

Township Contracted Residential Solid Waste/Recycling Collection in Lower Makefield Township



**Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

December 3, 2008

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Section I. Current Practice – Open Subscription

Lower Makefield Township (LMT) currently has an open subscription system of residential waste and recycling collection. In an open subscription system, individual households contract directly with haulers for waste and recyclables collection services. There are currently four residential waste haulers operating in LMT: McCullough, Leck and Sons, Allied Waste (BFI/Anders), and Waste Automation (Waste Management).

A questionnaire was mailed to each of these four haulers on April 30, 2008. Questions concerning each hauler's fee structure, residential collection options, recycling and yard waste pickup, and general operations were asked. There were also several follow-up phone calls. Appendix A gives their responses to each of the questions and details their services and costs. Table 1 in Appendix A summarizes the results of the survey.

- 9,281 homes were reported as receiving residential trash service from the four trash hauler, the following is a breakdown of the customers:
 - Allied Waste – approx 5,200 residents (56 % of total),
 - McCullough - 2,194 residents (24 % of total),
 - Leck – 1,079 residents (11 % of total),
 - Waste Management - 808 residents (9 % of total).
- There are trash trucks from at least one of the haulers on LMT roads Monday through Saturday. On average, each of the four trash haulers has trucks operating in LMT four days a week.
- The 2000 census reported 10,402 owner-occupied housing units and 1,304 renter-occupied housing units. The discrepancy between the total housing units in the township (11,706 in 2000) and the number currently being serviced by the four trash hauler (9,281) is due to a number of neighborhood associations and condo/apartment buildings having separate contracts with the trash haulers not included in the residential trash service totals. Among those neighborhood associations with separate contracts are Brookstone (Leck), Rose Hollow (Leck), Sutphin Pines (Leck), Polo Run (Allied Waste), Makefield Glen (Allied Waste), Spring Mill (Allied Waste), Cedar Hollow (Allied Waste), Palmer Farms (McCullough) and Yardley Crossing - Belmondo on the Delaware Apartments (Waste Management). The duration of these contracts vary.
- The most common service is twice a week pick-up of a 64 or 96 gal. wheeled-cart. Once a week pickup of a 64 or 96 gal. cart is the next most common service. Other collection options available (1 or 2 bags a week) are rarely used (roughly 2 % of the homes). Allied Waste and McCullough offer a senior rate that reduces the annual charge by \$80 and \$60, respectively. McCullough has indicated their senior rate is used by 5 percent of their customers (110 homes).

- The annual cost with surcharges for the most common service provided (twice a week trash pick-up with a 96 gal. cart) varied as follows:

Allied Waste - \$470.25,
 McCullough - \$390.00,
 Waste Management - \$450.00
 Leck - \$424.00 (64 gal. cart, no 96 gal cart option available).

- Assuming 12,500 homes at an average cost of \$400 per year, LMT residents spend approximately \$5 million per year on curbside municipal waste and recycling collection.

Section II. Township Contracted Collection

A contracted collection system involves the Township contracting with one waste hauler to provide waste and recyclables collection services for all households in the Township. Based on other municipalities in the area, these contracts normally run for 3-5 years. Figure 1 shows the type of trash collection used in Bucks County in 2002 (from *Bucks County Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan Revision*, 2006). While the more rural areas of the county tend to use open subscription, most of the municipalities in Lower Bucks County with higher density housing have municipal contracted trash collection. A summary of several existing municipal contracts in the immediate vicinity of LMT is given in Appendix B.

Below is a listing of the advantages and disadvantages of a change from the current open subscription system to a township contract.

Advantage to Environment and Residents

- **The competitive bid process should create competition from the waste haulers** wishing to take advantage of having a multi-year contract to service the approximate 12,500 homes of LMT. Case studies have shown conversion to a municipal-wide single contract can reduce the cost-per household by 15-40 percent.¹ A 25 % drop in the costs to the 9,281 LMT homes currently receiving open subscription trash service would result in a savings of approximately \$928,000 per year.
- **Stabilization in the cost of residential trash collection.** In recent years LMT has experienced a substantial rise in these costs. An increase of at least 55 percent in residential trash collection costs since 2001 is typical (personal experience).

¹ East Whiteland Township Improving Waste and Recyclables Collection Services – Final Report. Gannett Fleming, Inc. Harrisburg, PA. December 2007 and the Gannett-Fleming Presentation at the *Municipal Waste and Recycling Conference*, June 20, 2008.

- Having one trash hauler collect each home's trash instead of four different trash haulers will result in:
 - **reduced traffic congestion and noise and greater safety** on the Township's roads,
 - **reduced damage and wear & tear of local streets** from trash truck traffic.
- **Environmental benefits through reduced fuel use and reduced emissions of air pollutants such as diesel particulates, nitrogen oxides, and greenhouse gases.** An average garbage truck travels 25,000 miles annually, gets less than 3 miles per gallon, and uses approximately 8,600 gallons of diesel fuel each year (*Greening Garbage Trucks*, James S. Cannon, 2005). A reasonable estimate would be that at least a 50 percent reduction in fuel use and air pollution emissions would result if the township adopted township contracted collection. .
- **Having one hauler collect each homes recyclables will eliminate inconsistencies between haulers** on what can be recycled and allow for greater public education and increased residential recycling participation.
- **Provides a uniform level of service** throughout the township for yard waste and bulk item collections.

Advantage to Township

- In the contract bid specifics, **collection services can be customized and reflect the needs of LMT.** An example would be the yard waste issue discussed later.
- **Enforcement and monitoring activities are easier since the selected hauler will be legally bound by a contract to provide the services in accordance with the executed agreement.** Problems such as the township's trash haulers not taking their curbside recyclables to the Otters Recycling Facility would be eliminated (see Recycling section). Similar to the Middletown Township contract, fines could be levied by the township against the contracted hauler for infractions such as failure to cleanup spilled material, failure to return trash, recycling, and yard waste containers to their proper location, and skipped collection at homes.
- **Possible financial benefits to the Township**
 - include township building and parks trash and recyclable collection in contract,
 - funding of township employees involved with contract related activities,
 - increased revenue from recyclables,
 - others to be determined.

