

2014 Trash & Recycling Survey

The Borough of Perkasio currently offers residents a Pay-As-You-Throw trash program with free recycling and leaf/ yard waste collection. The current refuse & recycling program was launched in 1988 and quickly won the PA Resource Council Award later that year & the Governor's Minimization Award for its recycling achievements in 1989. This program encourages recycling, and is funded almost solely by the sale of the Borough trash bags. In order to gain more knowledge about how residents use the program and any improvements that could be made, the Borough Council is sending this survey asking each household to weigh in with their opinions on the service.

Your responses will remain anonymous, but they are essential to the completion of this project. Please return this survey by **March 31, 2014** to make sure your views are included. Mail in the enclosed envelope or hand-deliver to: **Perkasie Borough, 620 West Chestnut Street, P.O. Box 96, Perkasie, PA 18944**. Completed surveys can be placed in the drop box at Borough Hall.

To help you complete the enclosed survey, here are some facts about trash, recycling and yard waste removal in Perkasie Borough. Please feel welcome to keep this sheet for your reference.

Perkasie Borough provides waste removal as a service to residents. By providing waste removal service in bulk, the Borough can charge fees that may be significantly less than what would be received by individual residences on the open market. The crews that collect your waste are local and long-term employees of the Borough. For the 2014 collection year, the total expenses for the Borough are budgeted at \$449,050. With 3,500 households, that's **an average cost of approximately \$128.30 per household per year, assuming all eligible households were to participate.** On the open market, similar collection could cost anywhere between \$240 and \$450 per year.

The cost of the refuse & recycling programs are covered almost entirely by the sale of the refuse bags & the annual fee* (for 2014 - \$12/ per year, per household). The current program provides once weekly pickup of refuse in Borough bags, one bulky item per week, Friday commingled recycling collection, once monthly paper collection, once monthly curbside branch chipping, annual Christmas tree collection, leaf collection in the fall and spring, yard waste drop-off once a month, and a Recycling Drop-off Center that is open 6 days a week. All of this is included in the program, and no tax dollars are used. It also means that those who actively participate in the program and buy the trash bags are funding a majority of these services.

We understand that not everyone's needs can be served by any one service; however, it is our goal to evaluate the current collection program to determine where we can improve the level of service to our residents without a significant cost increase. Like many residents, we work within a budget and have to accommodate the many different needs of our residents. There are a lot of benefits to maintaining waste collection as a municipal service, including reduced cost per residence due to competitive bidding for disposal fees; single hauler limits the number of waste removal vehicle trips through the Borough, reducing wear and tear on Borough roads and disruption to Borough life; better customer service – the Borough staff are nearby to remedy issues quickly.

**In December of 2013, Borough Council approved a 2014 budget that included a \$12 per household annual fee for the Borough's refuse program for households, except those apartment complexes that use private service as allowed in the Ordinance.*

Cost of Municipal Waste Collection Service

2014 Budgeted Revenues

Annual Fee	\$42,000
Refuse Bag Sales	\$390,000
Act 101 Recycling Grant	\$15,000
Sale of Recyclables & Interest	\$2,050

Total Revenues \$449,050

2014 Budgeted Expenses

Trash Collection & Disposal	\$268,805
Recycling Collection & Disposal	\$84,637
Leaf & Yard Waste Collection	\$54,193
Capital Purchases (Trucks)	\$41,415

Total Expenses \$449,050

A Residents Quick Guide to Disposal

(Please retain this page)

DISPOSING OF YOUR YARD WASTE |

Yard Clippings (leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings): Drop off at the Recycling Center on the first Saturday of the month.

Bundled Branches: Curbside (call for collection) on the first Wednesday of the month.

Leaves (Fall & Spring Season): Curbside collection from October to November & April.

Grass Clippings: Must be disposed of in a Borough trash bag. The Borough encourages "grass-cycling".

Christmas Trees: Curbside collection on the first 3 or 4 Friday's in January.

