal facilities.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE** - A solid waste or combination of solid wastes which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may: (1) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in morbidity in either an individual or the total population; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed or otherwise managed; or (3) is otherwise defined as hazardous by any federal or state statute or regulation.

**INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT** - An establishment engaged in manufacturing and industrial processes, including, but not limited to, those carried out in factories, foundries, mills, processing plants, refineries, mines, and slaughterhouses.



**INSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENT** - An establishment engaged in service, including, but not limited to, public buildings, hospitals (non-infectious waste only), nursing homes, orphanages, schools, and universities.

**LEAF WASTE** - Leaves, garden residues, shrubbery, tree trimmings, and similar material, but not including grass clippings.

**MUNICIPAL WASTE** - Garbage, refuse, industrial lunchroom or office waste and other material, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material, resulting from the operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments or from community activities; and any sludge not meeting the definition of residual or hazardous waste from a municipal, commercial or institutional water supply treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant or air pollution control facility. As per Commonwealth law, municipal waste includes construction/ demolition waste, municipal sludges, asbestos, infectious/chemotherapeutic waste, and incinerator ash residue. The term does not include source-separated recyclable materials or material approved by DEP for beneficial use.

**MUNICIPAL WASTE FACILITY** - A facility that is designed, operated, and maintained for the disposal of municipal waste and permitted by the PADEP for such purposes.

**MUNICIPALITY** - Any city, borough, incorporated town, township, county, or any municipal authority created by any of the foregoing.

**PADEP** - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**PERMIT** - A permit issued by DEP, or a permit and/ or license issued by a state and/ or local regulatory agency, as required, to operate a municipal waste disposal or processing facility.

**PLAN** - The Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan, as prepared by the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority, funded under Act 101 and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

**PROCESSED MEDICAL WASTE** - Regulated medical and chemotherapeutic municipal and residual waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, immunization, or autopsy of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, in the preparation of human or animal remains for interment or cremation, or in the production or testing of biologicals. Waste resulting from the production or use of antineoplastic agents used for the purpose of inhibiting or stopping the growth of malignant cells or killing malignant cells.

**PROCESSING** - Any technology used for the purpose of reducing the volume or bulk of municipal or residual waste or any technology used to convert part of all such materials for off-site reuse. Processing facilities include but are not limited to transfer stations, composting facilities, and resource recovery facilities.

**RECYCLING** - The collection, separation, recovery, and sale or reuse of metals, glass, paper, leaf waste, plastics, and other materials that would otherwise be disposed of or processed as municipal waste or the mechanical separation and treatment of municipal waste (other than combustion) and creation and recovery of reusable materials other than fuel for the operation of energy.



## MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

**RESIDUAL WASTE** - Garbage, refuse, other discarded material or other waste, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, mining, and agricultural operations, and non-hazardous sludges from an industrial, mining, or agricultural water supply treatment facility, wastewater treatment facility or air pollution control facility. The term does not include coal refuse as defined in the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act (52 P. S. § 30.51—30.66).

**RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY** - A facility that provides for the extraction and utilization of materials or energy from municipal waste that is generated off-site, including, but not limited to, a facility that mechanically extracts materials from municipal waste, a combustion facility that converts the organic fraction of municipal waste to usable energy and any chemical or biological process that converts municipal waste into a fuel product or other usable material. The term does not include methane gas extraction from a municipal waste landfill, nor any separation and collection center, drop-off point or collection center for recycling municipal waste, or any source separation or collection center for composting leaf waste.

**SEPTAGE** - The liquid and/or solid material from municipal, commercial, institutional, residential, and/or other sewage systems that is collected or pumped from septic or holding tanks or similar sewage treatment systems, including portable toilets

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OR SYSTEM** - The system by which the County manages the processing and disposal of Municipal Waste generated in the County pursuant to this Plan, including, without limitation, equipment, vehicles, offices, staff, transfer stations, municipal waste combustors, landfills and the like.

**SOURCE-SEPARATED RECYCLABLE MATERIALS** - Materials that are separated from municipal waste at the point of origin for the purpose of recycling, including clear glass, colored glass, aluminum cans, steel and bimetallic cans, high-grade office paper, newsprint, corrugated paper, other marketable grades of paper, plastics, leaf/yard waste and food scraps.

**SPECIAL HANDLING WASTE** - Solid waste that requires the application of special storage, collection, transportation, processing, or disposal techniques due to the quantity of material generated or its unique physical, chemical, or biological characteristics. The terms include dredged material, sewage sludge, infectious waste, chemotherapeutic waste, ash residue from a solid waste incineration facility, friable asbestos-containing waste, PCB-containing waste, and waste oil that is not hazardous waste.

**SPECIAL ITEMS** - Sometimes referred to as “hard-to-recycle materials,” special items are materials that are routinely generated and usually require special storage, collection, processing, and transportation for recycling and/or disposal. Special items are typically targeted for recovery for the purpose of recycling and/or to ensure proper handling. Examples include bulk items, tires, household hazardous waste, electronics, appliances, scrap metal, and construction and demolition materials. The PA Code does not define Special Items.

**SEWAGE SLUDGE** - Liquid or solid sludges or other residues from a municipal sewage sludge collection or treatment system; and liquid or solid sludges and other residues from



septic and holding tank pumping from commercial, institutional, or residential establishments. The sewage sludge that has been treated to meet pollutant and pathogen requirements for land application and surface disposal (e.g., land applied as fertilizer) is referred to as "biosolids."

**TIP FEE OR TIPPING FEE** - The schedule of fees established by the owner or operator of a facility for accepting various types of solid waste for processing or disposal. Tip fees can be set at posted gate rates or negotiated, for example, at a discount for high volume customers.

**TON** - Two thousand (2,000) pounds.

**TRANSFER STATION** - A facility that receives and processes or temporarily stores municipal or residual waste at a location other than the generation site and which facilitates the transportation or transfer of municipal or residual waste to a processing or disposal facility. The term includes a facility that uses a method or technology to convert part or all of the waste materials for off-site reuse. The term does not include a collecting or processing center that is only for source-separated recyclable materials, including clear glass, colored glass, aluminum, steel, and bimetallic cans, high-grade office paper, newsprint, corrugated paper, and plastics.

**UNACCEPTABLE WASTE** - Any material that, by reason of its composition, characteristics, or quality, is ineligible for disposal at the landfill pursuant to the provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. §2605(e), the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §6018.101 et seq., or other applicable federal, state or local law, or any other material that the Operator concludes would require special handling or present an endangerment to the landfill, the public health or safety, or the environment.

**WASTE HAULER** - Any Person collecting or transporting County-generated municipal waste pursuant to PA Act 90 of 2002.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT SLUDGE** - Any solid or liquid removed during sewage and/or wastewater treatment in a municipal, commercial, or institutional wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater treatment sludge includes but is not limited to solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment and ash generated during the incineration of wastewater treatment sludge.



## CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 History of Cambria County

Cambria County was created on March 26, 1804, from parts of Bedford, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. It was named for Wales, the Latin name for “Cambria.” The County is located in southwest Pennsylvania and is 694 square miles (**Figure 1-1**, Location Map). Key waterways include the Conemaugh and Little Conemaugh rivers, Glendale Lake, Beaverdam Run, and the Clearfield, Stony, and Blacklick creeks. Ebensburg is the county seat. The County has one city, Johnstown, 32 boroughs, including Tunnelhill, which is partly in Blair County, and includes 30 townships, 17 census-designated places, and 21 unincorporated communities.

Cambria County is a mountainous region on the Allegheny Plateau. According to A History of Cambria County published in 1907, “[t]he county is on the western slope of the Allegheny mountains; the eastern boundary line lies along the crest thereof, with Bedford and Blair counties adjoining. The northerly line is about twenty-five miles in length, and the southerly line about twenty-one miles.”<sup>1</sup> Somerset County is on the south and Clearfield County is to the north. Westmoreland and Indiana county share its western border and Blair County and Bedford County are to the east.

The largest city is Johnstown. “The Johnstown flood (May 31, 1889), considered one of the worst natural disasters in American history, caused over 2,200 deaths and widespread property damage. Subsequent floods have claimed many lives despite flood control and safety measures such as an inclined-plane cable-pulled railway that was built in 1891 to transport residents to high ground. The railway rises 500 feet (150 meters [sic]) at a 71 percent grade.”<sup>2</sup>

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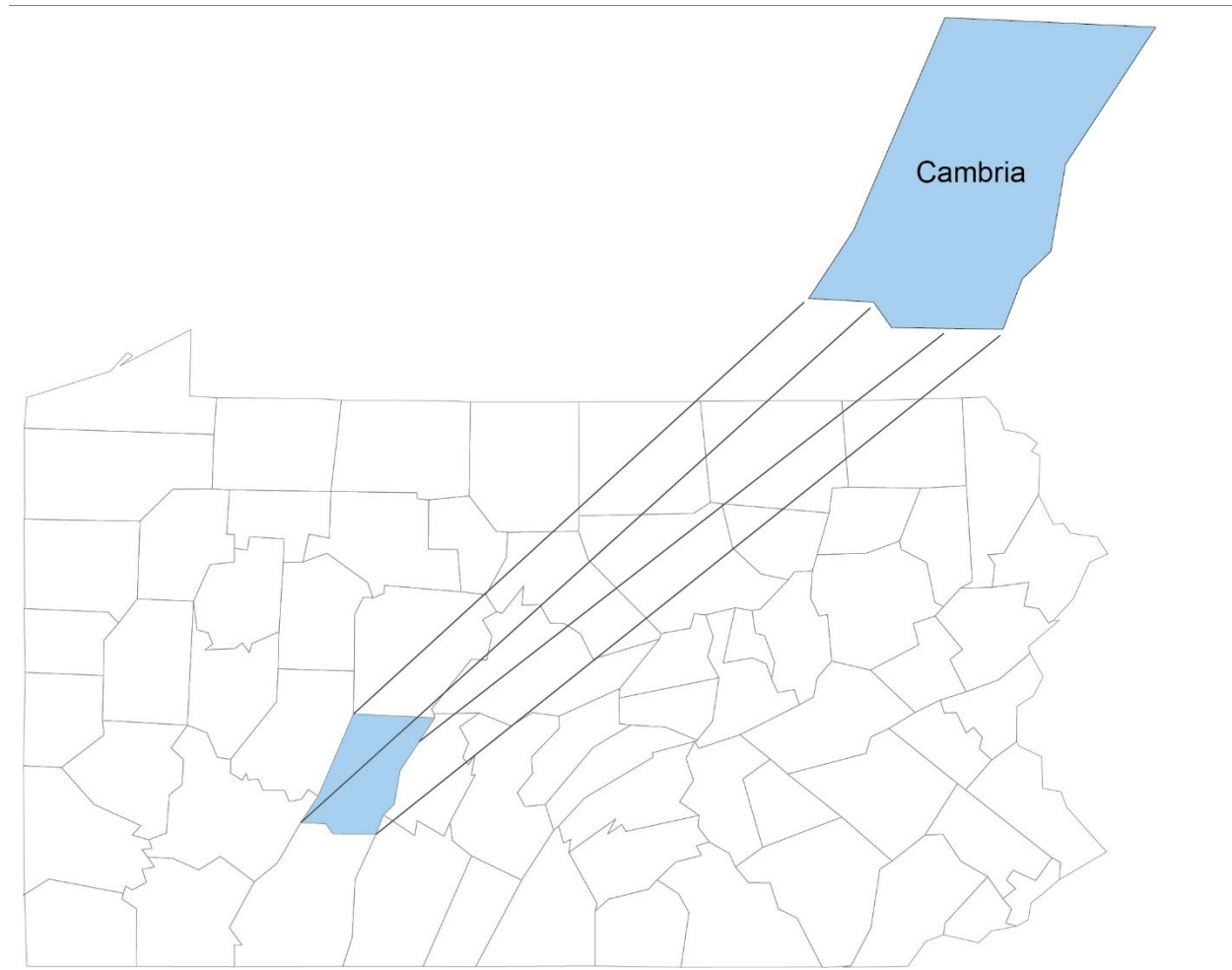
<sup>1</sup> Storey, Henry Wilson, History of Cambria County Pennsylvania, Volume 1, The Lewis Publishing Company, New York and Chicago, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cambria>.





Figure 1-1 Cambria County Location Map



## 1.1.2 History of Cambria County Solid Waste Planning & Operations

The Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA) was established in 1979 and is an administrative arm of the Cambria County government. It is responsible for implementing the County's Municipal Waste Management Plan and for planning and regulating the storage, collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of solid waste. During the 1990s, the CCSWMA moved from an administrative to an operating authority.

The first Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources on May 23, 1991; now the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The Plan has subsequently been updated about every 10 years as required.

## 1.2 Plan Requirements

Municipal waste management involves the collection, transportation, disposal, and processing of municipal waste as regulated under the Solid Waste Management Act, Act 97 of 1980 (Act 97). Cambria County is required to update its Plan every ten years in



accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, Act 101 of July 28, 1988, as amended, and Chapter 272 of the PA Code 25. The Plan development process requires public participation. The Plan was developed with support from the County Commissioners and included participation and input from a diversely represented Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).

This Plan document updates the 2012 Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan and covers the 2026-2035 planning period. This Plan adheres to the "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of County Municipal Waste Management Plan Revisions," Document Number 254-2212-504 (January 2, 2010), Pennsylvania Statutes, Chapter 272, and Act 101.

The purpose of the Plan per regulations is to:

- (1) Ensure the County has sufficient processing and disposal capacity for municipal waste for at least ten years (§ 272.201(1)),
- (2) Ensure a full, fair, and open discussion of alternative methods of municipal waste processing or disposal (§ 272.201(2)),
- (3) Ensure maximum feasible waste reduction and recycling of municipal waste or source-separated recyclable material (§ 272.201(3)),
- (4) Shift the primary responsibility for developing and implementing municipal waste management plans from municipalities to counties (§ 272.201(4)), and
- (5) Conserve resources and protect public health, safety, and welfare from the short and long-term dangers of transportation, processing, treatment, storage, and disposal of municipal solid waste (§ 272.201(5)).

**Non-Substantial Plan Revision:** PADEP designated this Plan as a non-substantial Plan revision. No major changes to the solid waste system and recycling programs have occurred or are proposed. Essential elements of a non-substantial Plan include:

- Waste and recycling program descriptions,
- Waste generation data, including waste diversion to recycling,
- 10-year waste projections and estimated disposal capacity requirements, and
- Public participation, including SWAC meetings, to encourage feedback on solid waste issues and Plan development.
- Provision of the Plan implementing documents, such as solid waste ordinances and disposal agreements.

## 1.3 Integrated Municipal Waste Management

The U.S. EPA, Commonwealth Courts, and PADEP support integrated waste management systems where counties implement waste diversion programs to avoid waste disposal costs and impacts. The Cambria County waste system is integrated through cooperation and engagement with the local jurisdictions (i.e., townships and boroughs) to responsibly manage municipal solid waste through opportunities to recycle and avoid costs, protecting public health, safety, and welfare.



## 1.4 Planning Goals

The goals of this Plan include:

- (1) Advance socially, economically, and environmentally responsible materials management practices as feasible.
- (2) Maintain the financial and operational sustainability of the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority which serves in the capacity to govern and encourage proper materials management and to support and provide opportunities to divert materials to reuse and recycling as feasible.
- (3) Sustain CCSWMA's role and services including the provision of recycling and solid waste services or programs that are not readily offered by the private sector and to effectively utilize the CCSWMA's resources.
- (4) Educate the public about the opportunities through the private sector or other organizations and serve as a centralized source in the County for this information.
- (5) Provide the public with convenient, cost-effective, flexible opportunities to manage solid waste and ensure sufficient capacity to manage all municipal waste and recyclables generated in Cambria County.
- (6) Evaluate and implement feasible alternatives and programs to advance recycling toward the statewide recycling goal of 35 percent, including the development of improved recyclables processing agreements.
- (7) Identify opportunities to improve the collection and processing of items requiring special handling, such as electronics and household hazardous wastes.
- (8) Protect natural lands, geographic features, communities, and resources; and
- (9) Promote citizens' and businesses' health, safety, and welfare.