Advantage to Contracted Trash Hauler

- **Having one hauler collecting each homes trash will increase the trash hauler's collection efficiency, provide the trash hauler with a guaranteed, consistent revenue stream,** and possibly save money on marketing to acquire/maintain their customer base.

Disadvantage to Residents

- Loss of ability to choose their trash hauler and collection options.
- The adjustment to a new collection system and angst to those with difficulty dealing with “change”

Disadvantage to Township

- Depending on how the contract is written, the Township may be responsible for billing and collecting of fees from individual homes.
- Increase workload developing bid specification document and evaluating bids submitted for the contract (existing bid specification documents for other municipalities will help in this effort).
- Increased workload due to the increased oversight and program involvement required with a municipal contract (e.g., responding to resident's questions and complaints, principally at the beginning of the contract). Other municipalities have added an additional amount of money to the winning hauler's bid to cover these office and employee costs.

Disadvantage to Current Trash Haulers

- Small, local haulers that do not win the township contract may suffer financially.

Section III. Issues for Consideration if Changing to a Township Contracted Collection System

Number of Pick-ups Each Week

Approximately 90 percent of LMT residents currently have twice a week trash pick-up. One obvious way to increase collection efficiency, reduce environmental impacts and road congestion is to reduce the frequency of trash pick-ups in the LMT from twice a week to once a week. This is one of the strategies listed in the EPA document “*Collection Efficiency Strategies for Success*” (www.epa.gov/garbage/coll-eff/k99007.pdf). This document references a study in Montgomery County Maryland where the cost of

residential trash collection per ton was 40 percent lower with once a week collection compared to twice a week collection. Another advantage to a once a week trash pick-up is that it may allow smaller companies to bid on the LMT contract.

All municipal contracts in the area currently have twice a week trash pick-up. When going out for bids, both Middletown and Northampton/Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton requested haulers bid on both once and twice a week trash pick-up. Two of the haulers did not submit bids for that option (Mascaro and Allied Waste). While Waste Management's bid for once a week service was 20% lower than their bid for twice a week, it was still higher than the other two hauler's bids for the twice a week service. Middletown Township received bids for their new contract (2009 with two option years). The winning bid from waste management had the once a week option only 7 percent less than the twice a week pick-up option (In 2009, \$356 a year vs. \$331 a year).

Another issue is whether residents could get by with once a week trash pick-up. Some residents may insist they need twice a week pick-up. The need for twice a week pick-up would be reduced with separate collection of yard waste and increased recycling.

Automated Collection with Containers

In a fully automated collection system, containers are emptied and returned to their original location by a mechanical lift, the driver never leaves the truck unless there is a problem. In a semi-automated system, the truck crew wheels the container to the lifting device, activates the lift, and returns the container to its original location. By greatly increasing the number of homes served per hour, automated trash pick-up with wheeled containers improves collection efficiency, reduces environmental impacts and road congestion. Studies listed in EPA's "*Collection Efficiency Strategies for Success*" show that an automated collections system can service almost 3 times as many homes as a manual system. To a lesser extent, the same is true for semi-automated collection systems.

Almost all LMT residents currently use wheeled containers for their trash. These types of carts are needed for using semi-automated or automated collection systems. Based on the response to the questionnaires, it appears the four LMT waste haulers use a mix of automated, semi-automated, and manual collection. None of the contracted municipalities in the area (Middletown Township, Northampton/ Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton Townships, Morrisville, Yardley, Pendell, Langhorne Boro/Manor, Bristol Township, or Hulmeville) use wheeled containers for a semi-automated or automated collection system. All have a manual collection system where the truck crew transfers the trash to the truck. When going out for bids, Northampton/ Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton asked for bids on an option that provided for wheeled carts, but they came in higher than manual collection.

Most homes in the township have fairly large front yards and therefore have a significant distance from home to the street. Given the convenience and other advantages, if LMT does contract out for trash pick-up it should request residents be given wheeled carts. Use of wheeled carts would also give the hauler the option of using the more efficient semi-

automated or automated collection systems. The disadvantage of using wheeled carts is the additional cost (approximately \$80) to those currently without the wheeled carts.

Yard (leaf) Waste

Pennsylvania Act 101 leaf waste collection requirements are listed at:

www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/RECYCLE/Coordinators/References/LEAF_WASTE_COLLECTION.pdf

In summary, leaf waste (defined as leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and similar material but not including grass clippings) is to be collected separately from trash as are other recyclable materials and processed at a PA DEP approved composting facility. Leaf waste must either be (1) curbside collection at least once per month from the residents, or (2) curbside collection on scheduled days not less than twice per year, preferably in the spring and fall, and a municipal drop-off location where residential leaf waste can be taken for composting. These rules apply to all Pennsylvania municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more.

In addition, LMT ordinance 172-38 requires leaf waste to be collected separately from municipal waste and no leaf waste shall be placed for collection unless the leaf waste is to be composted.

On July 30, 2007 Lower Makefield Township received a letter from PADEP that the township's leaf waste collection program appears to be in violation of Act 101.

The responses to the questionnaires and personal observations indicate that as a general rule, the current practice in LMT is the collection of leaf/yard waste with the municipal waste. Both are then taken to the Wheelabrator facility for incineration. Therefore, it appears both the LMT ordinances and PA Act 101 are being violated.

Middletown Township and Northampton/Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton Townships meet the requirements of PA Act 101 by having weekly curbside yard waste pick-up from April through December. The yard waste pick-up is on a different day than trash pick-up. The cost of this service is included in the township's contract. This yard waste is taken to the composting facility instead of the trash incinerator or landfills in Fall Township.

Another disadvantage to the current practice is the increase costs when yard waste is included in trash. The tipping fee for trash is approximately \$67 per ton, the tipping fee for yard waste at the Waste Management composting facility in Falls Township is roughly \$20 per ton lower. In 2007, approximately 20,000 tons of residential municipal waste was collected in LMT. Yard waste collected by the haulers is included in that figure. Based on the reported amounts of yard waste and municipal waste collected in Northampton/Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton Townships, it is reasonable to estimate that 10 % of the curbside trash collection in LMT is yard waste. Therefore, approximately \$40,000 per year (20,000 tons x 0.10 x \$20) in extra tipping fees are being paid for disposal of LMT's residential waste.