DISPOSING OF YOUR ELETRONIC "COVERED DEVICES" |

Covered Devices - a covered computer device and covered television marketed and intended for use by a consumer. A covered computer device is a computer (desktop, laptop), computer monitor, and computer peripheral (printer, keyboard, mouse, or any other device sold exclusively for external use with a computer that provides input or output into or from a computer). A covered television is a television with screen size greater than 4 inches measured diagonally.

Sell your Covered Devices to a local metal recycler -

611 Metals Recycling - 6776 Easton Road, Pipersville, PA, Ph: (267)221-6924 (Computers, Keyboards, Printers, LCD Monitors, CRT Monitor (\$5 charge), Televisions smaller than 27", & more; check their website for complete listing)

Wilcox Recycling - 241 Old Mill Road, Sellersville, PA, Ph: (215)257-1220 (Computer Towers Only)

Drop Off Your Covered Devices at a County Recycling Event –

Bucks County Planning Commission, Ph: (215)345-3400 or e-mail: bcpc@co.bucks.pa.us for details on dates/ times.

Find a Disposal Site Online – <http://www.earth911.com>

CURBSIDE COMMINGLED RECYCLING COLLECTION (Friday) |

Glass, aluminum, plastics (numbered 1 through 5 and 7) and steel are collected on Fridays. Please adhere to the following guidelines when placing recyclables curbside:

GLASS (all colors) | Remove lids and neckbands from bottles or jars, and rinse. No need to remove labels. (No ceramics, light bulbs, or plate glass please).

ALUMINUM CANS (beverage cans) | Flatten all cans if possible. Do not include aluminum foil.

PLASTICS | All plastics numbered 1 through 5 and 7. Please rinse containers, removing all contents. Crush the plastic containers to reduce the size as much as possible, but keep them intact.

STEEL CANS | Please rinse the cans, flatten them and remove the labels when possible.

Recyclables should be combined in open bins with drainage holes near the bottom (available at the Borough Office for \$7.50). Please Do Not Break Glass. No plastic bags.

Please be mindful of the size & weight of your recycling container. One person should be able to easily lift the container.

Consider multiple small containers instead of large cans. Drill holes in the bottom or keep covered to keep water out.

CURBSIDE NEWSPAPER AND CARDBOARD COLLECTION (3rd Wednesday of the month)|

Newspaper & cardboard are to be bundled and tied securely or inserted into a durable paper bag. Junk mail, magazines and chip board (such as cereal boxes) may be included. Please keep newsprint clean and free of soil, garbage, etc. Wax coated cardboard, freezer boxes, wood, nails, Styrofoam and plastic are not recyclable and must be disposed of in a Borough Disposal Bag.

DROP-OFF RECYCLING CENTER |

The Borough Recycling Center, located behind the Perkasio Police Department, 311 South Ninth Street, is for the convenience of Borough residents only. Perkasio Borough staff may ask for identification. The Recycling Center has signs indicating where the recyclable materials are to be placed. Please adhere to the guidelines above, separating recyclables into the proper containers as marked (glass, aluminum, tin and plastic in one container and newspaper and cardboard in the trailer). Recycling Center hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 8:30 pm and Saturdays from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. It will be closed Sundays and holidays.

Begin Survey

What best describes your household?

- Single Occupancy
- Couple
- Family (2-4 persons)
- Larger Family (5+ Persons)

Do you live in a single family home, an attached home, or apartment?

- Single Family
- Attached (townhouse, row home, etc.)
- Apartment

Refuse Collection Service

What day of the week is your trash collected?

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday

Residential Collection – For each service, please check the appropriate box for each type of service that your household uses.