## CHAPTER 2 – DESCRIPTION OF WASTE

---

### 2.1 Purpose

During the early development and implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980 and Act 101 of 1988, permitted and well-regulated landfill capacity in Pennsylvania was relatively scarce, but there was a significant demand for landfill capacity in Pennsylvania from adjacent metropolitan and urban centers. Areas like New York and New Jersey generated significant quantities of waste, but land was scarce, and landfill development was expensive and not feasible adjacent to or in population centers. Consequently, as Pennsylvania's solid waste regulations and requirements for county Plans were developed, consideration was given to ensure each and every county could properly dispose of all county waste generated.

This chapter describes the quantity of wastes and recyclables generated within Cambria County and projects the quantity of municipal waste (including recyclables) generated on an annual basis over the 10-year planning period (2026–2035) that will require disposal or processing.

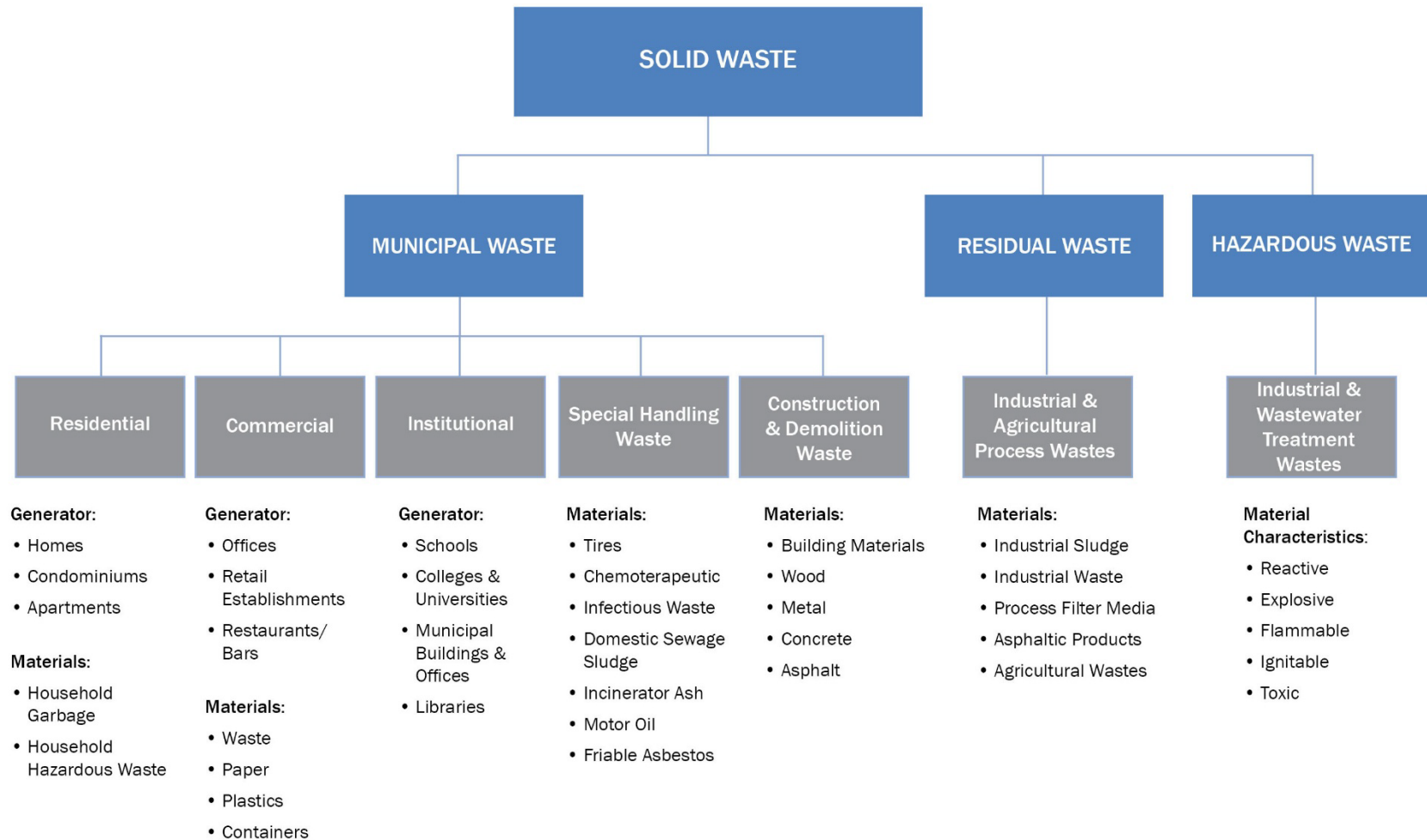
### 2.2 Waste Categories

The waste categories in this chapter are derived from two sources: 1) the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980 (**Figure 2-1**), which presents the broader industry-standard categories including solid waste, municipal waste, residual waste, and hazardous waste, and 2) the Pennsylvania Waste Destination Report categories related to Act 101 and PA Code Chapter 272 categories including municipal waste, residual waste, sewage sludge, processed medical waste, Construction and Demolition waste, ash, and asbestos.

This Plan focuses on the routinely generated non-hazardous MSW as reported in the PADEP Waste Destination Reports and Act 101 Annual County Recycling Reports. Municipal waste, C&D, and sewage sludge from PADEP Waste Destination Reports are the basis for calculating county waste disposal requirements. **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)** excludes residual and federally regulated hazardous waste, for which the counties are not responsible for managing in the context of provisions for disposal capacity.



Figure 2-1 Waste Categories







## 2.3 Demographics

The municipal solid waste generated (including recyclables) in Cambria County correlates to the County's population density, commercial density, and the types of residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial activities. This Chapter describes the number and types of County residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial establishments.

### 2.3.1 Population & Establishments

The 5-year average (2019 – 2023) of Cambria County population and households is presented in **Table 2-1**. County commercial, municipal, and institutional establishments are shown in **Table 2-2**.



# MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Table 2-1 5-Yr Average Population & Household Counts, 2019-2023

Municipalities	5-Yr Avg. Population <sup>[1]</sup>	5-Yr Avg. Households <sup>[2]</sup>	Municipalities	5-Yr Avg. Population <sup>[1]</sup>	5-Yr Avg. Households <sup>[2]</sup>
Adams township	5,711	2,435	Johnstown city	18,281	8,537
Allegheny township	2,795	677	Lilly borough	873	387
Ashville borough	211	100	Lorain borough	585	270
Barr township	2,035	790	Loretto borough	1,188	100
Blacklick township	1,863	784	Lower Yoder township	2,371	1,262
Brownstown borough	691	312	Middle Taylor township	655	284
Cambria township	5,773	2,050	Munster township	648	254
Carrolltown borough	1,044	448	Nanty-Glo borough	2,493	1,078
Cassandra borough	161	62	Northern Cambria borough	3,535	1,538
Chest township	454	194	Patton borough	1,716	778
Chest Springs borough	139	51	Portage borough	2,442	1,065
Clearfield township	1,593	606	Portage township	3,408	1,432
Conemaugh township	1,927	860	Reade township	1,431	589
Cresson borough	1,514	674	Richland township	12,147	4,908
Cresson township	2,819	1,049	Sankertown borough	626	248
Croyle township	2,291	892	Scalp Level borough	739	333
Daisytown borough	296	134	South Fork borough	947	405
Dale borough	1,001	488	Southmont borough	2,031	928
Dean township	326	143	Stonycreek township	2,751	1,423
East Carroll township	1,415	578	Summerhill borough	476	208
East Conemaugh borough	1,074	487	Summerhill township	2,287	901
East Taylor township	2,405	1,055	Susquehanna township	1,876	773
Ebensburg borough	3,380	1,597	Tunnelhill borough	206	85
Ehrenfeld borough	202	83	Upper Yoder township	5,111	2,131
Elder township	1,021	379	Vintondale borough	409	176
Ferndale borough	1,536	689	Washington township	826	335
Franklin borough	276	132	West Carroll township	1,178	470
Gallitzin borough	1,525	648	Westmont borough	4,947	2,090
Gallitzin township	1,264	511	West Taylor township	724	332
Geistown borough	2,346	1,073	White township	924	413
Hastings borough	1,204	515	Wilmore borough	205	85
Jackson township	4,206	1,811	<b>Total</b>	<b>132,529</b>	<b>56,124</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census - Table P1 (2010 & 2020).

<sup>[2]</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census - Table H1 (2010 & 2020).



Table 2-2 Cambria County Commercial Establishments

NAICS Description	No. of Establishments	Employees
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	21	90
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil & Gas	9	100
Utilities	33	412
Construction	217	1,711
Manufacturing	127	4,154
Wholesale Trade	116	1,430
Retail Trade	453	6,214
Transportation and Warehousing	145	2,357
Information	46	598
Finance and Insurance	175	1,581
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	73	322
Professional and Technical Services	193	1,878
Management of Companies and Enterprises	25	451
Administrative and Waste Services	129	1,973
Educational Services	95	4,497
Health Care and Social Assistance	636	10,857
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	49	543
Accommodation and Food Services	291	3,916
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	362	2,118
Public Administration	133	2,350
Total, Suppressed Local Industries	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>47,552</b>

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor, Cambria County community profile, 2024.

## 2.4 Municipal Waste & Recycled Quantities & Generation

**Municipal Waste** (or refuse) refers to routinely generated non-hazardous garbage, including source-separated recyclables from households, businesses, institutions, and industries. After municipal waste is generated it is either disposed or separated from the waste stream for recycling or reuse. Waste haulers report the origin and type of waste upon arrival and weigh-in on truck scales at permitted Pennsylvania municipal waste disposal or processing facilities. PADEP Waste Destination Reports document each permitted facility's disposal quantities (in tons).

**Table 2-3** presents the annual and 5-year average of disposed quantities of the waste categories reported in the PADEP Waste Destination Reports and the reported recycled MSW for 2019 – 2023. **Disposed MSW in Table 2-3 only includes the reported tonnages from the “Municipal” category from the PADEP Waste Destination Reports.** Cambria County disposed of an average of 89,224 MSW tons annually from 2019 – 2023. An additional 27,523 tons of MSW was recycled per the County Act 101 Annual Recycling reports. From



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2019 to 2023, the County generated (disposed or recycled) an average annual total of 116,412 tons of MSW. Some materials may be illegally dumped, burned, or otherwise not reported. The 5-year average essentially represents the year 2026, which is used as basis year for the MSW projected to require disposal and corresponds with the ten-year disposal contracts executed during this Plan development and set to expire in 2035.

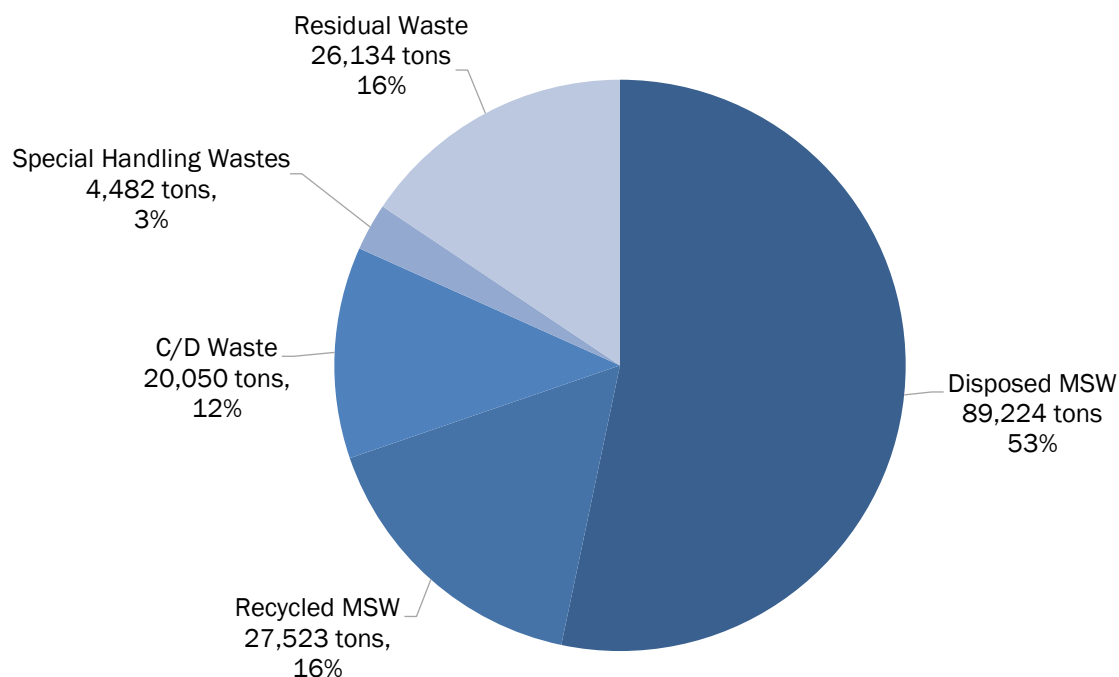
**Table 2-3 Cambria County PADEP Waste Destination Report Summary (2019 – 2023)**

Waste Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019-2023 Average
<b>Total Disposed MSW<sup>[1]</sup></b>	<b>88,331</b>	<b>89,764</b>	<b>91,225</b>	<b>86,488</b>	<b>90,311</b>	<b>89,224</b>
<b>Total Recycled MSW <sup>[2]</sup></b>	<b>22,213</b>	<b>24,598</b>	<b>31,247</b>	<b>29,790</b>	<b>29,769</b>	<b>27,523</b>
Res Recycling	6,153	4,240	4,871	10,824	21,929	9,603
Com Recycling	16,060	20,358	26,376	18,965	7,840	17,920
Residual <sup>[1]</sup>	16,108	21,809	27,953	24,224	40,575	26,134
Sewage Sludge <sup>[1]</sup>	4,675	4,329	4,151	3,924	4,217	4,259
Infectious/Processed Medical <sup>[1]</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction <sup>[1]</sup>	18,785	19,325	23,645	19,566	18,927	20,050
Ash Residue <sup>[1]</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asbestos <sup>[1]</sup>	205	72	256	501	81	223
<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>150,307</b>	<b>159,897</b>	<b>178,478</b>	<b>164,464</b>	<b>183,880</b>	<b>167,412</b>

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019-2023.

<sup>[2]</sup> Source: Act 101 Annual County Recycling Report, 2019-2023.

**Figure 2-2 Cambria County PADEP Waste Destination Report Summary (2019 – 2023)**





**Table 2-4** presents the disposed municipal waste and reported recycled materials as a basis for estimating the waste and recyclables generated per person and applying this data to estimate total generation. Cambria County's average per capita generation rate is 0.87 tons per capita, which includes the total disposed and recycled MSW divided by the population. The generation rate for Cambria County is slightly lower than the EPA national generation rate of 0.89 tons per capita. The 5-year annual average from reported quantities of Cambria County disposed MSW and recyclables from 2019 to 2023 is the basis for projecting the annual tons of municipal waste requiring “disposal capacity” over the 10-year planning period (2026 -2035). Residual waste totals are not included in projections for disposal capacity assurance.

**Table 2-4 Cambria County MSW Generation Per Capita (2019 -2023)**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5-Year Average	U.S. Average
Disposed MSW <sup>[1]</sup>	88,331	89,764	91,225	86,488	90,311	89,224	N/A
Recycled MSW <sup>[2]</sup>	22,213	24,598	31,247	29,790	29,769	27,523	N/A
<b>Total MSW</b>	<b>110,543</b>	<b>114,362</b>	<b>122,472</b>	<b>116,277</b>	<b>120,080</b>	<b>116,747</b>	N/A
Population <sup>[3]</sup>	136,439	135,492	134,545	133,604	132,671	134,550	N/A
<b>Tons per Capita</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.89<sup>[4]</sup></b>

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019-2023.

<sup>[2]</sup> Source: Act 101 Annual County Recycling Report, 2019-2023.

<sup>[3]</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census, 2010 & 2020 (Average).

<sup>[4]</sup> Source: U.S. EPA per capita generation rate, Advancing Sustainable Materials Management, 2018.