There are other possible ways to save money on yard waste disposal. One would be to take some or all of the yard waste to the Township's yard waste recycling facility. This option would reduce the truck travel time and distance needed to dispose of the yard waste and eliminate the tipping fees paid to the landfill or Waste Management compost facility. Northampton Township is considering this option by building its own compost facility where the hauler would bring yard waste. The hope is to substantially reduce the \$400,000 a year Northampton/Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton Townships currently pay about for the pickup and disposal of yard waste.

A second would be to use the hauler's yard waste collection as a partial or total replacement of the Township's current autumn leaf collection program. Other Township's with separate yard waste collection, such as Middletown and Northampton, have their residential leaves collected by their trash hauler. The Township's autumn leaf collection costs each home about \$30 a year. Proper disposal of the leaves collected by the Township has been an issue in the past. Having the hauler collect yard waste should reduce the cost of leaf collection to the home owners and help solve the Township's leaf disposal problem.

In summary, separate collection of yard waste would have the advantage of complying with Act 101 and the LMT ordinances, the environmental benefit of having yard waste composted instead of incinerated or landfilled, and reduced costs due to the lower tipping fee for yard waste as compared to trash and the possibility of lowering of leaf collection costs. The disadvantage of separate collection of yard waste is that it would require the use of a truck specifically for that task (added pollution, fuel use, traffic).

Bid Disposal and Collection Contracts for Municipal Waste, Yard Waste, and Recyclables Separately

Normally, the disposal service is included in a hauler's bid along with collection services (the hauler is responsible for paying the per-ton tipping fees to the landfill or incinerator for each ton of waste delivered). Under this alternative, the Township would first request separate bids for disposal/processing services of the following materials.

- Municipal Waste Disposal. This bid would be used to secure a competitive tipping fee from the local waste disposal facilities (landfill or incinerator).
- Yard Waste Processing/Disposal. This bid would be similar to the municipal waste disposal, but would be for processing yard waste into compost. Alternatively, the yard waste could be taken to the township's yard waste facility and processed there.
- Processing/marketing recyclables (see recycling section)

After bids had been accepted for each of the services, the township would then request bids for collection of these materials. The collection bid would require that all LMT

residential municipal waste, yard waste, and recyclables be taken to the facilities that won the above disposal bids. Northampton/Lower Southampton/Upper Southampton Townships used this option in their bidding process. They currently have a ten-year contract for municipal waste and yard waste disposal.

Recycling

Management of Township Residential Recycling

One obvious advantage of having a township contracted hauler collect is that the specific recyclable items that must be collected can be listed in the contract. Even after revising the Township's ordinances earlier this year, there are still inconsistencies on what items can be recycled. Another problem is that one of the township's trash haulers (Leck) is not taking their curbside recyclables to the Otters Recycling Facility. By agreement, LMT should be sending its curbside recyclables to Otters Recycling in Falls Township PA through June 2009. Because the township receives a portion of the recycling profits from Otters, haulers not taking their recyclables to Otters cost the township money. A single contracted hauler will eliminate these inconsistencies and allow for greater public education, increased residential recycling participation, and increased funding for the township.

Township Selection of Recycling Facility

As mentioned above, LMT is currently required to send its curbside recyclables to Otters Recycling. However, that will not necessarily be the case in the future. The following statement is from Lale Byers, Bucks County Recycling Coordinator. "Some time prior to June 2009 I would expect that the county will receive a letter from Otter expressing their interest in extending the agreement with the county for an additional 5 years. If the county elects to extend the agreement, the county will then contact each member municipality and offer the extension of the agreement to them as well. A community could choose to sign on and continue as a member municipality, or not."

Therefore, after June 30, 2009 the township will be free to send their residential recyclables to a facility of their choosing. At this time there are at least three choices.

1. Continue with Otters Recycling. Advantage is the amount they pay the township per ton of recyclables is the highest of the three choices. The disadvantage is paper and the other recyclables (glass, plastic, aluminum, etc.) must be kept separate for collection.
2. Have the recyclables taken to a Blue Mountain Recycling Facility (Montgomery County or Philadelphia). The advantage is they accept use of single stream recycling collection (all recyclables can be placed in one container). This convenience tends to increase the recycling rates and, as a result, will generate more revenue for the Township. The disadvantage is they pay less for the recyclables (per Middletown Township engineer Herb Gery). These facilities are also further away than Otters and therefore the transportation costs may result in a slightly higher bid from the trash haulers.

3. Use of RecycleBank for Recyclables. More details on the RecycleBank are given in Appendix C. It should be noted that 70 percent of Leck's LMT customers (approximately 750 homes) currently use RecycleBank. The advantages of RecycleBank are single-stream recycling collection and a modest refund to the individual residents based on the amount material they recycle. The disadvantages of using RecycleBank will be that they pay nothing to the township for the recyclables, the possibility of higher transportation costs (they use Blue Mountain) and their charge to the hauler (\$24 per home) will probably result in higher bids.

Billing with Township Contracted Trash Collection

Bills should be sent to the titled record owner of the home or housing units. There are three options for billing residents:

- #1. The trash hauler sends quarterly bills to residents,
- #2. LMT Township sends quarterly bills to residents,
- #3. LMT Township includes a trash collection fee in the annual property tax bill (similar to leaf collection).

Several of the nearby municipalities with township contracted trash collection use option #2 (Morrisville, Yardley). In Middletown, Northampton, Lower Southampton, and Southampton Townships, the trash collection fee is included in the property tax paid by residents (option #3).

Small Company Competitiveness

While several of the haulers servicing LMT are large corporations (Waste Management and Allied Waste), McCullough and Leck are locally based and relatively small in comparison. Whether McCullough or Leck have the resources to collect residential trash from all of LMT is unknown. If they do not, there are several options that may allow them to more easily compete for the contract.

