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News Release

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Lancaster County Achieves New Recycling Record

LANCASTER, Pa. — The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) announced today that the county achieved a new record for community-wide recycling. In 2012, Lancaster County recycled 43% of its municipal solid waste.

Several factors contributed to this increase: 1) more businesses recycled both ferrous and non-ferrous metals; 2) residents and businesses recycled more organic materials, including wood, yard waste, leaves and food scraps for composting; 3) residents and businesses recycled more fibrous (cardboard) materials; 4) the curbside collection and drop-off recycling of single-stream materials, such as plastic and glass bottles, metal cans, newsprint, magazines, junk mail, phone books and catalogs, increased for residents and businesses; and finally, 5) household hazardous waste and electronic waste recycling increased as well.

“Recycling is a critical component of our Integrated System,” says James Warner, CEO for LCSWMA, “Residents and businesses play a key role in the management of our society’s discards by recycling materials instead of throwing them away as trash. This new record demonstrates the continued health and vitality of our system.”

Out of the remaining 57% of municipal solid waste that is not recycled, 55% is combusted at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Conoy Township where waste is turned into renewable energy (electricity) that powers approximately 30,000 area homes and businesses; and only 2% is delivered to the Frey Farm Landfill in Manor Township.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the national average for recycling is 34%. The substantial elevation of Lancaster County's recycling rate over the national average indicates the effectiveness of the area's Integrated System and the cooperation of residents and businesses to act responsibly when discarding waste.

The recycling rate for Lancaster County in 2011 was 40%.

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LCSWMA is recognized nationally for its leadership in the industry and innovative approach to waste management. Its Integrated System consists of the following: (1) a Transfer Station permitted to handle up to 2,200 tons per day; (2) a 1,200 tons per day mass burn Waste-to-Energy Facility for the combustion of waste and production of electricity; (3) the Frey Farm Landfill, permitted for the disposal of 2,000 tons of waste per day; (4) a County-wide recycling program; and (5) a drive-through Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The Authority's mission is to manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner.