

## RECYCLING SURVEY

State: Pennsylvania

State Agency:

Contact Information: Evelyn D'Elia (Email: recyclepa@state.pa.us)

**1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.**

*Recycling is mandatory for municipalities over ten thousand and for municipalities 5,000 to 10,000 and 300 persons per square mile. ALL entities within those municipalities must recycle.....households, businesses, institutions. Any municipality can pass an ordinance to require its residents to recycle.*

**2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?**

*The Pennsylvania Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988 (Act 101 of 1988) is our enabling legislation that requires the above municipalities to recycle and also has a grant program to assist and reward those municipalities.*

**3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what's the statutory reference?**

*Act 101 initially had a goal of 25%. It has since been amended to 35%*

**4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? Waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).**

*Act 101 requires municipalities to report their waste generation and recycling rate to the county, which in turn reports to the state. This is done annually. ALL waste that is recycled is reported. We are particularly interested in the materials that the law lists (a municipality can recycle 3 out of the 8 listed) clear glass, colored glass, newsprint, plastics, steel and bimetallic cans, aluminum, corrugated paper, high grade office paper and yard waste. Commercial establishments are required to recycle aluminum, high grade office paper, corrugated paper and yard waste. Additional materials can be recycled.*

**5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?**

*Yes. We count everything that is recycled except residual, hazardous, and infectious/chemotherapeutic wastes.*

**6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)**

*You can find this on our website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/recycle.htm>  
It is done yearly, generally a calendar year.*

**7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?**

*It varies. Municipalities are responsible for setting up their programs. They can collect curbside or drop-off. They can do it themselves or contract for the service. The municipalities that are required to collect recyclables must offer curbside service.*

**8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?**

*Yes. There are quite a few rural communities offering recycling. Some offer curbside others have drop-offs.*

**9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?**

*Grants are available to all municipalities in the state. These are: The recycling development and implementation grant (902); performance grant (904); county recycling coordinator grant (903); and the county planning grant (901)*

*902 -- for startup and improvement of recycling programs; funds equipment, educational materials, recycling bins, etc.*

*904 -- rewards municipalities for recycling efforts; based upon how much a municipality recycles and diverts from the waste stream*

*903 -- reimburses counties 50% for a county recycling coordinator's salary and expenses*

*901 -- reimburses a county for developing a waste plan that includes recycling.*

**10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?**

*The recycling program is located in the Division of Planning and Waste Minimization that is in the Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Minimization in the Department of Environmental Protection. There are fourteen employees.*

If you have any other questions, please feel free to e-mail me. I hope I have answered your questions. Also, visit our website as that will probably help you.