One is by having once instead of twice a week trash collection. Another would be to split the township into two or three zones. The collection contracts for each of these zones would be bid out separately with a limit on the number of zones one bidder could win. The township would have to ensure that all bid winners could provide equal services. Depending on which billing option is selected, the township may have to average the cost of each of the zones so everyone pays the same amount for their residential trash collection. Another possibility is for the smaller companies to combine and submit one bid for the work.

Township Ordinance

The Township Solicitor will need to propose language for modifying the township's ordinances to allow the Township to contract with one waste hauler for all residential

waste and recyclables collection and require residents to use the selected contractor. A review of Middletown Township ordinances in Chapters 109 (Standards and Regulations for Collection) and 110 (Regulations of Authorized Collectors) will be helpful.

Pre-Existing Neighborhood Trash Collection Agreements

A number of the neighborhood associations and condo/apartment buildings currently have separate contracts with the trash haulers for their trash collection. A decision will need to be made on how to deal with these agreements if the township selects a single hauler for township-wide collection. Whether these types of agreements between the trash hauler and neighborhood associations are legally binding is unknown. If they are, one possibility is to require the neighborhood associations and condo/apartment buildings to use the township's contracted trash hauler once their current agreement expires. Another possibility would be to allow these groups the choice of continuing with a separate agreement or joining the township's contract when their current agreement expires.

Section IV. Recommendations

1. Because of the benefits (reduced air pollution, road congestion, road damage, and residential trash hauling costs, greater oversight of the trash hauling services in the township, and the potential financial benefits to LMT), the EAC recommends that the Township go out for bids for a single hauler township collection contract. A reasonable amount of time is needed between the time a trash contractor is selected and the time trash collecting is commenced. This will allow for the selected hauler to ramp-up and increase its number of trucks and personnel if needed. Therefore, October 1, 2009 would be the earliest realistic start date for the LMT contract.

2. Require the use of 64 gal. or 96 gal. wheeled-trash carts for trash collection as the primary bid option. This will allow for the use of the more efficient automated trash collection system. If needed, they should be supplied to residents at a reasonable cost.

3. Specify twice a week trash pickup as the primary bid option, but also request bids on once a week pickup.

4. Include bid options for both a once a month and a once a week separate pickup of yard waste from April through December. Instead of taking all the yard waste to an outside composting facility with tipping fees of approximately \$45 per ton, investigate whether a portion of the yard waste can be taken to LMT's yard waste processing facility. Also investigate whether the hauler's yard waste collection can partially or completely replace the current Township's autumn leaf collection operation.

5. Obtain specifics on each of the recycling options. Most importantly, how much will Otters and Blue Mountain pay LMT for the curbside residential recyclables. Evaluate all three and have the trash haulers bid on the two best options.

6. Investigate further whether the Township should bid out disposal/processing services first, and then bid out collection services. Contact representatives from other single contract municipalities who have bid separately to determine their cost savings experience. This option would be more attractive if some of the yard waste is taken to LMT's yard waste facility. By reducing the amount of yard waste being sent to a landfill or incinerator, the amount of municipal waste requiring an approximately \$65 per ton tipping fee would be reduced.

7. Billing should be done by adding the annual cost of trash collection to the home's property tax.

Section V. Next Steps

Present the findings of this report to the Board of Supervisors in a public meeting (December 3, 2008).

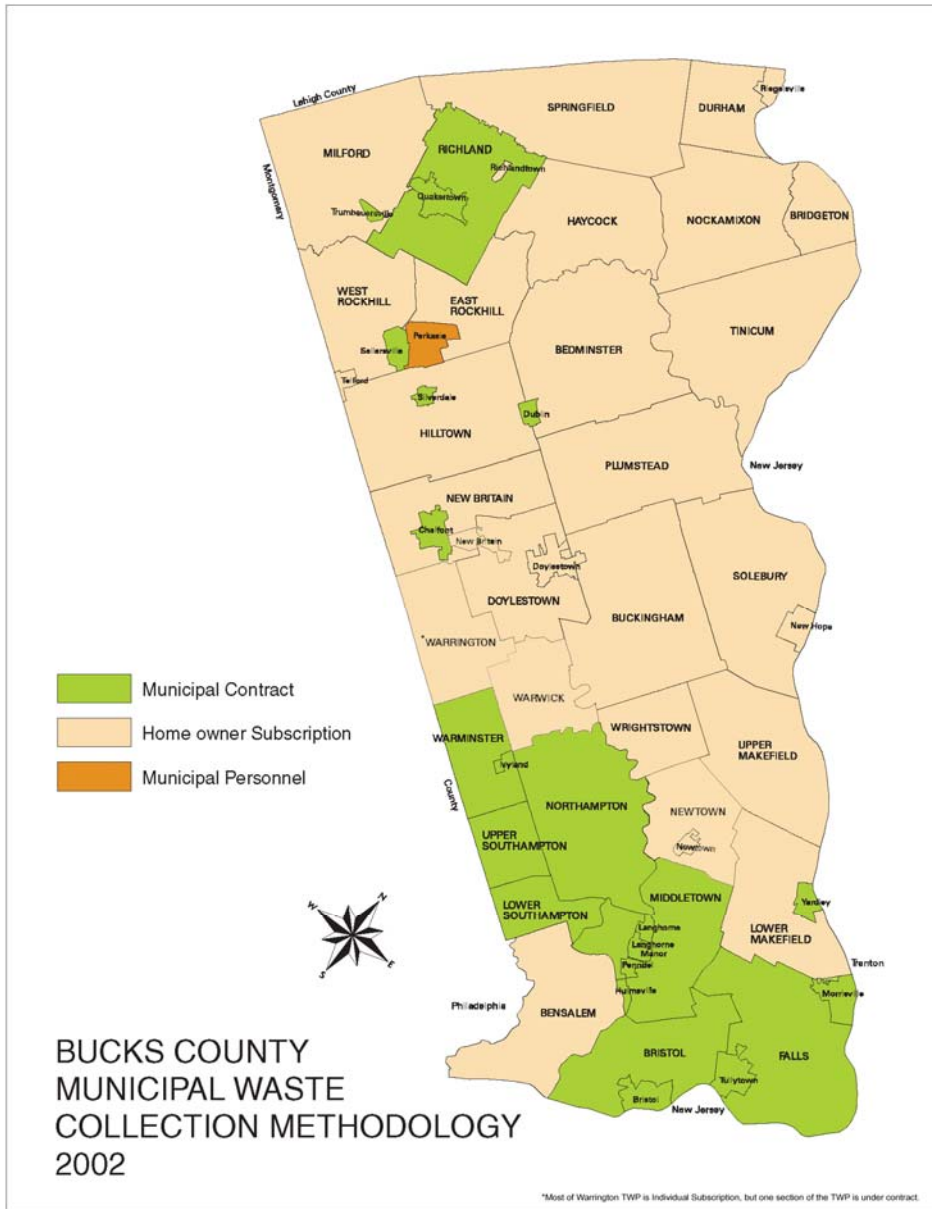
The Township Manager and other relevant LMT employees should contact and, if needed, meet with representatives of other townships with municipal contracts to get a better understanding of the contracted trash hauling issues and the bid process. Because of their similarities and proximity, Middletown Township and the Northampton/Lower Southampton/ Upper Southampton group should be included (by January 15, 2009).