Type of Collection

- Curbside Refuse Collection (green or black bag with Borough tree logo)
- Curbside Commingled Collection (glass & plastics # 1-6; collected curbside every Friday) **Free**
- Curbside Newspaper/ Cardboard Collection (1st Wednesday of every month) **Free**
- Curbside Leaf Collection (October to November; Springtime) **Free**
- Recycling Center – Commingled Drop-Off (glass & plastics # 1-6) **Free**
- Recycling Center – Newspaper/ Cardboard Drop-Off **Free**
- Recycling Center – Yard Waste Drop-Off (1st Saturday of every month only) **Free**

How many Borough bags of trash do you set out for disposal per month?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3-5
- 6+

Per regulations of the program, you are permitted to set out one bulky item per week for collection with a Borough bag. How many bulky items do you set out per month (on average)?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Do you dispose of your garbage in another manner to avoid purchasing bags? If yes, how do you dispose of the garbage?

- Dumpster at work
- Take to another city
- Dispose of at a friend or relatives house
- Regulated dump site
- Take to a dumpster

Which Borough trash bags do you use?

- Large green bag with Borough tree logo (\$3.25)
- Small black bag with Borough tree logo (\$2.25)
- Medium black bag with Borough tree logo (only available @ Borough Hall) (\$2.50)

Do you prefer the current Pay-As-You-Throw trash bag system that allows you to only pay for what you throw out and offers free recycling OR a wheeled trash can service also with free recycling that is billed monthly regardless of how much you throw out?

- I like the bag disposal system currently in place
- I am interested in paying a monthly fee for a wheeled trash can service

Recycling Services

How often do you place recycling curbside for collection?

- Weekly
- Every other week
- Once a month
- Never

If you do not place recycling curbside, please tell us why.

- Collection is not frequent enough for me
- Do not recycle
- Take to Recycling Center
- Take elsewhere: _____

What are the primary reasons that you are not recycling regularly?

- I don't have enough garbage or recycling to warrant it
- They don't collect the items I generate
- Unpleasant
- Difficult/ hassle to recycle
- Takes up too much space to store
- I seem to always forget
- Other

Would you recycle more often if Single Stream recycling were available, i.e. all recyclables (plastic 1-7, glass, metals, & paper/ cardboard) were collected together?

- Yes
- No, I would continue to recycle the same amount.
- No, I still would not recycle.

Comments on your recycling service:

Would you recycle more often if the Borough provided you with a large toter/wheeled can for your recyclables?

- Yes
- No, I would continue to recycle the same amount.
- No, I still would not recycle.

Would you recycle more often if the Borough collected paper/ cardboard recycling on a weekly basis instead of once a month?

- Yes
- No, I would continue to recycle the same amount.
- No, I still would not recycle.

Overall, how would you rate the current recycling service provided by the Borough of Perkasié?

- Excellent
- Satisfactory
- Fair
- Poor

If you rated the above service as "Fair" or "Poor", please tell us why.

- I would like more frequent pick-up of my paper waste
- Late/ missed pickup
- I would prefer cart service for my recyclables
- Comments _____

Leaf/ Yard Waste Services

How do you dispose of the following items? Use an **X** to mark the corresponding box below each item. *(Shaded box indicates a disposal option that is not permitted by the Borough.)*

	Put it out in a Borough trash bag	Leave it on the grass	Compost it	Rake to the curb	Bundle for curbside collection 1 st Wed. of month	Bring it to the drop-off center on the 1 st Saturday of the month	Landscaper removes	Don't have any
Leaves								
Grass Clippings								
Branches								
Weeds								
Plant Trimmings								

If the yard waste drop-off program could be expanded to include more days per month, how do you think the Borough should pay for the service?

- Charge those who use the yard waste drop-off
- Increase bag prices to cover the cost
- I do not use the yard waste drop-off
- I do not have yard waste

Additional Comments – Please provide any thoughts you might have on how to make the solid waste management system in your community more cost effective & service oriented for the residents of the Borough.

For questions about the survey, please contact Dan Gilbert, Director of Public Works, at (215) 257-6860 or e-mail publicworks@perkasieborough.org. Thank you for your feedback.