



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PA DEP RELEASES GRANT ROUNDUP FOR FAYETTE RECYCLING

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County’s recycling efforts have recently been bolstered by more than \$1 million in state grants.

William Jester, Environmental Protection Specialist with the state Department of Environmental Protection’s Southwest Regional Office, issued a “recycling roundup” of funding provided to both the county and its municipalities over the last few years.

That funding has covered the complete revamping of the county’s recycling program, including nearly \$600,000 for:

- New drop-off recycling bins, placed at various locations countywide;
- Purchase of the former Goodwill Recycling Center, and its conversion to the Fayette County Recycling Convenience Center;
- Development of recycling education through printed materials, videos, signage and more;
- Upgrades to existing and purchase of new, specialty trucks to aid in recycling efforts;
- Purchase of a paper shredder for use at the Fayette County Courthouse;
- And much more.

Fayette County Recycling Coordinator/Stormwater Manager Sheila Shea said it’s exciting to have the DEP’s continued support.

“With their help, we’ve significantly expanded our efforts to make recycling convenient for all Fayette county residents,” Shea said. “Without that support, our program would not have taken off like it has over the last year. Their financial assistance has allowed us to take things to the next level.”

The DEP’s roundup also included grants for municipal recycling efforts in recent years, including:

- \$81,000 for German Township;
- \$53,730 for Connellsville City;
- \$150,030 for Connellsville Township;
- \$88,200 for Georges Township;
- \$44,865 for North Union Township;
- \$237,029 for South Union Township;
- \$54,000 for Uniontown City;
- \$350,000 for Washington Township;
- And more.

Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites, who founded the county’s recycling program in the early 1990s, said the county has always had an “excellent relationship” with DEP officials.

“That working relationship has been developed over 33 years of working together to improve the environment, ever since the passage of Act 101 in 1988,” Vicites said. “During that time, DEP officials have awarded several million dollars to Fayette County for recycling and composting programs. With that kind of history and collaboration, good things will continue happening with recycling in Fayette County.”

Fayette County Commissioner Scott Dunn said the DEP has been a “great partner.”

“They’ve helped not only in funding our recycling program, but with its development,” Dunn said.

Commissioner Chairman Dave Lohr said Fayette County’s relationship with the DEP reminds him of the old saying, “United we stand.”

“I like to bear that in mind when we talk about the need to collaborate. We’re all better and stronger when we work together,” Lohr said. “Working together allows us to operate more efficiently, because we benefit from their expertise and experience. Why reinvent the wheel when we have someone to turn to who is dedicated to environmental issues and recycling programs? There are resources that the DEP can help to unlock, and they have vast experience with what does and does not work in recycling.

Moving forward, Shea said she hopes that relationship will continue growing and allow her to accomplish her recycling goals countywide.

“Recycling is important. It prevents pollution; reduces greenhouse gases; and limits the amount of waste that ends up in landfills,” Shea said. “My goal is to make recycling a regular, convenient, sustainable part of life for all our citizens. Through continued outreach and education - and some help from the DEP - we’re well on our way to making that dream a reality.”

For more information about the Fayette County Recycling Program or Recycling Convenience Center, call the Recycling Hotline at 724-430-4884.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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