## 2.5 Waste Stream Composition

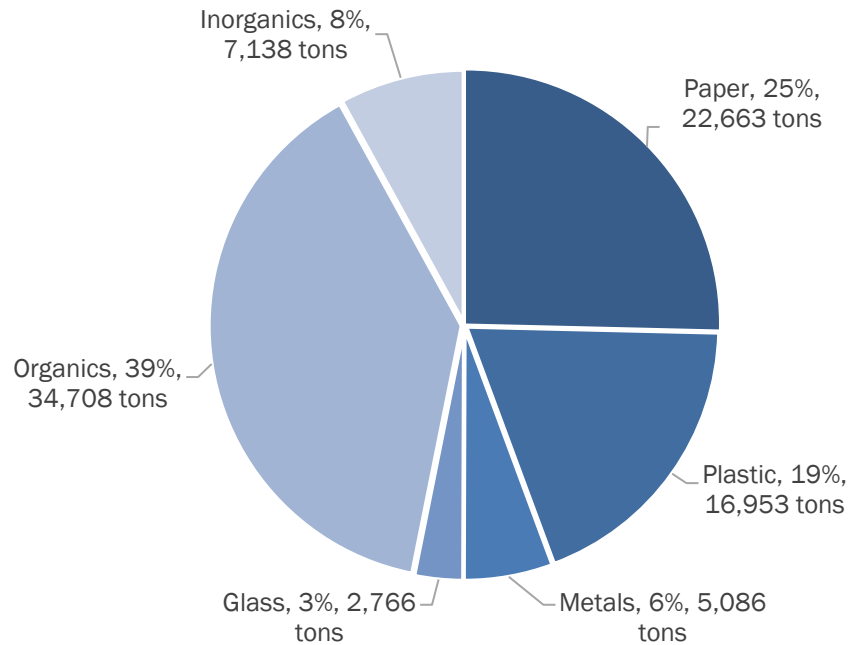
**Table 2-5** and **Figure 2-1** present the Cambria County residential and commercial **disposed** MSW broken down by the primary material categories identified in the PADEP Waste Characterization Study, 2022. This composition analysis excludes the tons of reported recyclables, also called recycled MSW.





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Figure 2-3 Cambria County Disposed MSW Composition



Source: PADEP Waste Characterization Study, Southwest region, Suburban results, 2022.

Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019-2023. Composition percentage applied to a 5-year annual average of total tons of disposed MSW.

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Table 2-5 Cambria County Disposed MSW Composition

Material Category	Est. Percent	Tons	Material Category	Est. Percent	Tons
<b>Paper</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>25,123</b>	<b>Organics</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>33,860</b>
Corrugated Cardboard/Kraft Paper	6.9%	6,182	Food Waste-Edible Packaged	5.4%	4,808
Newspaper	1.0%	856	Food Waste-Edible Non-packaged	4.9%	4,404
Office/High Grade Paper	0.7%	587	Food Waste-Inedible	5.0%	4,424
Magazine & Catalogs	0.7%	667	<i>Food Waste Subtotal:</i>	15.3%	13,637
Aseptic Boxes & Gable Top Cartons	0.2%	200	Yard Waste - Grass	0.9%	843
Mixed Recyclable Paper (Low Grade)	6.2%	5,557	Yard Waste - Other	2.7%	2,377
Compostable Paper	7.7%	6,884	Wood - Unpainted	3.0%	2,687
Non-recyclable Paper	4.7%	4,191	Wood - Painted	2.4%	2,130
<b>Plastic</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>18,335</b>	Textiles & Leather Products	3.2%	2,816
#1 PET Bottles & Jars	1.3%	1,165	Diapers & Sanitary Products	3.2%	2,896
#1 PET Non-Bottles & Containers	0.4%	314	Animal Bi-Products	3.9%	3,438
#2 HDPE Natural Bottles	0.3%	286	Fines-1/2 minus"	0.9%	760
#2 HDPE Colored Bottles	0.3%	302	Other Organics	2.6%	2,277
#3 - #7 Bottles	0.1%	61	<b>Inorganics</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>6,521</b>
#2-#7 Non-Bottle Rigid Containers	1.4%	1,288	Electronics - Covered Devices	0.0%	16
Expanded Polystyrene	1.1%	1,008	Other Electronics	0.4%	387
Clean Retail Plastic Bags	0.1%	73	Carpet & Carpet Padding	1.3%	1,122
Industrial Film	3.0%	2,648	Drywall/Gypsum Board	0.6%	548
All Other Film	6.8%	6,107	Concrete, Rock, Brick	0.1%	65
Durable/Bulky Rigid Plastics	2.5%	2,263	Asphalt Roofing	0.0%	3
Remainder/Composite Plastic	3.2%	2,819	Asphalt Paving	0.0%	0
<b>Metals</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3,116</b>	Other C&D	1.0%	910
Steel Cans	1.0%	894	Medically Related Waste	0.1%	118
Aluminum Cans	0.6%	551	Lithium Batteries	0.0%	2
Other Aluminum	0.4%	355	Automotive Batteries	0.0%	0
Other Ferrous Metals	1.1%	981	Other Batteries	0.1%	71
Other Non-Ferrous Metals	0.4%	336	Other HHW	0.1%	102
<b>Glass</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2,268</b>	Bulky Materials	1.6%	1,428
Clear Glass Containers	1.0%	860	Furniture	1.2%	1,105
Green Glass Containers	0.2%	213	Other Inorganics	0.5%	431
Brown Glass Containers	0.5%	418	PPE	0.2%	213
Non-Recyclable Glass	0.9%	778			
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>100.0%</b>	<b>89,224</b>

[1] Source: PADEP Waste Characterization Study, Southcentral region, Suburban results, 2022.

[2] Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019-2023. Composition percentage applied to a 5-year annual average of total tons of disposed MSW.



2.6 Construction & Demolition Waste

C&D Waste is managed as Municipal Waste under PA Code §287.2(b). The primary sources of C&D waste are construction, renovation, and demolition projects. C&D Waste generally consists of wood debris, plaster and metals, asphaltic substances, brick, block, and concrete generated from the construction or demolition of buildings and other structures. Most C&D generated by Cambria County goes to Laurel Highlands Landfill in Cambria County and Southern Alleghenies Landfill in Somerset County.

Based on the PADEP Waste Destination Reports (2019-2023), Cambria County disposed of an average of **20,050 tons of C&D** annually.

2.7 Sewage Sludge

Sewage sludge is the solid, semi-solid, or liquid material remaining after processing wastewater in a treatment plant, and it is classified as a special handling waste. Septage is the liquid collected from septic tanks on on-lot wastewater treatment systems. Sewage sludge and septage are subject to municipal waste planning requirements. On-lot septic systems serve rural areas of the County without sewer conveyance infrastructure.

Based on the PADEP Waste Destination Reports (2019-2023), Cambria County disposed of an average of **4,295 tons of sewage sludge** annually. Land application for biosolids disposal is used on a limited basis and only reported by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority (~**1,800 tons of biosolids land applied annually**).

2.7.1 Septage Hauling

Many households and mobile home parks throughout the rural areas of Cambria County are not connected to public sewer and rely on periodic pumping of on-lot septage holding tanks. **Table 2-6** lists the registered residential septage transporters operating in Cambria County and their respective reported gallons of septage pumped annually. None of the septage haulers report land application of biosolids for agricultural use.

Table 2-6 Registered Septage Haulers (2021)

Septage Hauler	Location	Average Annual Gallons	Land Application (Yes/No)
Brawley's Septic Tank Cleaning Service	Carrolltown, PA 15722	300,000	No
Eckenrode's Septic Tank Cleaning	Loretto, PA 15940	1,000,000	No
Electric Sewer Cleaning Company	Johnstown, PA 15902	30,000	No
J's Johns	Cresson, PA 16630	50,000	No
Kamzik Septic Service	Johnstown, PA 15909	200,000	No
T.P. Sanitation	Loretto, PA 15940	100,000	No
Varner's Hilltop Septic Service	Mineral Point, PA 15942	unknown	No

Source: PADEP, Active Septic Hauler Registration, April 2024. Average gallons data is from 2018.



## 2.7.2 Waste Water Treatment

The larger communities in Cambria County convey wastewater to over 15 wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) or sewage treatment plants serving the County. In most cases, one WWTP or STP serves multiple municipalities, portions of municipalities, or even smaller generators like a trailer park or camp area. Treatment includes a combination of dewatering sludges for landfill disposal and some smaller facilities use drying beds and/or a nearby larger WWTP facility to dispose small quantities. Dewatered sewage sludges are primarily disposed at Laurel Highlands Landfill, Southern Alleghenies Landfill, and Mostoller Landfill. Only Greater Johnstown Water Authority serving the City of Johnstown reports land application of a portion of their biosolids.

Based on 2025 survey results and discussions with operators, the WWTPs serving the County have sufficient capacity to manage the anticipated quantities of wastewater that will be generated annually for the 10-year planning period. Additionally, treatment and disposal capacity can be expanded using out-of-county processors and through increased use of land application. No significant population increases are anticipated that would increase sewage sludge generation. Sufficient disposal capacity for dewatered sludge is available from the disposal facilities identified in this Plan.

**Table 2-7 Registered Waste Water Treatment Plants**

Facility (Plant) Name	Service Area <sup>[1]</sup>	Max Permitted (Million Gallons/Day) Survey Response	Average Flow (Million Gallons Per Day)	Average Annual Landfilled (Dry Tons)	Landfill(s) Used for Disposal
Ashville Water and Sewer Authority	Ashville Borough	0.05	0.021	0.98	Laurel Highlands Landfill (+reed beds)
Johnstown Redevelopment/ Greater Johnstown Water Authority/City of Johnstown <sup>[1]</sup>	Johnstown City; Brownstown, Daisytown, Dale, East Conemaugh, Ferndale, Franklin, Geistown, Loarin, Southmont, Westmont, Conemaugh, Ferndale	21	12	153	Laurel Highlands Landfill
Logan Township Sewage Treatment Plant	NE section of Logan Twp., Blair County	1.7500	1.14	26	Mostoller Landfill
Cambria Twp. Sewer Authority Colver Sewage Treatment Plant <sup>[2]</sup>	Colver Township	0.275	0.068	9.35	Laurel Highlands Landfill
Cresson Borough WWTP	Cresson Borough	1.5000	1	NA	Laurel Highlands Landfill
Central Mainline Sewer Authority	Cassandra Borough, Cresson Township, Lilly Borough, Washington Township, Portage Township	0.35	0.109	162.5	Mostoller Landfill
Ebensburg WWTP	Ebensburg Borough and parts of Cambria Township	2.00	0.735	7.22	Laurel Highlands Landfill



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Facility (Plant) Name	Service Area <sup>[1]</sup>	Max Permitted (Million Gallons/Day) Survey Response	Average Flow (Million Gallons Per Day)	Average Annual Landfilled (Dry Tons)	Landfill(s) Used for Disposal
Gallitzin Borough Sewer and Disposal Authority	Gallitzin Borough (Cambria County), Tunnel Hill Borough (Blair County)	0.4	0.187	1.2	Laurel Highlands Landfill
Glendale Valley Municipal Authority Sewage Treatment Plant	Reade Township, White Township, Glendale Year-round, which consists of White and Chest Township residences	0.45	0.1233	24.37	Reed beds
Hastings Municipal Authority	Hastings Borough	0.60	0.144	55.62	Laurel Highlands Landfill
Ingleside Sewage Treatment Plant	Richland Township (partial), Stonycreek Township (Cambria) (partial), Adams Township (partial), Scalp Level Borough, Paint Borough, Windber Borough, and Paint Township (partial)	4.95	2	43	Mostoller Landfill, Southern Alleghenies Landfill
Nanty Glo Sewage Treatment Plant	Nanty Glo and sections of Blacklick and Jackson Townships.	0.975	0.493	36.5	Southern Alleghenies Landfill
Patton Borough WWTP	Patton Borough, and parts of Elder Twp., Clearfield Twp., and East Carroll Twp	1.1	0.529	NA	Reed beds
Portage Area Sewage Authority WWTP	Portage Borough and Portage Township	2.00	0.802	56.85	Laurel Highlands
Cambria Twp. Sewer Authority Revloc Sewage Treatment Plant(2)	Mylo Park / Ebensburg portion and Revloc.	0.500	0.234	39.9	Laurel Highlands
S. Fork Regional WWTP	Portions of Adams, Conemaugh, Croyle, Richland & Summerhill Twps. Along with Ehrenfeld, Summerhill, South Fork and Wilmore Boroughs	1.20	0.482	118	Laurel Highlands
Village Of Mine 42 Sewage Treatment Plant	Village of Mine 42 in Adams Twp.	0.0296	0.085	2.6	S. Fork RWWPTP, then Laurel Highlands

<sup>[1]</sup> Greater Johnstown Water Authority/City of Johnstown reports an annual average of 1,836.5 tons for land application of biosolids.

<sup>[2]</sup> Cambria Twp. The Sewer Authority operates two plants.

## 2.8 Household Hazardous Waste

According to PADEP (25 Pa. Code § 271.1), Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is defined as “waste generated by a household that could be chemically or physically classified as a hazardous waste under the standards of Article VII (relating to hazardous waste management).” Some examples are paints, solvents, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizers, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, rechargeable batteries, and motor oil.





CCSWMA sponsors an annual HHW collection event and collects approximately **30,000 pounds of HHW annually**. Chemicals collected are recycled, used for BTU value, or properly neutralized and disposed of at regulated hazardous waste facilities. Additionally, the Authority maintains a list of resources on its webpage where HHW may be accepted.

### 2.8.1 Waste Tires

A waste tire is a tire that can no longer be used for its intended purpose or has been discarded. Waste tires that are not properly handled can cause environmental, health, and safety hazards. Tire piles are a breeding ground for mosquitoes and can also catch fire, causing damage and pollution to the ground and surface water.

Cambria County's tire program is operated through the County's Keep PA Beautiful affiliate, Keep Cambria Beautiful. Four to six tire and appliance recycling events are held at various municipalities in the county, usually on Saturdays. Approximately one tractor-trailer load of tires is collected at each event.

## 2.9 Electronics

Pennsylvania's Covered Device Recycling Act 108 of 2010 (CDRA) establishes a recycling program for eligible electronics by imposing fees on manufacturers and retailers, establishing PADEP enforcement powers, establishing a funding account, and prescribing penalties. Covered devices include desktop and laptop computers, computer monitors and peripherals, televisions, and similar devices.

CCSWMA maintains a storage facility for electronics collection at 507 Manor Drive, Ebensburg, PA 15931, which is a 30-foot by 40-foot steel pole building with secure, weatherproof storage for approximately 50 pallets of E-waste. Residents may drop off electronics Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CCSWMA staff are available to assist residents with unloading, and then sort, stack, and wrap the electronics, separating them by type. Annually, the CCSWMA processes roughly **2,000 vehicles** and about **150,000 pounds of E-waste**.

### 2.10 Asbestos

Asbestos is a heat-resistant fibrous silicate mineral defined as special handling municipal waste. Annual quantities of disposed asbestos from Cambria County vary from year to year. Based on the PADEP Waste Destination Reports (2019 - 2023), Cambria County disposes of an average of **223 tons of asbestos** annually. The sources of the asbestos are likely C&D-related wastes from older structures demolished and disposed.

### 2.11 Processed Medical Waste

Processed medical waste is a special handling waste and includes regulated medical and chemotherapeutic wastes. Hospitals are the primary generators of medical waste. Medical waste commonly includes bandages, dressings, supplies, and medical equipment that may be contaminated with blood, fluids, chemicals, and other agents that may be harmful. PADEP licenses and maintains records of active medical waste transporters operating in Pennsylvania. Based on the PADEP Waste Destination Reports (2019 - 2023), no processed medical waste originating from Cambria County was disposed in the landfills accepting Cambria County waste (refer to **Table 2-3**).



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As regulated by state and federal laws, medical facilities individually arrange for the handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal (including incineration) of medical waste. **Table 2-8** lists the names and addresses of seven of the largest hospitals or medical centers located in Cambria County. **Table 2-9** shows the number of generators of processed medical waste in Cambria County.

