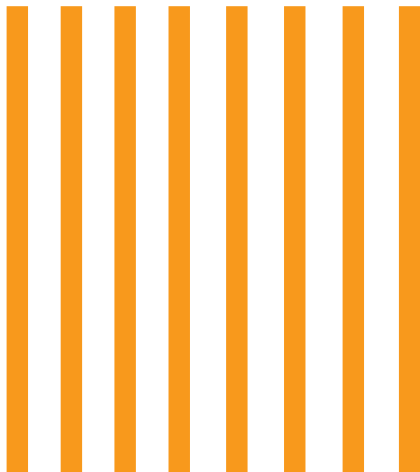




Serving Counties Since 1886

County Recycling Fee Authorization

COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



Fact Sheet 2008

Many counties throughout the Commonwealth provide supplemental recycling services to their constituents, including household hazardous waste pickup, recycling of electronics and tires, and recycling drop-off centers.

In more than half the counties, these services have historically been funded by a county administrative fee levied on each ton of trash generated in the county and disposed of in accordance with approved solid waste management plans. These services are now in danger of being cut or eliminated as the result of a 2005 Commonwealth Court decision that declared the administrative fees illegal, leaving these counties without a revenue source to fund these programs. Counties seek authority from the General Assembly to levy a fee to replace the revenue previously generated by these administrative fees.

Act 101, the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, requires all counties to develop municipal waste management plans. The administrative fee funds program expenses not covered by Act 101 grant programs, which partially pay the expenses for a recycling coordinator and household hazardous waste programs.

The Commonwealth Court decision means that many supplemental recycling programs are in jeopardy, and many counties are evaluating the services they have been able to provide with the administrative fund revenues and are scaling back programs accordingly. This will have a number of detrimental environmental impacts, including more hazardous waste in landfills, and more illegal dumping on public and private lands.

The Association supports HB 934, which will reverse the Court's ruling by amending Act 101 to give counties express authority to levy the administrative fee.

For more information on the county administrative fee and recycling programs which counties administer, contact Kristen Goshorn at 717-232-755 x 3113 or kgoshorn@pacounties.org.