Under the guidance of the Township Manager and Solicitor, generate an LMT bid document using the September 2008 Middletown Township and the Northampton/Lower Southampton/ Upper Southampton 2007 bid specifications as a template (by April 1, 2009).

The Township Solicitor should determine what changes to the LMT ordinances are needed to enable the township to go to a single-hauler contract. If needed, propose ordinance changes to Supervisors (by April 1, 2009).

Township Manager reports back to the Board of Supervisors once a bid document has been generated (by late-April 2009). If approved by the supervisors, commence the bidding process.

Figure 1
Bucks County Municipalities and their Refuse Hauling Practices



Appendix A

LMT Questionnaire Responses

**Table 1. Summary of Individual Subscription Residential Waste Haulers Services and Costs
(no neighborhood associations or apartment/condo complexes included)**

Hauler	No. of LMT Homes ^a	Cost		Size of Trash Container	Trash Pickup per Week ^b	Yard Waste
		Monthly	Annual			
Leck and Sons ^c	1,079 (11%)	\$30.33	\$ 364.00	64 gal.	1	4 bags per pick-up
		\$35.33	\$ 424.00		2	
McCullough	2,194 (24%)	\$28.50	\$ 342.00	64 gal.	2	No special pickup, add to trash
		\$32.50	\$ 390.00	96 gal.	2	
		\$27.50 (senior rate)	\$ 330.00	96 gal.	2	
		\$20.50 (senior rate)	\$ 246.00	1 bag	2	
Allied Waste ^{d,e} (BFI/Anders)	5,200 (56%)	\$10+\$2.50 per bag ^f	^g	32 gal. plastic bag	2	---
		\$32.66	\$ 391.88	96 gal.	1	4 bags per pick-up
		\$39.19 ^h (senior rate)	\$ 391.88 ^h	96 gal.	2	
		\$39.19	\$ 470.25	96 gal.	2	
Waste Automation ^{i,j} (Waste Management)	808 (9%)	\$32.25	\$387.00	64 gal.	1	3-4 bags
		\$35.50	\$ 426.00	96 gal.	1	4-5 bags
		\$37.50	\$ 450.00	96 gal.	2	4-5 bags

- a. Reported June 2008. Total of 9,281 LMT homes receiving individual subscription trash service.
- b. All waste haulers pickup recyclables once per week.
- c. Includes July 2008 \$10 increase per quarter.
- d. Allied Waste charges \$40 charge for wheeled trash cart.
- e. Includes most recent quarterly fuel/environmental surcharge of 18.75 percent of bill.
- f. Plastic bags must be purchased from Allied Waste.
- g. If one bag per week, annual cost of \$296.88. If two bags per week, annual cost of \$451.75.
- h. Senior citizens discount rate for twice a week pickup with 96 gal. cart., cost reflects once a week pickup.
- i. \$50 activation fee
- j. Includes a \$15.00 environmental fuel fee charged quarterly.

LMT Trash Hauler Questionnaire

Trash Hauler Company Name: Allied Waste Haulers
 Company Address: 731 East Reliance Road
 Telford, PA 18969
 Company Phone Number: 215-723-3862, ext. 3449
 Contact Name: Amy Pletcher

Customer Fee Information

1. The current Allied Waste Fee structure.

Trash Container	# of pickups per week	Yard Waste Included?	Quarterly Fee	Annual Fee
32 gal. plastic bag	2	None	\$30 + \$2.50 per bag	Variable depending on number of bags
96 gal. Container	1	4 bags per pickup	\$82.50 (\$97.97) ^a	\$330.00 (\$391.88) ^a
96 gal. Container	2	4 bags per pickup	\$99.00 (\$117.56) ^a	\$396.00 (\$470.25) ^a

a. Reflects inclusion of last quarter's environmental/fuel fee of 18.75%.

Please circle YES or NO for each of the following one time fees:

2. We charge \$40 for a wheeled 96 gal. trash container? **YES**
3. We charge an approximately \$15.00 environmental/fuel fee per quarter?
There is no set fee, it is a % of the invoice. Per June 19, 2008 and Oct. 6, 2008 follow-up phone calls to Allied Waste, last two quarters fees were 21% and 18.75 %.
4. Charge for additional large items that need to be taken away separately?
Depends on item.

Customer Information

5. Approximately how many customers do you have in Lower Makefield Township (LMT)?
3,500 (corrected to 5,200 per July 3, 2008 phone call)
6. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use the once a week trash pickup option?
Unknown
7. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use the plastic bag pickup option?
Unknown
8. Do you provide any other customer discounts?
No (in Aug. 26, 2008 follow-up phone call, Ms. Pletcher stated there was a senior citizen discount, twice a week pick-up with 96 gal cart was only charged once a week rate. Approx. \$80 per year savings)

Recycling Information

9. What size recycle bin do you provide?

Must be purchased, 18 gal.