**Table 2-8 Cambria County Major Hospitals & Medical Centers**

Hospital Name	Address
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center	1086 Franklin Street, Johnstown, PA
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center - Lee Campus	320 Main Street, Johnstown, PA
Conemaugh Miners Medical Center	290 Haida Avenue, Hastings, PA
Crichton Rehabilitation Center	320 Main Street, Johnstown, PA
Select Specialty Hospital Johnstown	320 Main Street, Johnstown, PA

Source: MSW Consultants, publicly available web research, 2025.

**Table 2-9 Cambria County Health Care & Social Assistance Establishments**

Establishment Type	2022 Establishment Count
Offices of Physicians	78
Offices of Dentists	44
Offices of Other Health Practitioners	86
Outpatient Care Centers	23
Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	2
Home Health Care Services	18
Other Ambulatory Health Care Services	18
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	4
Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	1
Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals	1
Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)	8
Residential Intellectual and Developmental Disability, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Facilities	59
Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Assisted Living Facilities for the Elderly	23
Other Residential Care Facilities	9
Individual and Family Services	221
Community Food, Housing, and Emergency and Other Relief Services	4
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	7
Child Day Care Services	56
<b>Total Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	<b>662</b>

Source: Pennsylvania Dept. of Labor, Cambria County community profile, 2024.U.S. Census, Economic Census, 2024.



## CHAPTER 3 – DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

### 3.1 Municipal Solid Waste Facilities

This Chapter identifies the facilities currently responsible for processing, disposing, and transferring municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Cambria County and those whose disposal agreements will be replaced with new 10-year agreements. Chapter 6 explains the process to enter new disposal capacity agreements to assure disposal capacity is secured for all County municipal solid waste through 2034.

The distribution of county-generated municipal solid waste to processors is market-driven, and waste may be transported to, and disposed, at any permitted disposal facility. As of 2025, the Southern Alleghenies Landfill (Noble Environmental) and Laurel Highlands landfill (WM) serve as the primary disposal facilities for County-generated waste. Based on a 5-year average (2019 – 2023), roughly 89 percent of Cambria County municipal solid waste was disposed at the Southern Alleghenies and Laurel Highlands Landfills. Small quantities of MSW are also processed at other disposal facilities. Residual wastes are primarily disposed of at Laurel Highlands Landfill. **Table 3-1** lists current disposal facilities with disposal capacity agreements (refer to Chapter 6 for the updated list of facilities that executed disposal capacity agreements during development of this Plan.

Most source-separated recyclable materials and special handling items, including tires and electronics, are primarily managed through the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority and the handful of communities with mandated curbside recycling programs. Most recyclable materials are bulked and transferred to markets for final processing at processors located outside of the County.

**Table 3-1 Current Disposal Facilities with Disposal Agreements**

<b>Southern Alleghenies</b>	<b>Greentree Landfill, LLC.</b>
843 Miller Picking Road	635 Toby Road
Davidsville, PA 15928, Somerset County	Kersey, PA 15846, Elk County
Owner: Noble Environmental	Owner: GFL Environmental
<b>Sandy Run Landfill</b>	<b>Evergreen Landfill</b>
995 Landfill Road	1310 Luciusboro Road
Hopewell, PA 16650, Bedford County	Blairsville, PA 15717
Owner: Noble Environmental	Owner: Waste Management
<b>Mostoller Landfill</b>	<b>Shade Landfill</b>
7095 Glades Pike Road	1176 #1 Road
Somerset, PA 15501	Cairnbrook, PA 15924
Owner: Advanced Disposal	Owner: Waste Management
<b>Wayne Township Landfill</b>	<b>Cumberland County Landfill</b>
15 Landfill Ln	135 Vaugh Road
McElhattan, PA 17748, Clinton County	Shippensburg, PA 17257
Owner: Clinton County Solid Waste Authority	Owner: Advanced Disposal
<b>Laurel Highlands Landfill</b>	
260 Laurel Ridge Road	
Johnstown, PA 15909, Cambria County	
Owner: WM	







## CHAPTER 4 – ESTIMATED FUTURE DISPOSAL CAPACITY

### 4.1 Introduction

This Chapter presents the estimated quantity of County municipal waste requiring disposal for the planning period while accounting for the quantity of source-separated recyclables diverted from disposal.

The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) periodically administers an open, fair, and competitive procurement process to enter 10-year Disposal Capacity Agreements with regional landfills. This solicitation process confirms that adequate disposal capacity is available for all of the municipal solid waste generated from within Cambria County. The 10-year planning period (2026–2035) of this Plan coincides with the contractual term length of the 10-year Disposal Capacity Agreements that were executed during the development of this Plan.

The four disposal facilities identified in this Plan have a combined total remaining landfill disposal capacity for municipal waste, C&D waste, and sewage sludge of 253,500 tons annually and 2,535,000 total tons over the 10-year planning period, as shown in **Figure 4-1** and **Table 4-1**. The available disposal capacity far exceeds the projected 1,040,000 tons of municipal waste estimated to be generated over the 10-year planning period. The 10-year municipal waste projects reflect moderate changes in County population, and no major changes in activities that would significantly alter the quantity of municipal waste requiring disposal. Additionally, since no major new recycling programs are currently under development, it is assumed that Cambria County's annual recycling rates will remain similar, with only incremental increases, over the 10-year planning period (2026–2035).

### 4.2 Cambria County Municipal Solid Waste Projections

The municipal waste projections are based on quantities (tons) from PADEP Waste Destination Reports, County and Act 101 Annual Recycling Reports, and 2010 – 2020 population projections from the U.S. Decennial Census. These projections are derived from the 5-year annual averages of municipal waste disposed and recyclables processed from 2019 to 2023. Municipal waste projections are for the 2026–2035 period, corresponding to the 10-year term of this Plan and the contract term length of the 10-year Disposal Capacity Agreements executed with the disposal facilities listed in this Plan.

**Figure 4-1** presents the projected quantity of total municipal waste requiring disposal for Cambria County. The total municipal waste requiring disposal includes disposed MSW, C&D waste, and sewage sludge. Residual waste is excluded from the waste projections. Using a 5-year average (2019-2023) as the base year for projecting total municipal waste requiring disposal, Cambria County will require disposal capacity for an estimated 1,040,000 tons from 2026 through 2035.

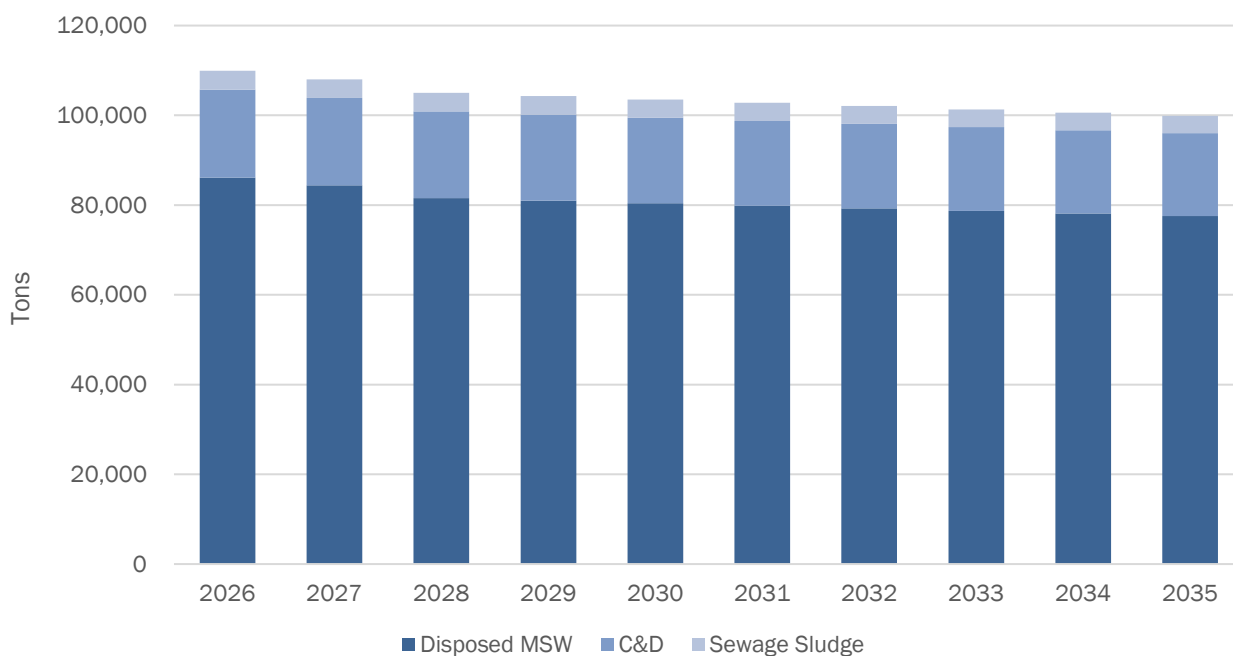
**Table 4-1** shows MSW projections, which include population, per capita MSW generation rates, and the quantities of total municipal waste requiring disposal for the 10-year planning period. Recycled MSW quantities are subtracted from projected MSW generation to calculate the MSW requiring disposal from 2026-2035.



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Since the population is projected to gradually decline over the next 10 years, the resulting MSW estimates show a corresponding decrease over the 10-year planning period. The total municipal waste requiring disposal includes disposed MSW, C&D waste, and Sewage Sludge. **Figure 4-1** displays the total County waste requiring disposal from 2026 through 2035.

**Figure 4-1 Cambria Co. Projected Municipal Waste Requiring Disposal (2026–2035)**



Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019–2023.





Table 4-1 Cambria County Projected Municipal Waste Requiring Disposal (2026–2035)

Year	County Population <sup>[1]</sup>	Municipal Solid Waste			Total MSW Generated (Tons) <sup>[5]</sup>	C&D <sup>[6]</sup>	Sewage Sludge <sup>[6]</sup>	Total Municipal Waste Generated	Municipal Waste Requiring Disposal <sup>[7]</sup>
		Mun. Waste Generation per Capita <sup>[2]</sup>	Disposed MSW (Tons) <sup>[3]</sup>	Recycled Mun. Waste (Tons) <sup>[4]</sup>					
2019-2023	133,472	0.87	89,224	27,523	116,747	20,050	4,259	141,056	113,533
2026	130,627	0.87	86,171	27,212	113,383	19,622	4,169	137,174	109,962
2027	129,699	0.87	84,433	28,144	112,577	19,483	4,139	136,199	108,055
2028	128,778	0.87	81,598	30,180	111,778	19,344	4,109	135,232	105,052
2029	127,863	0.87	81,018	29,966	110,984	19,207	4,080	134,271	104,305
2030	126,955	0.87	80,442	29,753	110,195	19,071	4,051	133,317	103,564
2031	126,053	0.87	79,871	29,541	109,412	18,935	4,023	132,370	102,829
2032	125,157	0.87	79,304	29,331	108,635	18,801	3,994	131,430	102,098
2033	124,268	0.87	78,740	29,123	107,863	18,667	3,966	130,496	101,373
2034	123,386	0.87	78,181	28,916	107,097	18,534	3,937	129,569	100,653
2035	122,509	0.87	77,625	28,711	106,336	18,403	3,909	128,648	99,938
10-Yr Total			807,383	290,877	1,098,260	190,067	40,377	1,328,704	1,037,827
Annual Avg.			80,738	29,088	109,826	19,007	4,038	132,870	103,783

Note: 2019-2023 is actual data; other years are projections.

<sup>[1]</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census, 2010 & 2020.

<sup>[2]</sup> Average for 2019-2023.

<sup>[3]</sup> MSW generated minus Recycled MSW

<sup>[4]</sup> MSW generated multiplied by average recycling rate, 2019-2023. The projected recycling rate increases from 24% to 27%.

<sup>[5]</sup> Projected population multiplied by MSW generation per capita.

<sup>[6]</sup> Average 2019-2023 special waste tonnage used for 2024. Annual projections are proportional to population change.

<sup>[7]</sup> Includes disposed MSW, C/D, and Sewage Sludge.

## 4.3 Disposal Capacity Observations

Observations about the projected disposal capacity for Cambria County include:

- Municipal Waste Disposal Capacity Assurance:** The two primary landfills, Laurel Highlands (in-County) and Southern Alleghenies (just outside the County at the southern border), have sufficient disposal capacity for all Cambria municipal waste. Additional capacity is also available from Community Refuse Service, LLC and USA Valley Facility, that likely would only provide supplemental disposal capacity. Disposal capacity requirements are also augmented by the CCSWA, County, and private recycling programs and services. Additionally, recent investments by the private sector have expanded recyclables processing infrastructure and capacity so more materials will be diverted from disposal.
- Residual Waste Disposal Capacity:** Laurel Highlands LF and Valley LF indicated a combined residual waste capacity of 4,300 tons per year, or 43,000 tons across the 10-year planning period available per their respective disposal capacity agreements.



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- The Cambria County solid waste management system, including the four(4) landfills under contract with CCSWA through 2035, has sufficient capacity to receive, consolidate, and process all County municipal waste annually, as well as for the 10-year planning period.
- **Variation in Actual Available Disposal Capacity:** Unforeseen conditions, including fluctuations in the solid waste market, national and regional economic trends, and incidents, as well as natural and human-driven disasters, may impact actual waste generation rates; however, significant increases are not anticipated. Even considering unforeseen variations in disposal capacity, more than adequate capacity is expected to be available.
- **County Generation Trends:** Cambria County municipal waste and residual waste generation are comparable to national averages. Cambria County's average per capita generation rate is 0.87 tons per capita, which includes the total disposed and recycled MSW divided by the population. The generation rate for Cambria County is slightly lower than the EPA national generation rate of 0.89 tons per capita.



## CHAPTER 5 – RECYCLING

### 5.1 Recycling Requirements

This Chapter describes County recycling requirements, the existing recycling system, and recycling alternatives and benefits.

Act 101 of 1988 (Act 101) and Chapter 272 of the Pennsylvania Code require Cambria County to develop and implement proper waste management policies and practices, and to report annually to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) the quantities of recycled materials. The County is required to develop a Municipal Waste Management Plan and update it every 10 years. The Plan must discuss the existing waste management system, recycling efforts, and alternatives to promote waste diversion to meet the State-established 35 percent recycling rate.

Act 101 includes provisions affecting local jurisdictions (cities, townships, and boroughs), residents, and commercial establishments. Act 101 also protects the interests of private-sector scrap businesses and recyclables processors. Act 101 directs boroughs, townships, and cities to implement waste reduction and diversion programs on a mandatory or voluntary basis.

Recycling activities under this Plan do not interfere with municipal recycling. The County and the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA) coordinate with municipalities as appropriate and to the extent feasible to support recycling and proper waste management, striving to offer services that consider and are compatible with the private waste and recycling industry.

This Plan meets the requirements of 25 Pa Code 272.226(a)(11)/Act 101 502(e)(1)(xi) relating to the consideration for the collection, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials accorded to persons engaged in the business of recycling, whether or not the persons are operating for profit. This Plan does not interfere with and acknowledges the existence of its operations in concert with other recycling operations and haulers.

### 5.2 Recycling System Overview

Cambria County strives to enhance its recycling programs and to increase the diversion of recyclable materials away from landfill disposal. This section describes the County's recycling activities and the impacts and benefits of these efforts. The information summarizes waste and recycling services in the County municipalities, including the handful of Act 101-mandated recycling communities that are subject to more stringent recycling requirements.

Cambria County municipality representatives were surveyed to confirm the current year (2024-2025) solid waste and recycling services and programs available to residents, commercial establishments, and institutions such as schools. The survey results are the primary source of information in this Chapter.



The Cambria County recycling system combines public and private entities to provide a range of collection, processing, and marketing services for various materials. The CCSWMA is the centerpiece of publicly provided recycling services, complementing the recycling services provided by private sector haulers, landfills, scrap dealers, and other material handlers.

Private scrap yards, such as Johnstown Scrap Metal, play a crucial role in diverting materials from disposal, including small quantities of scrap recovered by CCSWMA. CCSWMA collects and transports recyclables from its drop-off recycling locations to a private recycling center operated by the intermediate processor, Pro Disposal. Most of the curbside recyclables collected by various private haulers are also processed here.

