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Recycling Coordinator

COUNTY of LUZERNE
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
ESTABLISHED 1 7 8 6

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

December 21, 2010

To whom it may concern,

There have been a number of inquiries regarding an increase in the tipping fees at facilities designated in the Luzerne County Municipal Waste Management Plan (MSWP). While the County did request facilities that expressed an interest in providing disposal capacity for County generated municipal to charge an additional \$2.00 per ton on each ton of municipal refuse accepted, it is only a \$1.00 per ton increase over what the county has been accepting over the past ten years. This translates into approximately a \$0.10 cost per household per month. The County has been collecting a \$1.00 per ton fee for the past ten years to assist in funding County initiated programs such as, electronic collection events and tire collection programs. The County negotiated this fee with facilities expressing the interest in providing all or part of the annual disposal capacity needed for all the municipal waste generated in Luzerne County. Below is an excerpt from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Waste Management Plan Guidance document that authorizing counties to negotiate this fee.

“The Commonwealth Court has not specifically prohibited counties from obtaining funds through a contract that has been negotiated between the county and the entity paying the fee. Therefore, the Department may approve a county plan that identify administrative fees (in this case a Recycling Sustainability Fee) as a funding source for county recycling programs (and special waste collection programs) if the obligation to pay the fee is the result of a negotiated contract between the county and waste collector/transporter or county and disposal facility, whichever entity is paying the fee.”

Please be advised, that Luzerne County has been collecting \$1.00 per ton for the past ten years and has increased the fee by an additional \$1.00 per ton to offset the decline in grant funds for municipal waste programs in Pennsylvania due to fiscal challenges experienced by the State. The \$2.00 per ton will be used to continue to fund the operations of the Solid Waste and Recycling Department which provides public education programs on recycling and waste reduction, and sponsors annual electronic waste and tire collection programs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Rick Schlauder our consultant at 717-319-4240.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth M. DeNardi
Recycling Coordinator

Luzerne County