10. Specify any of these items listed below which you do **not** currently collect as recyclables:

Newspapers; magazines; magazines; periodicals; catalogs; phone books; envelopes; junk mail; white office/copy/computer/shredded paper; small pieces of corrugated cardboard; aluminum cans; clear, brown, and green glass; #1 and #2 plastic bottles.

Don't pickup small pieces of corrugated cardboard (corrected per July 3, 2008 phone call, will pickup cardboard the size of the recycling bin).

Yard Waste Information

11. On a weekly basis, do you pick-up yard waste separately and deliver to a compost facility or is yard waste picked-up and disposed with the residential trash?

Just started last year, taken to Tullytown (follow-up phone call with Bob Pletcher (Waste Management Operations Manager), yard waste collected with trash)

12. Do you have any special yard waste pickup days during the year?

Not at this time

Additional Information

13. Do you use automatic trash collection system (wheeled carts are pickup by the trash truck with no assistance from a person), or a semi-automated collection system (wheeled carts must be moved by the hauler before pickup by the trash truck)?

Some (?)

14. To what waste disposal facility do you currently take the municipal waste you collect in LMT?

Wheelabrator (incinerator)

15. Do you currently have any exclusive contracts for trash pick-up with a municipality in Southeast PA? If yes, please list them.

Morrisville (manual), Pendell (manual), Yardley (manual), Langhorne Boro and Manor (manual)

16. How many days of the week are there trucks from you company picking-up residential trash in LMT?

4 (July 1, 2008 phone call)

LMT Trash Hauler Questionnaire (McCullough response in bold)

Trash Hauler Company Name: McCullough Rubbish Removal Inc.
 Company Address: 115 Harmony Road
Levittown, PA 19056
 Company Phone Number: 215-943-7470
 Contact Name: Theresa McCullough

Customer Fee Information

1. The current McCullough fee structure.

Trash Container	# of pickups per week	Yard Waste	Quarterly Fee	Annual Fee
64 gal.	2	Include with trash	\$85.50	\$ 342.00
96 gal.	2	Include with trash	\$97.50	\$ 390.00
96 gal.	2	Include with trash	\$82.50 (senior rate)	\$ 330.00 (senior rate)
1 bag	2	Include with trash	\$61.50 (senior rate)	\$ 246.00 (senior rate)

2. We charge \$40 for a wheeled 96 gal. trash container? **NO**
3. We charge an approximately \$15.00 environmental/fuel fee per quarter? **NO**
4. Charges for additional items that need to be taken away separately?
\$25 for Freon items (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners), other items are free.

Customer Information

5. Approximately how many customers do you have in Lower Makefield Township (LMT)?
2194
6. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use a container less than 96 gal. in size?
15% (changed from questionnaire response per June 26, 2008 phone call)
9. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers have the senior rate option?
5%
8. Do you provide any other customer discounts? **NO**

Recycling Information

9. What size recycle bin do you provide?
20 gal.

10. Specify any of these items listed below which you do **not** currently collect as recyclables:

Newspapers; magazines; magazines; periodicals; catalogs; phone books; envelopes; junk mail; white office/copy/computer/shredded paper; small pieces of corrugated cardboard; aluminum cans; clear, brown, and green glass; #1 and #2 plastic bottles.

Collect all the above items

Yard Waste Information

11. On a weekly basis, do you pick-up yard waste separately and deliver to a compost facility or is yard waste picked-up and disposed with the residential trash?

NO

12. Do you have any special yard waste pickup days during the year?

NO

Additional Information

13. Do you use automatic trash collection system (wheeled carts are pickup by the trash truck with no assistance from a person), or a semi-automated collection system (wheeled carts must be moved by the hauler before pickup by the trash truck)?

Mainly automatic, but also have rear load trucks

14. To what waste disposal facility do you currently take the municipal waste you collect in LMT?

Wheelabrator (incinerator)

15. Do you currently have any exclusive contracts for trash pick-up with a municipality in Southeast PA? If yes, please list them.

NO

16. How many days of the week are there trucks from you company picking-up residential trash in LMT?

6 days

LMT Trash Hauler Questionnaire
(Waste Management response in bold)

Trash Hauler Company Name: Waste Management of Bristol
 Company Address: 2505 Old Roders Road
 Bristol, PA 19007
 Company Phone Number: 215-781-3044
 Contact Name: Ms. Kathy Crisefi

Customer Fee Information

1. The current Waste Management fee structure:

Trash Container	# of pickups per week	Yard Waste Included?	Quarterly Fee	Annual Fee
64 gal.	1	3-4 bags	\$81.75	\$327.00
96 gal.	1	4-5 bags	\$91.50	\$366.00
96 gal.	2	4-5 bags	\$97.50	\$390.00

Please circle YES or NO for each of the following one time fees:

- 2. We charge a \$50 activation fee? **YES**
- 3. We charge an approximately \$15.00 environmental/fuel fee per quarter? **YES**
- 4. Charge for additional large items that need to be taken away separately? **NONE**

Customer Information

5. Approximately how many customers do you have in Lower Makefield Township (LMT)?

808

6. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use the once a week trash pickup option?

35%

10. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use a container less than 96 gal. in size?

45%

11. Do you provide any other customer discounts?

NO

Recycling Information

9. What size recycle bin do you provide? **18 gal.**

10. Specify any of these items listed below which you do **not** currently collect as recyclables:

Newspapers; magazines; magazines; periodicals; catalogs; phone books; envelopes; junk mail; white office/copy/computer/shredded paper; small pieces of corrugated cardboard; aluminum cans; clear, brown, and green glass; #1 and #2 plastic bottles.

Collect all the above items

Yard Waste Information

11. On a weekly basis, do you pick-up yard waste separately and deliver to a compost facility or is yard waste picked-up and disposed with the residential trash?

