

REPORTING RECYCLING: BACK TO THE BASICS

In order to accurately assess the municipal recycling performance of the Commonwealth, it is essential that the required annual reporting be completed in a consistent and uniform manner. This document was created to help simplify and explain the common terms used within the report forms. It also should clarify what materials are considered appropriate or inappropriate for inclusion in the Annual Recycling Report.

The Annual Recycling Report should only include recyclable materials that are removed from the municipal solid waste stream. Waste materials that are generated at industrial, mining, or agricultural operations are considered residual waste, not municipal waste, and should **NOT** be included on the report. Please review and compare the following definitions:

Municipal Waste: Garbage, refuse, industrial lunchroom or office waste and other material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material **resulting from operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments and from community activities;** and sludge not meeting the definition of residual or hazardous waste under this section from a municipal, commercial or institutional water supply treatment plan, waste water treatment plant or air pollution control facility.

Residual Waste: Garbage, refuse, other discarded material or other waste, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material **resulting from industrial, mining or agricultural operations;** and sludge from an industrial, mining or agricultural water supply treatment facility, wastewater treatment facility or air pollution control facility, if it is not hazardous. The term does not include coal refuse as defined in the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act (52 P.S. §§ 30.51-30.66). The term does not include treatment sludges from coal mine drainage treatment plants, disposal of which is being carried on under and in compliance with a valid permit issued under the Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. §§ 691.1-691.1001).

Because municipal waste is a result of the operations of commercial, municipal or institutional establishments, we must also review the definition of commercial, municipal and institutional establishment. These definitions have been inserted into the instructions for the Annual Recycling Report Forms also. Please review the following definitions:

Commercial Establishment: An establishment **engaged in non-manufacturing or non-processing business,** including, but not limited to, stores, markets, office buildings, medical offices, restaurants, shopping centers and theaters.

Municipal Establishment: An establishment engaged in government work including, but not limited to, offices of the federal government, state government, cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships, counties and authorities.

Institutional Establishment: An establishment engaged in service including, but not limited to, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, schools and universities.

And lastly, the EPA's publication "Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments" includes a list of materials and activities that are included in the Standard Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Rate. In order for our state to be measured against other

states, we abide by this list to decide what to count and what not to count. If you would like to order this publication or download it for your reference, it is available at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/nscep/>. The publication number is EPA530-R-97-011.