### **5.2.1 Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority**

The responsibility for managing solid waste in Cambria County is delegated to the CCSWMA. The CCSWM is overseen by a seven-member board of directors appointed by the Cambria County Commissioners and staffed by four full-time employees and one part-time employee. The CCSWMA provides these essential recycling services:

- Administration of the County Plan
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program
- Electronics recycling drop-off program
- County-wide drop-off recycling services
- Education

The CCSWMA has inter-municipal agreements in place with the following municipalities pertaining to participation in the Big Blue Bin drop-off recycling program:

- Lilly Borough
- Hastings Borough
- Conemaugh Township
- Adams Township
- City of Johnstown
- University of Pittsburgh Johnstown in Richland Township

An essential function of the CCSWMA is the management, ownership, and operation of the Big Blue Bin drop-off recycling program, which is available for use by County residents and small businesses. Given the rural setting with relatively limited curbside recycling service, the network of 18 collection sites provides public access to recycling.

**Table 5-1** summarizes the services provided by the CCSWMA.



**Table 5-1 Cambria County Solid Waste Authority Recycling Service Summary (2025)**

CCSWA Services	Service Description
Administration	Provide County-wide recycling program and materials management administration and implementation services, including education, facility tours, materials processing, and marketing services through contracts, grant development, and recycling data collection and reporting to PADEP.
Public Drop-off Program	Maintain and service Big Blue Bin Recycling bins distributed across the County. Materials accepted are: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, Corrugated Cardboard, Aluminum and Bi-metal Cans, and #1 and #2 Plastic Bottles and Jugs. Material categories, bin configurations, and locations are subject to periodic changes.
Electronics Recycling	Accepts, consolidates, and administers arrangements with qualified vendors to process electronics, including televisions, computers, monitors and peripherals, laptops, tablets, printers, scanners, computer peripherals, air conditioning window units, dehumidifiers, microwave ovens, and similar items at CCSMA's electronics building.
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Support annual collection events for HHW in cooperation with PA Resources Council (PRC).

Note: The CCSWMA continually evaluates the financial feasibility of its recycling and special item recovery programs, making administrative and operational adjustments as necessary.

## 5.2.2 Waste and Recycling Program Summary

As part of Plan Development, representatives from all county municipalities were surveyed to obtain information about their current (2025) waste and recycling practices, services, and programs, as summarized in **Table 5-2**.

**Table 5-2 Recycling Service Program Summary (2025)**

Municipalities	Mandated Curbside Recycling	Collection System Type	Curbside Recycling	Drop-off Recycling <sup>[1]</sup>	Curbside Yard Waste	Municipal Compost Facility
Adams Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	Municipal
Allegheny Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Ashville Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	Shared
Barr Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	Shared
Blacklick Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Brownstown Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Cambria Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Carrolltown Boro.	No	Contract	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cassandra Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No



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Municipalities	Mandated Curbside Recycling	Collection System Type	Curbside Recycling	Drop-off Recycling <sup>[1]</sup>	Curbside Yard Waste	Municipal Compost Facility
Chest Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Chest Springs Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Clearfield Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	Shared
Conemaugh Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Cresson Boro.	No	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal
Cresson Twp.	No	Municipal	No	Yes	Yes	Shared
Croyle Twp.	No	Municipal	No	Yes	No	No
Daisytown Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Dale Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Dean Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
East Carroll Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
East Conemaugh Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
East Taylor Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Ebensburg Boro.	No	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal
Ehrenfeld Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Elder Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Ferndale Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Franklin Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Gallitzin Boro.	No	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Shared
Gallitzin Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Geistown Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hastings Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	Yes	No
Jackson Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Johnstown City	Yes	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal
Lilly Boro.	No	Municipal	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lorain Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Loretto Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Lower Yoder Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Middle Taylor Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Munster Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Nanty-Glo Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Northern Cambria Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Patton Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Portage Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	Shared
Portage Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	Shared
Reade Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No





Municipalities	Mandated Curbside Recycling	Collection System Type	Curbside Recycling	Drop-off Recycling <sup>[1]</sup>	Curbside Yard Waste	Municipal Compost Facility
Richland Twp.	Yes	Private Subscription	Yes	Yes	Yes	Shared
Sankertown Boro.	No	Municipal	No	Yes	No	No
Scalp Level Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
South Fork Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Southmont Boro.	No	Contract	No	Yes	No	No
Stonycreek Twp.	No	Contract	No	Yes	Yes	Shared
Summerhill Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Summerhill Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Susquehanna Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Tunnelhill Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Upper Yoder Twp.	Yes	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal
Vintondale Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Washington Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
West Carroll Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Westmont Boro.	Yes	Contract	Yes	Yes	Yes	Municipal
West Taylor Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
White Twp.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No
Wilmore Boro.	No	Private Subscription	No	Yes	No	No

Source: Cambria County Municipal Waste & Recycling Program Survey, 2025

<sup>[1]</sup> Residents in all municipalities in the County have access to the county-operated drop-off recycling sites.

## 5.2.3 Mandated and Voluntary Curbside Recycling

Pennsylvania Act 101 requires municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more, as well as those with 5,000 or more residents and a population density of more than 300 people per square mile, to implement curbside recycling programs. The following communities implement mandated recycling programs in accordance with Act 101: the City of Johnstown, Richland Township, Upper Yoder Township, and Westmont Borough. However, Upper Yoder Township and Westmont Borough may soon fall below the State's population threshold for "mandated status" due to the exodus from the County.

The following non-mandated municipalities offer curbside recycling services via private haulers: Cresson Borough, Carrolltown Borough, Ebensburg Borough. In Lilly Borough, the borough provides curbside recycling services. These voluntary curbside recycling services typically include bi-weekly curbside collection of aluminum, steel/bi-metal cans, plastics (#1 & #2), cardboard, paperboard, and newspaper.

**Table 5-3** summarizes the services provided by mandated recycling communities.



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Table 5-3 Mandated Curbside Recycling

Municipality	Items Collected Curbside	Frequency	Other Items Collected	Drop-off Collection
City of Johnstown <sup>[1]</sup>	Plastic jugs, jars, and bottles #1 and #2, aluminum, tin, or steel food and beverage cans; glass bottles, jugs, and jars (without lids); newspapers, phone books, magazines, inserts, junk mail, and envelopes.	Bi-Weekly	Yard waste	Recyclables, motor oil
Richland Township <sup>[2]</sup>	Aluminum, glass, steel/bi-metal cans, plastics (#1 & #2), cardboard, paperboard, and newspaper	Bi-Weekly	Leaves in the fall Yard waste in spring	Branches and limbs
Upper Yoder Township <sup>[3]</sup>	Aluminum, glass, steel/bi-metal cans, plastics (#1 & #2), cardboard, paperboard, and newspaper	Bi-Weekly	Bulk items in four spring cleanups	None
Westmont Borough <sup>[4]</sup>	Aluminum, glass, steel/bi-metal cans, plastics (#1 & #2), cardboard, paperboard, and newspaper	Bi-Weekly	Seasonal leaves and yard waste	None

<sup>[1]</sup>Johnstown has drop-off sites at Roxbury Park and the D. St. Ball Field, as well as motor oil recycling at the Highway Garage. The Public Works Department provides curbside yard waste collection services.

<sup>[2]</sup>Richland Township Public Works Department collects leaves in the fall and yard waste in the spring. Branches and limbs are accepted at the Municipal Garage.

<sup>[3]</sup>Upper Yoder Township offers four spring cleanups of bulk items.

<sup>[4]</sup>Westmont Borough Public Works Department provides seasonal curbside leaf and yard waste collection.

## 5.3 Recyclable Material Processors

Recyclables processing is provided by CCSWMA and private vendors located in or near Cambria County. Currently, Pro Disposal processes recyclables collected in the County, and Johnstown Scrap Metal picks up scrap metal collected by the CCSWMA. Most area landfills offer some recycling opportunities. Perhaps the most significant development related to County recycling is that Pro Disposal will complete construction of a new, fully automated recycling facility in 2025. This facility will increase recyclables processing capacity and align with the private sector's efforts to capture single stream recyclables from curbside and other programs, thereby maximizing facility utilization. **Table 5-4** identifies some of the current material processors in or near the County.



Table 5-4 Recyclable Materials Processing Operations in or near Cambria County

Facility	County	Materials Accepted	Form of Accepted Materials
Pro Disposal 713 Mountain Avenue Portage, PA 15958 814-736-3631	Cambria	Newspapers and inserts, magazines and catalogs, corrugated cardboard (OCC), aluminum and bi-metal beverage, soup, and other food cans, #1 & #2 plastic bottles and jugs, mixed office paper, & sorted office paper	Source separated and mixed glass, plastics, paper, etc. Mixed preferred at the new MRF.
Johnstown Scrap Metal 300 Maple Ave, Johnstown, PA 15901 (814) 535-5259	Cambria	Steel, Iron, Copper, and other ferrous and non-ferrous. A primary processor for CCSWMA's appliances, satellite dishes, wires and cables, lead-acid batteries, shelving, parts, audio-video equipment, and miscellaneous ferrous metals.	Mixed and separated scrap: appliances
Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority 253 Transfer Rd. Bellefonte PA 16823 814-238-6649	Centre	Plastic bottles 1- 7, rigid plastics, colored glass, aluminum and tin cans, catalogs, phone books, magazines, newspaper, office paper, mixed paper, paperboard, and cardboard	Source separated
Indiana County Solid Waste Authority 1715 Route 119 South Homer City, PA 15748 724-479-0444	Indiana	Plastics 1 & 2, 3 colors of glass, tin & aluminum cans, magazines, newspaper, office paper, and cardboard	Source separated at drop-off sites and at the curb
Laurel Highlands Landfill 260 Laurel Ridge Road Johnstown, PA 15909 814-749-9065	Cambria	Aluminum cans, plastic bottles #1 & #2, steel/tin or bimetallic cans, cardboard, newspaper	
Bradish Glass 444 Willow Crossing Rd Greensburg PA 15601 724-837-5100	Westmoreland	Clear and brown glass, plate glass and overruns (will de-box), and other colors of clean glass	Source separated
Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority		E-waste, scrap, and special items, such as small freon appliances. Source-separated recyclable materials collected in the Big Blue Bin Program (see Table 5.5). Intermediate processing (e.g., palletizing or bulking)	Source separated.

Source: PADEP Material Recovery Facilities in Pennsylvania, 2017.



## 5.4 Drop-Off Recycling - Big Blue Bins

As of 2025, the CCSWMA manages and collects recyclables from 18 Big Blue Bin drop-off sites. See **Table 5-5** for items accepted and **Table 5-6** for the locations of the drop-off sites.

**Table 5-5 Items Accepted at the CCSWMA Big Blue Bin Drop-off Sites**

Material Accepted	Description	Preparation
Newspapers	All newspapers and glossy inserts	Put in the bin loose. Do not bag or bundle.
Magazines/catalogs	Magazines, catalogs, and similar periodicals	Put in the bin loose. Do not bag or bundle.
Corrugated Cardboard	Corrugated ONLY, (hint: Look for the wavy middle layer, or ridges) NO CHIPBOARD, NO PASTE BOARD (NO CRACKER, NO CEREAL, NO SODA or similar type boxes.) NO packing materials. Dispose of all packing material with curbside garbage	Flatten and put corrugated cardboard in the bin loose. Do not leave boxes outside the bins, flatten and put in the collection bin
Aluminum and Bi-metal Cans	Beverage cans, soup, and other food cans	Empty and rinse cans. Put in the bin loose. Crush cans to save space.
#1 & #2 Plastic Bottles & Jugs	Soda, shampoo, detergent bottles, and milk jugs PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS Only - no other types of plastic. NO TUBS, NO CLAMSHELLS, NO RIGID PLASTIC NO BAGS.	Empty and rinse containers. Crush to save space. Put in the bin loose.



Table 5-6 Big Blue Bin Drop-Off Recycling Locations

Municipality	Address	Location
Adams Township	125 Mary Drive, Sidman, PA 15955	Adams Twp. Municipal Building along Route 160.
Conemaugh Township	142 Janie Street, Johnstown, PA 15902	Along Janie St. adjacent to Conemaugh Twp municipal building/office (off of Frankstown Rd).
Cresson Township	7551 Admiral Peary Highway, Cresson, PA 16630	The Cresson Township Garage on Old Route between Sheetz and Cresson Twp garage.
Croyle Township	1654 Railroad Street, Summerhill, PA 15958	Croyle Twp Municipal Building along Route 53.
East Conemaugh Borough	Railroad Street, East Conemaugh, PA 15909	Railroad St.
Ebensburg 1 (a.k.a. Manor Drive)	Manor Drive, Ebensburg, PA	Near the west end of Manor Drive next to Lions Ballpark near Lake Rowena/High St. intersection.
Ebensburg 2 (a.k.a. DEP at Ebensburg Industrial Park)	286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg, PA 15931	In the Cambria County Industrial Park at the new DEP building.
Ebensburg 3	507 Manor Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931	Authority Office
Hastings	246 Coleman St., Hastings, PA 16646	Near the Hastings Fire Hall.
Lilly	Rt 53 north side of borough near borough line.	North side of Borough near borough line.
Loretto	350 St. Joseph Street, Loretto, PA 15940	One block east of St. Mary Street on the south end of Loretto.
Jackson Township	513 Pike Road, Johnstown, PA 15909	Pike Rd. & Rt. 271 in Mundy's Corner, adjacent to Jackson Twp. building.
Northern Cambria	7 Cottonwood St, Northern Cambria, PA 15714	Giant Eagle parking lot.
Patton	800 4th Ave, Patton, PA 16668	Behind the Patton Borough Building at 3rd and Magee Ave.
Portage	712 Mountain Avenue, Portage, PA 15946	The road to Portage Area School District.
Roxbury Park	114 Derby Street, Johnstown, PA 15905	The Derby Street entrance to Roxbury Park in Johnstown (near Creamery ice cream)
Lower Yoder	9 D St., Johnstown, PA 15906	Near the Little League ball field on D St.
Richland Twp./University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ)	Highfield Drive, Johnstown, PA 15904	UPJ campus near the recreation center

Note: CCSWMA maintains drop-off site locations and material information on its website.

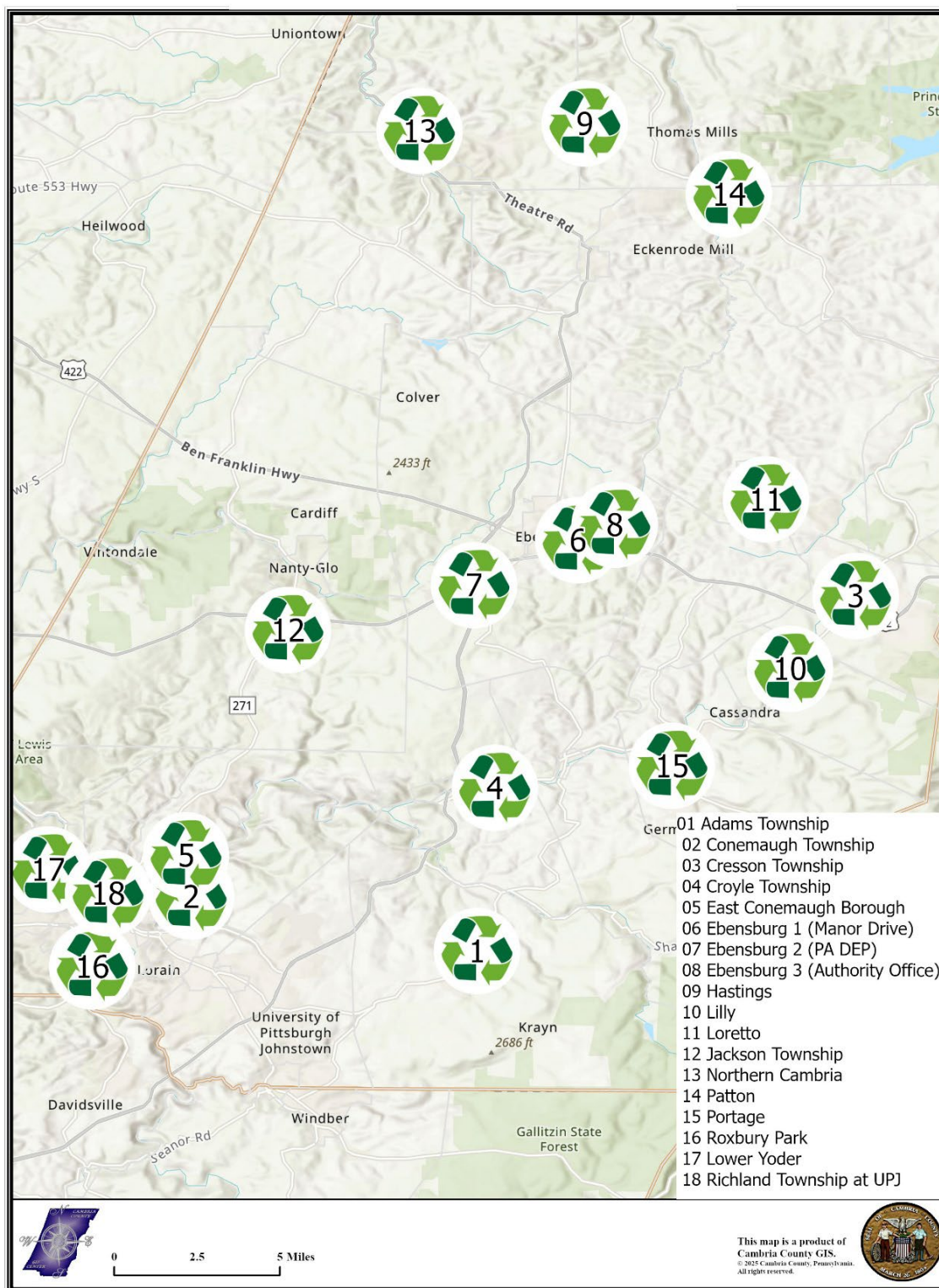
See **Figure 1** for a map of the drop-off locations.