Yard waste picked-up and disposed with the residential trash

12. Do you have any special yard waste pickup days during the year?

NO

Additional Information

13. Do you use automatic trash collection system (wheeled carts are pickup by the trash truck with no assistance from a person), or a semi-automated collection system (wheeled carts must be moved by the hauler before pickup by the trash truck)?

NO (?)

14. To what waste disposal facility do you currently take the municipal waste you collect in LMT?

Wheelabrator (incinerator)

15. Do you currently have any exclusive contracts for trash pick-up with a municipality in Southeast PA? If yes, please list them.

Bristol Township (manual), Hulmeville (manual), Middletown Township (manual)

16. How many days of the week are there trucks from you company picking-up residential trash in LMT?

2 days

LMT Trash Hauler Questionnaire (Leck response in bold)

Trash Hauler Company Name: George Leck and Sons
Company Address: 237 Jacksonville Road
P.O. Box 2609
Ivyland, PA 18940
Company Phone Number: 215-675-8000
Contact Name: Maria Leck

Customer Fee Information

1. The current Leck fee structure.

Trash Container	# of pickups per week	Yard Waste Included?	Quarterly Fee	Annual Fee
64 gal.	1	4 bags	\$81.00	\$324.00
64 gal.	2	4 bags	\$96.00	\$384.00

Please circle YES or NO for each of the following one time fees:

2. Do you charge any additional fees such as a environmental/fuel fee, activation fee, or cart purchase fee? **NO**
3. If the previous answer was yes, what are the charges?
4. Charges for additional items that need to be taken away separately?
No response

Customer Information

5. Approximately how many customers do you have in Lower Makefield Township (LMT)?
1079
6. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use the once a week trash pickup option?
7%
12. Approximately what percent of your LMT customers use a container 96 gal. in size?
0%
13. Do you provide any other customer discounts?
NO

Recycling Information

9. What size recycle bin do you provide?

64 gal.

10. Specify any of these items listed below which you do **not** currently collect as recyclables:

Newspapers; magazines; magazines; periodicals; catalogs; phone books; envelopes; junk mail; white office/copy/computer/shredded paper; small pieces of corrugated cardboard; aluminum cans; clear, brown, and green glass; #1 and #2 plastic bottles.

Recycle Bank takes all. Leck's recycling collection also takes all (correction from questionnaire response per June 26, 2008 phone call).

11. What percentage of your customers use Recycle Bank as their recycler?

70%

Yard Waste Information

12. On a weekly basis, do you pick-up yard waste separately and deliver to a compost facility or is yard waste picked-up and disposed with the residential trash?

NO

13. Do you have any special yard waste pickup days during the year?

NO

Additional Information

14. Do you use automatic trash collection system (wheeled carts are pickup by the trash truck with no assistance from a person), or a semi-automated collection system (wheeled carts must be moved by the hauler before pickup by the trash truck)?

Semi-automatic

15. To what waste disposal facility do you currently take the municipal waste you collect in LMT?

Trash – Wheelabrator, Recycling – Blue Mountain

16. Do you currently have any exclusive contracts for trash pick-up with a municipality in Southeast PA? If yes, please list them.

NO

17. How many days of the week are there trucks from you company picking-up residential trash in LMT?

4 days

Appendix B

Existing Municipal Contracts in the Vicinity of LMT

Below is a description of the contracts currently in effect at other municipalities in the region. This information is summarized later in Table 2.

Middletown (pop. 46,000, 12,096 homes)

Hauler – Waste Management

Contract - Contract start date Jan. 2004, a 3 year contract with 2 option years. They are currently in the last option year.

Cost - \$304 per year (2008), \$356 in 2009 with new contract, options years 2010 and 2011 have approx. 6.5 % increase per year).

Frequency of Pickup – twice a week trash, once a week recycling

Number/Size of trash containers – Up to 10 bags, bundles, or containers of trash, no container larger than 35 gal.

Yard Waste – From mid-April to Mid-December, once a week separate day collection with unlimited number of biodegradable paper bags or trash containers, no plastic bags. This yard waste composted. The remainder of the year yard waste is placed with the other trash and is not composted.

Billing – Included in township's property tax.

Comments from Township. (Rita Wilson) – In last year of contract, Waste Management has had good customer service. Received bids for 2009 contract with 2 option years on October 22, 2008. Waste Management and Mascaro submitted bids. Waste Management had winning bid for 2009 at \$356 for twice a week pick-up.

Northampton/Upper Southampton/Lower Southampton (pop. 76,000, 23,711 homes)

Hauler – J.P Mascaro and Sons

Contract - Contract start date May 2007, a 3 year contract with 2 option years. They are currently in the second year of the contract.

Cost - \$345 per year (Upper Southampton)/\$313 per year (Lower Southampton), \$340 per year (Northampton). Includes Township management costs and the tipping fees.

Tipping fees are paid by the Townships, not haulers)

Frequency of Pickup – twice a week trash, once a week recycling

Number/Size of trash containers – Up to 6 plastic bags, plastic cans or metal cans. Must be between 20-35 gal. in size, less than 50 lbs in weight.

Yard Waste – From April 1 to Dec. 15, once a week separate day collection with unlimited number of paper bags or trash containers, no plastic bags. This yard waste composted. The remainder of the year up to 5 containers of any type can be placed with the other trash this yard waste is not composted.

Disposal of Municipal Waste and Leaf/Yard Waste – The contract with J.P. Mascaro only includes collection of municipal waste and yard waste. The Townships deal directly with the disposal and composting facilities concerning payment of tipping fees.

Billing – Included in township's property tax.

Comments from Public Works Dept. (Joe Golden – Upper Southampton Township)
Had lots of complaints early in contract, now things are better. Legal problems in bidding the current contract. The low bidder (Allied Waste) put conditions on its bid bond, Mascaro appealed and won in court. Mascaro won the rebid contract, Allied appealed because their bid was lower when option years included. Appeal thrown out in court.

Morrisville (pop. 9,900)

Hauler – Allied Waste

Contract - Contract start date 2005, a 3 year contract with 2 option years.

