



Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service
over 125 years of community electric and a
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBERSBURG TO TRANSITION TO NEW RECYCLING SYSTEM IN JANUARY 2020

Chambersburg – On Monday, June 3, 2019, the Chambersburg Town Council approved the first changes to the successful Borough recycling system in four years. Since 2015, the community of over 8,000 households has maintained a contract with Waste Management for the curbside collection of single stream commingled residential and small business recycling. This system has been very popular and very successful as the quantity of recycled materials rose significantly from before this system was put in place.

Unfortunately, the global marketplace for recycled materials are in flux and a recent request for proposals resulted in no applications from any vendors to continue the system.

Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill explained that while the Borough's experiences with Waste Management were very satisfactory, for the firm to continue to provide recycling to Chambersburg, the system would needed to have been extensively changed, and Town Council was not supportive of those changes. "In the end," Stonehill explained, "Council thought it best to transition back to a system where Borough-employees in Borough-owned trucks collect the same single stream of recyclable materials."

"Chambersburg personnel," explained Assistant Manager David Finch who manages the system, have for many years collected all residential and commercial municipal waste, so the transition back to collecting our own recycling was not too difficult to arrange."

The key to the transition was to find a way to properly process the recycled materials. To that end, Chambersburg Town Council has entered into a three year contract with McCardle Recycling, a firm recently started by longtime veteran waste consultant Kevin McCardle, who will take possession of and be responsible for the marketing of Chambersburg's recycling material.

At the Council meeting on June 3, Mr. McCardle explained that he has a relationship with a number of recycling processing facilities and the contract insures that he will find a home for the entire single stream of commingled materials, including the less popular items such as glass and certain types of plastic.

"The Borough of Chambersburg recycling will therefore not significantly change under this system," concluded Council President Heath Talhelm. "We want to remain a green community and we do so with our wholesale electricity purchases, our commitment to the environment, and this sanitation program."

Chambersburg Borough had previously received a Sustainable PA community Gold Level designation from the Pennsylvania Municipal League and Sustainable Pittsburgh.

Mr. Finch went on to explain that as a part of this plan, the Borough will hire additional Sanitation Department personnel, purchase a new recycling vehicle from G-S Products of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and build a temporary transfer station where recycled material will be transferred from the Borough to McCardle Recycling. However, Mr. Finch expects the transition to be seamless for Borough recycling customers and does not anticipate any increase or change in trash fees as a result of this new system.

Mr. Stonehill added that "Chambersburg has the lowest composite utility bill for any community in Pennsylvania."

If you have any questions, please contact David Finch, Assistant Borough Manager, at 717-660-2702 or dfinch@chambersburgpa.gov

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric & gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg currently has 20,360 residents (2012).