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Figure 5-1 Cambria County Drop-Off Recycling Depots (Map)







### 5.4.1 Yard Waste

The mandated recycling communities collect leaves and other yard waste in accordance with Act 101. Additionally, some non-mandated communities in Cambria County offer various yard waste collection services, including fall leaf collection, brush pickup, and tree cutting services, as part of their routine Public Works Department services to maintain clean and safe streets and public spaces.

### 5.4.2 Community Recycling Events

Recycling should be available at community events, including fairs, bazaars, picnics, and sporting events attended by more than 200 people each day. Community events must provide for the separation, storage, and collection of high-grade office paper, aluminum, corrugated paper, and leaf waste at the events. Recycling is required for community activities that include events sponsored in whole or in part by a municipality or held within a municipality and sponsored privately.

At the County-hosted HHW events, the CCSWMA offers recycling, including ClearStream recycling containers that target single-serve recyclable beverage containers. The County and CCSWMA provide guidance and available resources to municipalities and organizers hosting community events, and allow municipalities and organizations to use CCSWMA's special event ClearStream recyclers free of charge.



### 5.4.3 Recycling Education

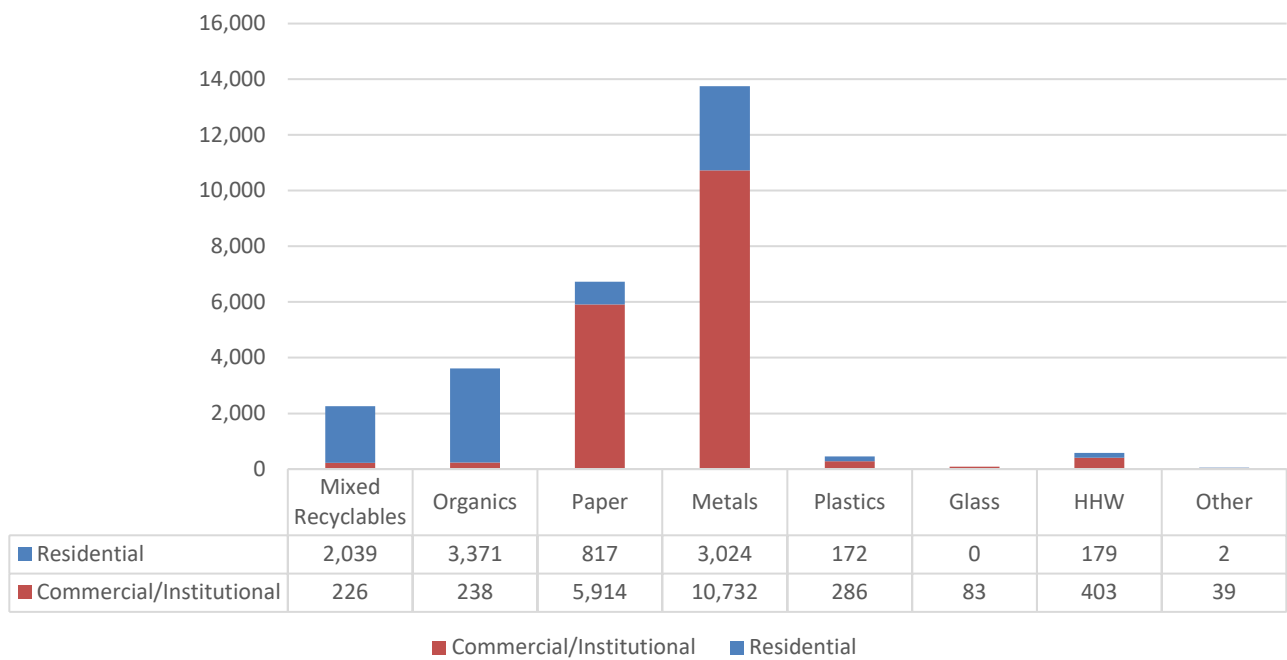
On its website <https://cambriarecycles.org/recycling>, the CCSWMA posts and regularly updates information regarding County recycling programs and opportunities to dispose of or recycle materials properly. The CCSWMA also regularly communicates recycling education through answering inquiries by phone at the CCSWMA office, through social media, and public outreach events.

## 5.5 Recycling Composition

**Figure 5-2** and **Table 5-7** show the estimated annual distribution of recovered (recycled) quantities generated from within the entire County, regardless of the program under which it was collected, by material type and generating sector (i.e., commercial/institutional or residential). Approximately 35 percent of total recyclables originate from the residential sector, while the remaining 65 percent originate from commercial and institutional sources. The majority of waste diverted to recycling by the residential sector consists of yard waste (3,317 tons), ferrous metals (1,946 tons), and single stream recycling (1,550 tons). The commercial and institutional sector recycling includes significant amounts of ferrous metals (7,607 tons), cardboard (5,255 tons), and white goods (2,604 tons).



Figure 5-2 Cambria County Recycling Tons by Generating Sector



5.6 Recycling Rate

As of 2023, the Cambria County recycling rate is 24.8 percent. The State-established recycling rate target for Pennsylvania counties is 35 percent. Per PADEP guidance, Cambria County calculates its recycling rate using the U.S. EPA's formula, as shown below. This calculation uses the municipal waste category from the PADEP waste destination reports and the reported recycling figures from the Act 101 Annual Recycling Reports. The recycling rate is the percentage calculated for municipal waste that is recycled in relation to the total generation (municipal waste plus recyclables).

According to the EPA, municipal solid waste encompasses a range of materials, including common household waste and other consumer items such as automobile batteries, antifreeze, HHW, fluorescent tubes, consumer electronics, circuit boards, oil filters, and mattresses. Notably, "nonstandard" materials that may get recycled, such as asphalt, furniture, and other industrial items, are not considered recycled materials. The recycling rate calculation divides the total of eligible recycled materials by the total municipal waste generation. Municipal waste generation excludes other special waste categories, such as construction and demolition debris, special handling wastes, and residual wastes.

Due to various factors, including inconsistencies in reporting, population densities, and the number of mandated communities, among others, the recycling rate is not a reliable indicator for comparing Cambria County's recycling performance with that of other counties. However, the recycling rate is useful for reviewing incremental or annual changes in recycling that can occur due to changes in recycling programs or the capture of more or less recycling data from municipalities and/or commercial establishments. **Table 5-7** shows the 5-year historical and 5-year average recycling rates for 2019–2023.



$$\text{Recycling Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Recycled Mun. Waste}}{\text{Total Generation (mun. waste + recycled)}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Recycling Rate (23.5\%)} = \frac{27,463}{(89,224 + 27,463)} \times 100$$

Table 5-7 Cambria County Recycling Rate (2019-2023)

Cambria County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average
MSW Tons <sup>[1]</sup>	88,331	89,764	91,225	86,488	90,311	89,224
Recycling Tons <sup>[2]</sup>	22,213	24,598	31,247	29,790	29,769	27,523
MSW Recycling Rate <sup>[3]</sup>	20.1%	21.5%	25.5%	25.6%	24.8%	23.6%

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, 2019 – 2023.

<sup>[2]</sup> Source: Cambria County Act 101 Annual Recycling Reports, 2019 – 2023.

<sup>[3]</sup> Total recycling tons are divided by the sum of total recycling tons and disposed MSW tons.

## 5.7 Effect of Recycling on Existing Facilities

County recycling programs are expected to continue diverting roughly 20–25 percent of the County's waste stream away from disposal. The recycling of single stream materials, including various grades of paper, metals, and organics, will ensure that the capacity needed at the County's contracted disposal facilities is available throughout the planning period and contributes to sustaining landfill capacity. CCSWMA's recycling drop-offs, recovery programs for electronics, and other hard-to-recycle programs will further reduce landfill disposal.

## 5.8 Recycling Benefits

Recycling has numerous documented benefits, both economic, environmental, and social. According to the EPA, 1.17 jobs are created for every 1,000 tons of recycled material, and recycling creates about nine times more jobs than trash disposal. Cambria County's recycling efforts realize direct economic benefits. A disposal tip fee of \$77.56 per ton, combined with an average annual recycling rate of 30% to 35%, results in an annual avoided disposal cost of approximately \$2,555,000 to \$2,980,000 (See **Table 5-8**) plus the additional costs or savings associated with collection services.

Table 5-8 Cambria County Avoided Cost-of-Disposal (10-Year Projection)

10-Year Est. MSW Generation <sup>1</sup>	10-Year Avg. Annual Recycling Rate	10-Year Recycled Tons <sup>2</sup>	10-Year Avoided Cost of Disposal <sup>3</sup>	Annual Avg. Avoided Cost of Disposal <sup>4</sup>
1,098,260	30%	329,478	\$25,554,317	\$2,555,432
1,098,260	32%	351,443	\$27,257,938	\$2,725,794
1,098,260	34%	373,408	\$28,961,560	\$2,896,156
1,098,260	35%	384,391	\$29,813,370	\$2,981,337

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: PADEP Waste Destination Reports, Act 101 Recycling Reports. Sum of total MSW, 2026 - 2035.

<sup>[2]</sup> 10-year estimated MSW generation multiplied by the 10-year average annual recycling rate.

<sup>[3]</sup> 10-year recycled tons multiplied by a tipping fee of \$77.56 per ton. The tip fee represents the 2025 gate rate.

<sup>[4]</sup> 10-year avoided cost of disposal divided by 10 years.



## 5.8.1 Environmental Benefits

**Table 5-9** uses the U.S. EPA's Waste Reduction Model to estimate the net energy saved and the net reduction in greenhouse gases emitted from diversion from landfilling. Cambria County recycles an average of 27,523 tons annually, equivalent to a net energy savings of 1,077,449 million British Thermal Units (BTUs). These energy savings translate to a net reduction of 23,895 Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent (MTCE) or 87,616 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e). **Table 5-10** uses the U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator to express the County's net reduction in greenhouse gases in terms of common carbon-emitting and carbon-sequestering activities. The County's net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to the emissions of:

- Driving 18,837 gas-powered vehicles for a year
- Consuming 9,900,632 gallons of gasoline
- Burning 96,903,531 pounds of coal.

This net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to:

- The carbon sequestered by growing 1,445,668 trees for ten years
- The carbon sequestered by 105,139 acres of forest in one year.

**Table 5-9 Cambria County Net Energy Reductions**

Benefit	Metric
Quantity Recycled	27,523 tons <sup>[1]</sup>
Net Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions	23,895 Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent (MTCE) 87,616 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Net Energy Savings	1,077,449 Million British Thermal Units (BTUs)

<sup>[1]</sup> Cambria County Act 101 Recycling Reports, 2019-2023  
Source: U.S. EPA Waste Reduction Model (WARM)-Version 16

**Table 5-10 Cambria County Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies**

Benefit	Equivalencies
Recycled MSW	27,523 tons <sup>[1]</sup>
Emissions saved due to recycling:	18,837 A gas-powered vehicle driven for one year 9,900,632 Gallons of gasoline consumed 96,903,531 Pounds of coal burned
Carbon Sequestered due to recycling:	1,445,668 Tree seedlings grown for 10 years 105,139 Acres of U.S. forests in one year

Source: U.S. EPA Waste Reduction Model (WARM)-Version 16

<sup>[1]</sup> Cambria County Act 101 Recycling Reports, 2019-2023



## 5.9 Waste Management System & Recycling Alternatives

Cambria County continually evaluates disposal and recycling alternatives. New or enhanced programs and services are implemented when determined economically feasible, for example, when a stable outlet or market is identified for a specific material. The following sections review alternatives for the collection, transportation, and processing of municipal solid waste and recyclables.

The current alternatives and programs in place, along with the process of continually evaluating and implementing feasible programs and services at the county and local government levels, are compatible with the needs of the Cambria County municipal waste management system.

### 5.9.1 Municipal Waste & Recyclables Collection Alternatives

Primary alternatives for municipal solid waste (MSW) and recyclables collection include:

- **Contract Collection** - Municipalities can contract with private haulers via a public bidding procedure to secure residential curbside collection or commercial collection services. The development of a new recyclables processing facility in Cambria County, projected to be operational by 2026, may result in new or modified collection contracts that increase contracted recycling services.
- **Subscription Collection** - Households and businesses can contract directly with a private waste hauler for curbside collection. Disadvantages of subscription services include gaps in services that may contribute to illegal dumping and multiple haulers inefficiently serving the same areas. Residential curbside collection of recyclables through subscription services can be limited, as customers often do not select the optional recycling service at an additional cost.
- **Drop-Off Collection/Transfer** - A drop-off site, including containers staged for collection or a transfer station, is often a cost-effective alternative to curbside collection. Drop-off sites may be permanent or temporary, such as those used for HHW collection events. Drop-off sites for businesses, such as dedicated containers for cardboard, can be a feasible alternative to increase recycling and reduce collection and disposal costs.

The CCSWMA has 18 Big Blue Bin Drop-Off Recycling locations for residents, which are listed on their website: <https://cambriarecycles.org/recycling>. The website also lists materials accepted at the drop-off locations and information on outlets for hard-to-recycle items. Although the details are unknown at this time, Pro Disposal's new recycling center is likely to serve as a hub for hauling logistics, so opportunities to collaborate on materials logistics at this location should be periodically evaluated.

- **Storage/Processing/Sale** - There are several MRFs or interim recyclables processors in or near Cambria County. (See **Table 5-4** for the list.) Pro Disposal currently receives the recyclables from Cambria County. The CCSWMA will continuously evaluate its processing arrangements for recyclables with the aim of maximizing the diversion of recyclables while ensuring efficient transportation and affordable processing rates.





- **Municipal Collection** – Municipalities (e.g., TBD), through their equipment and staff, provide collection services that usually include residential curbside trash and recyclables collection. Many municipalities offer leaf and yard waste collection through either public collection or drop-off centers.

This combination of collection alternatives for waste and recyclables is compatible with and meets the needs of Cambria County. The CCSWMA and local governments will continue to evaluate and implement a variety of feasible and available collection alternatives.

