

Waste

Maintain an Environmentally Sound Solid Waste Management System

Target(s):

By 2013, develop a comprehensive, integrated “Solid Waste Management Plan” for Lincoln and Lancaster County that promotes waste prevention, toxicity reduction, diversion, reuse, and recycling as waste management strategies with higher and better use of natural resources than land disposal.

Lincoln Now:

The City of Lincoln’s Public Works and Utilities Department, Solid Waste Operations, in conjunction with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Environmental Public Health, oversees the solid waste management programs serving Lincoln and other communities in Lancaster County. These operations provide a wide assortment of integrated solid waste management services. These range from source reduction and pollution prevention to recycling and disposal. The City of Lincoln considers residential and commercial solid waste services to be like any other utility and must be accessible to all residents and businesses.

The City of Lincoln does not, however, have a mandatory residential waste collection policy. The City does have a longstanding policy of privately owned and operated collection of refuse and recyclables coupled with public ownership, operation and financing of disposal and selected integrated solid waste management services. Independent private companies must be licensed to provide waste collection services to area residents. Residents may also haul their waste to a small vehicle transfer station.

Solid Waste Operations calculates that 94.2% of 304,919 tons of municipal solid wastes generated in Lincoln and Lancaster County in FY 2010-2011 was disposed of at the City of Lincoln’s Bluff Road Landfill. The remaining 5.8% is exported to landfill(s) outside Lancaster County. The annual per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate of 2,136 pounds for FY 2010-2011 is calculated based on a total population of 285,407 for Lancaster County and includes all residential, commercial and industrial wastes. The 293,681 tons of municipal solid waste disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill by Lincoln and Lancaster County residents in FY 2000-2001 represented an annual per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate of 2,336 pounds. The 10-year average annual per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate was 2,255 pounds.

In 2012-2013, the City of Lincoln is preparing, as described in LPlan 2040, a “Solid Waste Management Plan for Lincoln and Lancaster County,” the first since 1992, which will emphasize sustainability in the consideration of local waste management strategies.