Cost - \$342 per year

Frequency of Pickup – twice a week trash, once a week recycling

Number/Size of trash containers – Up to 10 bags, bundles, or containers of trash, no container larger than 60 lbs.

Yard Waste – Put yard waste with trash, no composting. Allied Waste now starting monthly yard waste pickup (August 2008 phone call).

Billing - Bills for trash collection are issued each year in January, 4 coupons need to be sent back with money on a quarterly basis.

Yardley (pop. 2,700)

Hauler – Allied Waste

Contract - Contract start date 2006, 5 year contract.

Cost - \$296 per year single home, \$239 per year multi-family homes

Frequency of Pickup – twice a week trash, once a week recycling

Number/Size of trash containers – Up to 10 bags, bundles, or containers of trash, no container larger than 60 lbs.

Yard Waste – Put yard waste with trash, no composting.

Billing - Bills for trash collection are issued each year in January, residents have the option of paying one annual fee (with a slight deduction in cost) or 4 quarterly payments.

Table 2. Single Contract Township Waste Haulers

Township	Hauler	Cost	Approx. Pop.	Pickup per Week		# / Size of Trash Containers	Yard Waste
				Trash	Recycling		
Northampton, Upper & Lower Southampton Townships ^a	J.P. Mascaro & Sons	\$340/ \$345/ \$313, respectively	77,000	2	1	Up to 6 plastic bags, plastic cans or metal cans.	April 1 to Dec. 15 - Once a week separate day collection, unlimited # of paper bags or trash containers, no plastic bags. composted Dec. 16 to March 31 – Trash collection days, 5 containers of any type, not composted.
Middletown ^b	Waste Management	\$304 (\$356 in 2009)	46,000	2	1	Up to 10 bags, bundles, or containers of trash, no container larger than 35 gal.	Mid April to Mid-Dec. - Once a week separate day collection, unlimited # of biodegradable paper bags or trash containers, no plastic bags. composted
Morrisville ^c	Allied Waste	\$342	10,000	2	1	Unknown	Leaf collection in fall and special collections after storms, etc.
Yardley ^d	Allied Waste	\$296	2,700	2	1	Unknown	Collected with trash

- a. Contract start date May 2007, 3 year contract with 2 option years.
- b. Contract start date Jan. 2004, 3 year contract with 2 option years, in last option year, \$356 for new contract in 2009.
- c. Contract start date 2005, 5 year contract.
- d. Contract start date 2006, 3 year contract with 2 option years.

Appendix C

Recycle Bank

Use of the RecycleBank involves the following:

Households put all of their recyclables (no sorting required) into a RecycleBank container. The containers are then emptied into the trash truck that has been retrofitted with RecycleBank's technology. Each container is embedded with a "smart waste" tag—a combination computer chip and bar code—that enables the bins to be scanned and weighed right at the curb. Once scanned, the bin's weight is recorded on a computer in the truck and linked to that particular household. After recyclables are collected, households log on to RecycleBank's Web site, enter their account number, and obtain their coupon rewards.

Based on their web site and discussions with Joe Rumsey of RecycleBank, here are additional facts.

1. RecycleBank's data indicates recycling rates increase between 73-146 percent in municipalities that use RecycleBank. A rate increase of 100 % in residential recycling would increase the township's 904 Grant from PADEP by approximately \$90,000. This increase would partially offset the loss of income the township has just begun receiving from Otter's Recycling for the township's residential recyclables. Because of the variability in the amount of money received for recyclables (ex. LMT received approximately \$35 for one ton of recycling paper in 2006, in the summer of 2008 it was worth approximately \$95), it is difficult to project the exact loss of income to the township.
2. Advantages of RecycleBank over current recycling in LMT are its use of single stream recycling collection (all recyclables can be placed in one container) and the acceptance of material currently not recycled in LMT, such as plastics #3 thru #7.
3. RecycleBank will pay for the adaptation of the selected hauler's trucks to the RecycleBank program. Each collection truck would need to be outfitted with computer that could read bar codes and have scales.
4. RecycleBank receives all the money for the recyclables and approximately \$24 from the trash hauler for each resident served. The trash hauler benefits because of reduced disposal fees as waste is diverted from landfills and incinerators and tipping fees are avoided.

5. The residents would get “Recycle Bank Dollars” that can be redeemed at local commercial establishments. For every pound of recycling the resident receives 2.5 Recycle Bank Dollars. The number of Recycle Bank Dollars needed for a coupon depends on the type of coupon. For example, a coupon which gives \$5 off for a \$50 purchase costs 50 Recycle Bank Dollars (10 Recycle Bank Dollars for every \$1 of discount). Use of Recycle Bank Dollars to purchase gift cards require 100 Recycle Bank Dollars for every \$1 in the gift card.

6. RecycleBank will supply 35, 64 or 96 gal. wheeled containers for recyclables. RecycleBank pays for the container.

7. RecycleBank is currently used by many municipalities in PA and New Jersey, including Upper Dublin PA, Lower Gwyn PA, and Cherry Hills NJ.

8. RecycleBank will attend the pre-bid meeting to explain their program and answer hauler’s questions. They have generic language to add to the bid specification package for the inclusion of RecycleBank in a contract.

Appendix D

Bid Specification and Contract Documents

EAC has copies of the following bid specification documents:

Residential Solid Waste, Recyclables, and Yard Waste Collection, Disposal, and Delivery Specifications, Contract, and Related Documents – Township of Middletown, September 19, 2008.

Residential Solid Waste, Recyclables, and Yard Waste Collection, Disposal, and Delivery Specifications, Contract, and Related Documents – Township of Middletown, July 2003.

Specifications for Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Collection in the Southwestern Bucks Solid Waste Committee Municipalities (Northampton, Lower Southampton, Upper Southampton), January 2007.

Information for Bidders and Contract Documents, Specifications and Proposal for the Collection of Refuse, Garbage, Recyclable Materials and Bulk Collection Contract Town of Southeast Putman County, New York, July 17, 2006.

EAC has a copy of the following contract:

Refuse and Recyclables and Collection Contract between the Borough of Morrisville and BFI Waste Systems of North America (January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2009).