### 5.9.2 Waste & Recyclables Transportation Alternatives

Under Act 101, each municipality is responsible for properly collecting and transporting municipal waste generated within its municipal boundaries. The primary methods for transporting waste or recyclables to a disposal or processing facility include:

- **Self-Haul** - Residents or businesses transport their waste directly to a transfer or disposal facility. With the CCSWMA facility in Ebensburg and the extensive network of Big Blue Bin Drop-off Recycling Locations, residents have several options for recycling their recyclables. Electronics are accepted at the central CCSWMA location in Ebensburg for a fee or donation.
- **Private-Haul** - Waste haulers transport waste or recyclables to one or more permitted transfer stations or disposal facilities. Haulers serving Cambria County may utilize one of the disposal sites with disposal capacity agreements with the CCSWMA and may also haul directly to other permitted facilities. Currently, recyclables are transported to Pro Disposal's Material Recovery Facility (MRF).
- **Municipal-Haul** - Municipalities collect waste curbside and transport it to a disposal facility.

This combination of transportation alternatives for municipal waste and recyclables is compatible with and meets the needs of the Cambria County waste system. The CCSWMA and local governments will continue to evaluate and implement a variety of feasible and available transportation alternatives.

### 5.9.3 Landfill/Disposal Alternatives

There is one active landfill in Cambria County, owned and operated by the private sector, and another landfill located just outside the County to the south. These and other landfills directly and indirectly provide or support waste and recycling services, and opportunities to use these facilities for proper disposal and recycling should continue. The County waste system meets disposal capacity requirements by transporting waste to both in-county and out-of-county disposal facilities. Landfills will continue to be the primary option for disposing of dewatered sewage sludge.

### 5.9.4 Composting & Organics Processing Alternatives

Local governments, the County, and CCSWMA will evaluate opportunities to compost, backyard compost, and process organics for diversion from disposal. The combination of municipal and private yard waste collection and composting programs, backyard composting, and private landscaping and tree (grinding) services is compatible with and meets the needs of the County waste system.





## 5.9.5 Items Requiring Special Handling

Special items, including electronics, tires, and HHW, will continue to be managed by the CCSWMA and the private sector. The CCSWMA anticipates continued recovery of electronics and small appliances and offers an annual HHW collection event. The combination of CCSWMA special item services, private sector services, and current, new, or expanded programs by the public and private sectors is compatible with and meets the needs of the County.

The CCSWMA website offers an extensive list of private resources for hard-to-recycle items, including appliances, automobiles, gasoline, motor oil, tires, batteries, HHW, gas cylinders/tanks, light bulbs, and plastic bags.

See **Table 5-2** for a summary of programs offered by all the municipalities in the County, and **Table 5-3** for the programs offered by the mandated municipalities.

## 5.10 Measures to Increase Waste Diversion & Recycling

The County, CCSWMA, and municipalities within the County will continue to explore and pursue opportunities to improve and expand proper waste disposal and recycling services and programs. This includes municipal collaboration and cooperation for improved education, drop-off recycling, and programs for collecting and processing items requiring special handling. **Table 5-11** presents the following priorities, along with planning and implementation initiatives to increase recycling to the extent resources are available and feasible.

**Table 5-11 Cambria County Measures to Increase Waste Diversion**

<b>Funding/Economic Sustainability</b>	Evaluate diversion opportunities and reliable funding sources, particularly to support any new/additional waste and recycling programs.
<b>Enhance Cambria County Recycling Services</b>	Evaluate and implement new and/or enhanced recycling services currently provided by the CCSWMA and municipalities as feasible. Support the haulers' initiatives to collect recyclables in larger carts, allowing residents to have more capacity for recyclables, especially if single stream recycling is accepted at the recycling processing center.
<b>Big Blue Bin Drop-off Recycling Program Improvements</b>	Evaluate adapting the County drop-off program to be compatible with Pro Disposal's new recyclables processing capabilities, including consideration of accepting mixed fibers and mixed containers, which should improve participation and collection efficiency of the drop-off sites. Evaluate refurbishing the recycling sites with new labels and repainting the containers. Consider using new recycling container configurations, some with openings for mixed fibers and others for mixed containers, to reduce contamination.
<b>Municipal Collaboration and Promotion of Yard Waste Facilities</b>	Pursue opportunities to increase yard waste collected curbside or dropped through further municipal collaboration and promotion to use drop-off sites. Collaborate with and hire private companies on yard waste removal and processing.



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<b>Target High-Value Commodities</b>	Where feasible, target the additional recovery of higher-value commodities and materials that are frequently disposed of illegally. Targeted materials may include cardboard, scrap metal, electronics, and C&D waste.
<b>Material Quality</b>	Implement planning and management programs to enhance the monitoring, reporting, and auditing of recyclable material feedstocks and outgoing materials, ensuring the long-term marketability of materials diverted from the waste stream.
<b>Standardize Education</b>	Enhance the effectiveness of recycling education across the County and municipalities using a simple, standard educational message. Expand social media messaging. Consider a periodic electronic newsletter, with sign-up available on the CCSWMA's website.
<b>Enhance Business Recycling &amp; Reporting</b>	Encourage increased recycling at commercial and institutional establishments, and promote the reporting of recycling efforts and quantities to the CCSWMA. Steps can include working with haulers and municipalities to identify commercial establishments that recycle and sending the Act 101 commercial reporting forms to those businesses. Any new recyclables processing and marketing agreements should strive to improve recyclables reporting.
<b>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</b>	Continue the annual HHW collection event. Continue to apply for reimbursement for the HHW program. Evaluate the feasibility of holding more than one collection event per year.
<b>E-Waste</b>	Continue the ongoing collection of e-waste at the CCSWMA main location. Evaluate the charges for the various items accepted to ensure that enough revenue is collected to cover the program's expenses.
<b>Waste Tires</b>	Continue to encourage waste tire recovery and recycling of waste tires through local processors. Additionally, evaluate measures to ensure that local automotive shops that accept waste tires track both inbound and outbound tires and dispose of them in compliance with applicable statutes or utilize a licensed tire processor. Maintain and distribute to local shops a list of licensed tire transporters based on PADEP's licensed tire hauler database.
<b>Evaluate Recyclables Processing Agreements</b>	On an ongoing basis, the CCSWMA will evaluate opportunities to execute improved recyclable processing agreements to help with transportation logistics and secure value-added commodity pricing arrangements.

During the development of the Plan, we conducted preliminary evaluations to identify opportunities for processing recyclables and sustaining electronics recycling efforts. Additionally, we investigated waste tire disposal and recovery issues in response to concerns about waste tires at the initial SWAC meeting. Detailed information was reviewed with the CCSWMA and SWAC, and a summary of these evaluations is as follows:



1. **Recyclables Processing Arrangements** - The construction and operation of a new single stream processor near Ebensburg, PA, by Pro Disposal creates an opportunity for CCSWMA to negotiate competitive pricing for material processing while also reducing drop-off collection and transportation costs. CCSWMA may be able to reconfigure its drop-off sites to simplify the collection service, improve collection efficiency, and make them more user-friendly for residents. The centrally located single stream facility is expected to gradually improve curbside recyclables recovery as more communities adopt cart-based recycling services.
2. **Electronics Arrangements & Sustainability** – The current arrangement with JVS Environmental is uniquely beneficial, given the proximity and the price. Based on a review of various recyclables processors, including those serving nearby counties, it is in the best interest of CCSWMA to continue its arrangements with JVS. If market conditions change, it would be prudent for CCSWMA to solicit proposals from various qualified vendors. Changes to Pennsylvania's CDRA regulations are being considered, but the impact on E-waste regulations and funding sources is unknown.
3. **Waste Tires** – Based on municipal survey results, waste tires are a significant issue in Cambria County. Municipality representatives believe that many of the abandoned waste tires originate from outside the municipality, beyond the county, and from contractors. A preliminary investigation into this issue reveals that Cambria County (and most counties) lack a mechanism to verify whether businesses that accept waste tires, such as automotive repair shops, are working with licensed transporters to dispose of all waste tires properly. The County could mitigate this by providing training or written guidance to shops, explaining the legal obligations under PADEP rules and how to verify if a hauler is permitted. **Table 5-12** lists the currently licensed tire Transporters in Cambria County

**Table 5-12 Licensed Tire Transporters in Cambria County**

WTT ID	Waste Tire Transporter	License Status	Expiration Date
<b>WTT2529</b>	Pro Disposal, Inc. 243 Rubisch Rd. Ebensburg, PA 15931 (814) 736-3631	Active	3/31/2026
<b>WTT0351</b>	Brat Towing & Recovery Inc. 804 Horner St. Johnstown, PA 15902 (814) 536-7885	Active	11/30/2025
<b>WTT2950</b>	Dunlo Transfer Co. 159 Tire Hill Rd. Johnstown, PA 15905 (814) 288-1450	Active	12/31/2025
<b>WTT2872</b>	Johnson Kanema 90 Daisy St. Johnstown, PA 15905 (412) 737-9544	Active	1/31/2026

Source: [http://cedatareporting.pa.gov/Reportserver/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?/Public/DEP/WM/SSRS/Tire\\_Transporters](http://cedatareporting.pa.gov/Reportserver/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?/Public/DEP/WM/SSRS/Tire_Transporters)



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## CHAPTER 6 – SELECTION & JUSTIFICATION

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This chapter describes the process used to select the Cambria County municipal waste management system and justifies the waste system chosen and its components. This Non-Substantial Plan Revision does not substantively change the County's municipal waste management system. Waste will continue to be disposed of at privately owned landfills. Recyclables will be collected, transported, and processed via a combination of private sector companies and public entities, including municipalities and the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA). The current system has sufficient capacity to dispose of all waste and process all recyclables projected to be generated over the 10-year planning period (2026 – 2035).

Cambria County and the CCSWMA aim to continue efforts to support proper disposal and to continue recycling programs to the extent feasible. Under this Plan revision, the County does not propose any significant new municipal waste or recyclables processing infrastructure and does not intend to terminate any recycling programs.

### 6.1 Current Waste System

#### 6.1.1 Public & Private Municipal Waste Management System

The County waste management system includes a combination of public and private waste generators, collectors, and processors. Waste disposal will continue to be disposed at the private landfills listed in this Plan with disposal agreements in place. Due to transportation logistics, the Laurel Highlands Landfill (in-County) and Southern Alleghenies Landfill (just south of the County border) are expected to be the primary disposal facilities, with smaller quantities of waste being taken to other landfills listed in the Plan.

The County recycling system will continue to be based on market forces, where both public and private entities consider transportation costs, along with processing costs and recyclable commodity revenues, to determine the recycling markets used. The in-County and nearby recycling markets include small and mid-sized vendors, such as JVS Environmental (an electronics processor), as well as larger public and privately operated material recovery facilities (MRFs). Pro Disposal's new MRF, located in the center of the County, adjacent to Route 22, is anticipated to play a crucial role in the County's recycling efforts during the 10-year planning period.

#### 6.1.2 County & CCSWMA Functions

The County's responsibilities for solid waste and recycling, as well as those delegated to the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA), are anticipated to continue and are in accordance with Act 101 and PADEP Guidance. These responsibilities include providing a recycling coordinator, reporting recycling quantities, and developing and implementing its Plan, which includes the process to openly and fairly advertise for and contractually secure adequate disposal capacity for County-generated municipal waste.



The County and CCSWMA will administer this Plan, implement recycling programs and programs for materials requiring special handling, provide education, and advance proper waste management and recycling in compatibility with the private sector, to the extent resources allow.

### 6.2 Waste System Selection: Materials

The selected County waste system has the capacity to collect, transport, process, recycle, and dispose municipal waste and recyclables in a manner consistent with Act 101 of 1988 and PADEP requirements for the following primary material categories:

**Municipal Waste Disposal Capacity** - The permitted disposal facilities listed in this Plan have sufficient disposal capacity to handle all County municipal waste annually and for the 10-year planning period.

**Construction/Demolition Waste** - According to recent PADEP Waste Destination Reports, the Laurel Highlands Landfill and Southern Alleghenies Landfill process the vast majority of C&D waste from Cambria County, with several other landfills listed in the Plan accepting incidental or small quantities. Sufficient processing capacity is available for C&D management, and the public and private arrangements for C&D collection, disposal, and recycling are expected to continue. No alternative programs or infrastructure are proposed to manage C&D waste. Additionally, there are no C&D recyclers currently located in the County.

**Yard Waste** - Cambria County has the capacity to manage yard waste and woody waste through municipal drop-off programs, backyard composting, and private-sector landscapers and tree trimming companies that convert brush and woody waste into mulch, compost, or woodchips.

**Biosolids & Sewage Sludge** - Biosolids and septage will continue to be managed through the combination of public wastewater treatment facilities, on-site treatment systems, septage haulers, and landfills serving the County. The primary activities include treating liquid biosolids at wastewater treatment plants or sewage treatment facilities and disposing of dewatered sewage sludge at landfills listed in this Plan. The wastewater treatment plants serving the County have adequate capacity to accept the biosolids generated annually, as well as over the 10-year planning period, and the landfills have sufficient capacity to manage dewatered sewage sludges. No alternative programs or infrastructure are being considered to manage biosolids, and it is not anticipated that any meaningful expansion of land application of biosolids will occur.

**Regulated Medical Waste** - Regulated medical waste, including infectious and chemotherapeutic waste, will continue to be sufficiently managed by the private sector, mainly through on-site and/or off-site incineration. Cambria County is not developing or considering alternative infrastructure to manage regulated medical waste.

**Ash & Asbestos** - Cambria County does not generate and report ash quantities, but generates, disposes, and reports limited quantities of asbestos annually. The landfills in this Plan have adequate permitted capacity to manage the small quantities of asbestos generated over the 10-year planning period. Generators are expected to continue collecting and disposing asbestos at the disposal facilities outlined in the Plan.





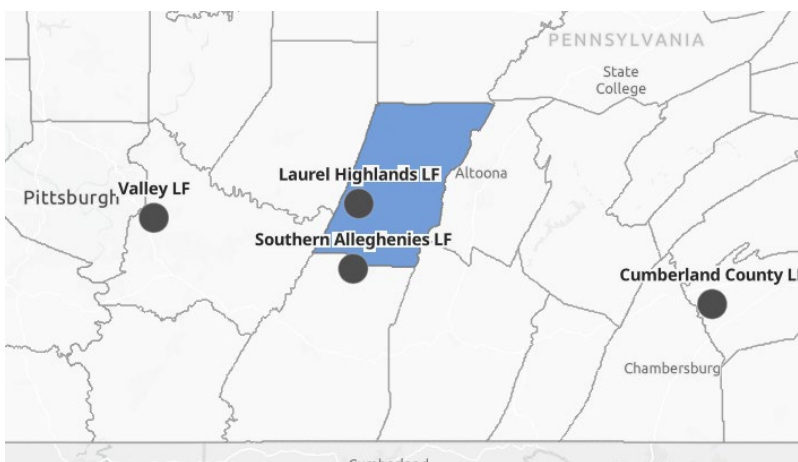
**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** Opportunities to properly dispose of HHW will continue to be provided to county residents through periodic HHW collection events, coordinated with the County, CCSWMA, and other organizations, such as PRC, to the extent resources are available. HHW collection and processing are expensive, but expanding HHW collection is beneficial. The CCSWMA will evaluate HHW alternatives as feasible.

## 6.3 Disposal Facilities

### 6.3.1 Location

Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, Cambria County is uniquely positioned near landfills with excess disposal capacity.

During Plan development, four landfills entered 10-year disposal capacity agreements via an open, fair, and competitive process. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published and circulated in the PA Bulletin and WasteAdvantage Magazine, a national waste publication. Responses were received from one in-county landfill and three out-of-county landfills. Disposal facilities and responses were qualified, and the facilities operating under a valid permit that executed disposal capacity agreements are included in this Plan and presented in **Table 6-1**.



**Table 6-1 Disposal Facilities (2026 - 2035)**

Facility/County	Owner	Distance From Ebensburg Facility <sup>[1]</sup> (miles)	County	Facility Address
Southern Alleghenies Landfill (Somerset Co.)	Noble Environmental	27	Somerset	843 Miller Picking Road Davidsville, PA 15928
Laurel Highlands Landfill	WM	14	Cambria	260 Laurel Ridge Rd. Johnstown PA 15909
Community Refuse LLC (Cumberland County Landfill)	WM	110	Cumberland	620 Newville Rd, Newburg, PA 17240
USA Valley Landfill (Valley Landfill)	WM	55	Westmoreland	6015 Pleasant Valley Rd, Irwin, PA 15642

<sup>1</sup> 507 Manor Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931



## 6.3.2 Recyclables Accepted at Disposal Facilities

Pennsylvania landfills are required by Act 101 to recycle at least three Act 101 recyclable materials. **Table 6-2** summarizes the Act 101 recyclables accepted at the disposal facilities.

Table 6-2 Act 101 Recyclables Accepted at Facilities

Disposal Facility	Distance From Ebensburg Facility <sup>[1]</sup> (miles)	County	Act 101 Materials Accepted
Southern Alleghenies Landfill (Somerset Co.)	27	Somerset	Clear glass, colored glass, aluminum, steel/bimetal cans, corrugated paper, plastics (Items can be comingled.)
Laurel Highlands Landfill	14	Cambria	Bottles, aluminum and tin cans, paper, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, plastics #1 & #2, metal, glass
Community Refuse LLC (Cumberland County Landfill)	110	Cumberland	Bottles, cans, paper, cardboard
USA Valley Landfill (Valley Landfill)	55	Westmoreland	Bottles, aluminum, steel, and tin cans, paper, cardboard, plastics #1 & #2

<sup>1</sup> 507 Manor Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931.

## 6.4 Implementing Entity

The Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA) is the primary implementing entity of this Plan as delegated by the County. Some primary responsibilities include:

- Developing and implementing the County Municipal Waste Management Plan (Plan) and periodic Plan revisions, including the process to secure disposal capacity for all County-generated municipal waste.
- Managing and operating waste diversion programs that currently include public drop-off sites for recyclables, electronics recovery, tire recovery, and HHW recovery.
- Reporting recycling data to the PADEP
- Public education and guidance to municipalities.
- Advancing feasible waste and recycling initiatives and programs toward Pennsylvania's 35 percent waste diversion goal.
- Monitoring haulers collecting waste and recyclables generated in the County.
- Support processes to allow disposal facilities interested in accepting Cambria County waste to be included in the Plan.
- Investigate and refer violations relating to illegal dumping for prosecution and penalties in accordance with the County Ordinance No. 2006-02 that prohibits illegal dumping and authorizes the Executive Director of CCSWMA to investigate instances of illegal dumping in Cambria County, and to refer violations for prosecution.



## CHAPTER 7 – PUBLIC FUNCTION

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### 7.1 Cambria County Recycling Center

Cambria County owns the County Recycling Center in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, which is operated by the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA). The Recycling Center serves as a public drop-off recycling program for specified materials and is the office of CCSWMA. This public function is limited and does not compete with the private sector - it only serves as an intermediate consolidation facility to support transportation to the private sector for final processing. This Non-Substantial Plan does not propose any substantive change to the County's recycling facilities.



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## CHAPTER 8 – IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS

### 8.1 Cambria County Implementing Documents

Implementing documents refer to the documents governing the County's municipal solid waste and recycling system, including those associated with this Plan and the County's development and implementation of this 10-year Plan.

In accordance with Title 25, Chapter 272.231, and Chapter 272.245, the Plan shall include contracts and other requirements to ensure disposal capacity is available to process or dispose County-generated MSW over the 10-year planning period. The Plan implementation documents under the responsibility of Cambria County and the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA) are presented in **Table 8-1**.

As needed, the County may evaluate, develop, update, and implement additional documents related to municipal waste and recycling during the 10-year planning period. The County, individual municipalities, or other entities shall exercise their respective authority to develop, adopt, and execute documents deemed necessary to carry out waste management obligations. Examples include solid waste collection, recycling, disposal contracts, and cooperative or affiliation agreements among municipalities and/or environmental groups, businesses, and other stakeholders.

**Table 8-1 Cambria County Implementing Documents**

Implementing Document	Description
<b>Certification of Incorporation (1979)</b>	The legal Certification by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acknowledging the formal creation of the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority under the provisions of the Municipalities Authorities Act of 1945. ( <b>Appendix A-1</b> )
<b>County Illegal Dumping Ordinance 2006-02</b>	Prohibits illegal dumping on land in Cambria County and authorizes the Executive Director of CCSWMA to investigate dumping and refer violations for prosecution and penalties. ( <b>Appendix A-2</b> )
<b>Resolution of Plan Adoption</b>	<b>The signed Resolution by the County Commissioners signifying that the Plan has been reviewed and approved. (Appendix A-3)</b>

Note: PADEP Central Office issues a final letter indicating the status of the Plan approval.



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## CHAPTER 9 – NON-INTERFERENCE AND ORDERLY EXTENSION

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Cambria County and this Plan conform to the requirements of Act 101 of 1998, pertaining to non-interference, and the requirements of 25 PA Code §272.232, pertaining to orderly extension. Act 101 of 1988 requires the County to ensure its Municipal Waste Management Plan does not interfere with the design, construction, operation, financing, or contractual obligations of any existing or proposed municipal waste processing, disposal, or resource recovery facility that is part of a municipal waste management Plan submitted to PADEP. The current understanding is that no proposed elements of this Plan interfere with existing State-permitted disposal facilities, and no new facilities are to be constructed within the County. There are facilities in the County and surrounding counties that accept recyclables and other materials for processing and/or disposal.

This Plan does not substantially impair the use of the remaining permitted processing capacity, disposal capacity, or capacity that could be made available through reasonable expansion of Existing Facilities as defined at 25 PA Code §272.224(b)(2). The County shall not interfere or attempt to interfere with the efforts of existing processing or disposal facilities to process or dispose municipal waste from customers with municipal waste originating outside the County, provided these arrangements do not conflict with the executed Disposal Capacity Agreements associated with this Plan.

This Plan meets the requirements of 25 PA Code §272.232 and Act 101, §502(k), regarding the orderly extension of plans and planning activities. The County will continue to monitor planning activities and efforts to ensure orderly extension and non-interference and to be apprised of factors and activities that may impact this Plan.

This Plan meets the requirements of 25 PA Code §272.226(a)(11) and Act 101, §502(e)(1)(xi), relating to the consideration for the collection, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials accorded to persons engaged in the business of recycling. This Plan does not interfere with recyclers and acknowledges the existence of recyclers and haulers operating in the County, whether or not the entities operate for profit.



# MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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## CHAPTER 10 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Public participation was an essential component in developing this Non-Substantial Plan revision. In the initial phase of Plan development, the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority (CCSWMA) contacted prospective Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members using email notifications and phone calls. The CCSWMA was successful in securing a diversely represented SWAC, including representation from the following categories:

- ✓ **Citizen organizations (Cambria Co. Conservation District/PA Cleanways)**
- ✓ **Industry (Pandya Computers)**
- ✓ **Private solid waste industry (Noble Environmental and Waste Management),**
- ✓ **County Recycling Coordinator**
- ✓ **Private recycling industry (Johnstown Scrap Metal, Pro Disposal)**

The County presented the SWAC member list to the PADEP Southwest Regional Office for review prior to finalizing the SWAC. The PADEP Southwest Regional Office confirmed via email on December 12, 2024, that the SWAC included all required representatives as per §272.202(b) of the PA Code.

The list of SWAC members and representatives is included with the SWAC meeting minutes in **Appendix B**. During the Plan development process, SWAC members and municipalities were provided with information, including draft versions of the Plan, and had the opportunity to comment pursuant to §272.252(b)(3).

SWAC meetings were held during the Plan development on February 12, 2025 and October 1, 2025.



# MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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## APPENDIX A

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A.1 – Articles of Incorporation

A.2 – Illegal Dumping Ordinance

A.3 – Resolution of Plan Adoption

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# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

## Department of State



### Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, In and by the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act approved May 2, 1945, P. L. 382, as amended, the Secretary of the Commonwealth is authorized and required to issue a

### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

evidencing the incorporation of an authority under the provisions of said Act, and

Whereas, The stipulations and conditions of said Act have been fully complied with by the Municipal Authorities of the County of Cambria,

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania desiring the organization of

CAMBRIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Therefore, Know Ye, That subject to the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and under the authority of Act No. 164, approved the second day of May, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, P. L. 382, as amended, I DO BY THESE PRESENTS, which I have caused to be sealed with the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, declare and certify the creation, erection and incorporation of

CAMBRIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

into a body politic and corporate in deed and in law by the name chosen hereinbefore specified, now to become operative with authority to transact business, and which shall exist for a term of fifty years unless sooner dissolved according to law.

Such corporation shall have and enjoy and shall be subject to all the powers, duties, requirements, and restrictions, specified and enjoined in and by the above Act of Assembly and all other applicable laws of this Commonwealth.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the City of Harrisburg, this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fourth.

*William R. Davis*

**COUNTY OF CAMBRIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2006-02**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ILLEGAL DUMPING OF COUNTY-MANAGED AND REGULATED WASTE ON LAND IN CAMBRIA COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBRIA COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE AND REFER VIOLATIONS FOR PROSECUTION AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature enacted Act 101 of 1988, known as the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, (53 P.S. §4000.101, et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature found that improper municipal waste practices create public health hazards, environmental pollution, and economic loss and cause irreparable harm to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature also found that all aspects of solid waste management, particularly the disposition of solid waste, pose a critical threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature purposed to protect the public health, safety, and welfare from the short and long-term dangers of transportation, processing, treatment, storage, and disposal of municipal waste in Act 101; and

**WHEREAS**, in Section 303 of Act 101, the Legislature empowered counties to adopt ordinances for the processing and disposal of municipal waste; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature enacted Act 97 of 1980, known as the Solid Waste Management Act, which made it unlawful for any person or municipality to dump or deposit or permit dumping or depositing of any solid waste onto the surface of the ground, underground, or into the waters of the Commonwealth by any means, unless a permit for the dumping of such solid waste has been obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it Ordained and Enacted by the Board of Commissioners of Cambria County as follows:

1. Definitions. In addition to the words and terms elsewhere defined in the Ordinance, the following words and terms, when used in this Ordinance, shall have the following respective meanings:

“Act 97” means the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §6018.101, et seq., as hereafter amended or supplemented, including any regulations promulgated thereto.

"Act 101" means the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, 53 P.S. §4000.101, et seq., as hereafter amended or supplemented, including any regulations promulgated thereto.

"Authority" means the Cambria County Solid Waste Authority.

"Construction and Demolition Waste" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Title 25, Article VIII, Chapter 271, of the Pennsylvania Code.

"County-Managed and Regulated Waste" shall mean municipal waste (including source-separated recyclables), septage, wastewater treatment sludge, construction and demolition waste, and leaf waste and grass clippings.

"Director" means the individual hired as the Executive Director of the Authority whose duties include operating and administering any and all facilities and/or activities undertaken or directed by the Authority as it regards to solid waste and recycling and the administration and enforcement of the rules and regulations of the Authority.

"Illegal Dumping" means the deposition, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, littering, or placing of County-managed and regulated waste onto or in the land in a manner that the County-managed or regulated waste or a constituent of the County-managed or regulated waste enters the environment, is admitted into the air, or is discharged into the waters of this Commonwealth where such deposition, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, littering, or placing is not undertaken at a properly permitted disposal, processing, or transfer facility which makes up part of the Plan.

"Land" means any ground, whether above the surface or under the surface, or water publicly or privately owned within the County of Cambria.

"Leaf Waste and Grass Clippings" shall mean leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, grass clippings, and any other material determined to be similar.

"Municipal Waste" means any garbage, refuse, industrial lunchroom, or office waste and material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material, resulting from operation of residential, municipal, commercial, or institutional establishments and from community activities and any sludge not meeting the definition of residual or hazardous waste in Act 101 from a municipal, commercial, or institutional water supply treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and any other material which is within the definition of "municipal waste" set forth in Section 103 of Act 101. For purposes of this Ordinance only, municipal waste shall include source-separated recyclable material as it relates to: (a) a municipality within the County of Cambria that has a recycling ordinance governing the recycling of source-separated recyclable material; and/or (b) a program of collection and marketing of source-separated recyclable material by a person in a municipality within the County of Cambria which does not have a recycling ordinance governing the recycling of source-

separated recyclable material only if said person has the prior approval of the Authority for collection and marketing of source-separated recyclable material.

“Owner” means any person or persons who is or are the recorded owner or owners of land within Cambria County.

“Person” or “Persons” includes but is not limited to any individual, partnership, corporation, association, institution, cooperative enterprise, municipality, municipal authority, federal government or agency, state institution or agency (including but not limited to the Department of General Services and the State Public School Building Authority, or any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.

“Plan” shall mean the Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan dated May 2003, as hereafter amended or supplemented.

“Source-Separated Recyclable Material” means materials generated by a person which are to be separated from municipal waste and returned to commerce to be reused as a resource in the development of useful products and include the following with respect to residential customers: newsprint, aluminum cans, bimetallic (steel or tin) cans, clear, brown, and green glass bottles and jars, and Number 1 (PET or PETE) and Number 2 (HDPE) plastic bottles and jugs. With respect to commercial customers, source-separated recyclable material shall include high-grade office paper and corrugated paper. Other materials may be included from time to time in either the residential or commercial categories as determined by a municipality within the County of Cambria, if said municipality has an ordinance governing recycling, and if no such ordinance exists, those additional materials approved by the Authority.

“Septage” shall mean the liquid and/or solid material from municipal, commercial, institutional, residential, and/or other sewage systems which is collected or pumped from septic or holding tanks or similar sewage treatment systems, including portable toilets.

“Wastewater Treatment Sludge” shall mean any solid or liquid removed during the treatment of sewage and/or wastewater in a municipal, commercial, or institutional wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater treatment sludge includes but is not limited to solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment and ash generated during the incineration of wastewater treatment sludge.

2. Unlawful Action. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to illegally dump or cause to be illegally dumped any County-managed or regulated waste upon or within any publicly or privately-owned land in the County of Cambria. Further, it shall be unlawful for any owner to knowingly harbor or permit illegal dumping upon the owner’s land.

3. Authority of the Director. The Director shall have the authority to investigate all instances of illegal dumping in the County of Cambria of which the Director becomes aware. As part of the Director's investigative duties, the Director is authorized to gather and preserve evidence of illegal dumping including working with the appropriate law enforcement officials to obtain search warrants to gather and preserve evidence of illegal dumping. Upon the Director's determination that a person or persons have engaged in illegal dumping or have harbored or permitted illegal dumping on their land, the Director is authorized to advise the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the police department with jurisdiction over the circumstances, and/or any other agencies having authority to address, correct, or prosecute illegal dumping. Additionally, the Director shall have the authority to file a summary offense complaint in the appropriate magistrate district. The Director may assign the Authority's Compliance Officer or other Authority personnel to carryout the duties mentioned above under the Director's supervision.

4. Penalties. Any person found to have illegally dumped or to have harbored or permitted illegal dumping upon their land shall be guilty of a summary offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 plus costs of prosecution or be imprisoned for not more than ten (10) days or both, pursuant to Section 509(d) of the County Code, as amended. Each day of violation shall be considered as and punishable as a separate and distinct offense.

5. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision or application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provision or application.

6. Repealer. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**ORDAINED and ENACTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Cambria County, State of Pennsylvania, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

ATTEST:

COUNTY OF CAMBRIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Gelles, IV, Chief Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
P.J. Stevens, President Commissioner

[SEAL]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Milan Gjulich, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF CAMBRIA (**DRAFT**)

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Adoption of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan  
For Cambria County

WHEREAS, Cambria County is required by the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (the "Act"), 53 P.S. Section 4000.303, to adopt a municipal waste management plan for the processing and disposal of municipal waste generated within its boundaries for a 10-year planning period (2026 – 2035); and

WHEREAS, Cambria County has prepared a municipal solid waste management plan as a non-substantial plan revision in accordance with the Act with required review and input from its Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, the revised municipal waste management plan has been shared for review and comment with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Cambria County municipalities, and comments received have been considered in finalizing the Plan revision; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Cambria County have reviewed the Plan and believe it to be in the best interests of the citizens of Cambria County that the Plan be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners of Cambria County adopt the Plan this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF CAMBRIA:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_







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