



Sustainable Pottstown

2016 Borough of Pottstown Trash, Recycling, and Stormwater Newsletter



Sustainability in Pottstown

By Donna Fabry, CFM, Montgomery County Planning Commission

The Borough of Pottstown and Pottstown School District are partnering on an effort with staff from Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) to develop a **Sustainability Plan**. The Plan will feature a number of initiatives that when implemented, are intended to improve Borough and School District operations and result in an improved quality of life for all those who live, work and play in Pottstown.

What is a Sustainability Plan?

Sustainability Plans offer local communities the opportunity to define what sustainability means to the community and identify actions to achieve the goals of the plan. Sustainability plans can identify ways to improve efficiency in operations or identify policies or regulations that address quality of life issues affecting both residents of and visitors to Pottstown.

By adopting the actions put forth in the Sustainability Plan, the Borough and School District are setting the direction for Borough and School District policies and actions.

About the Plan

The Sustainability Plan process was initiated in late 2014. Plan committees are comprised of Borough and School District officials and staff, and members of the business, nonprofit, and residential communities. Over the past year, participants have met to evaluate data relating to sustainability issues, such as energy efficiency and water consumption at public-owned facilities, community health and safety, and economic development.

To date, the committees have identified the organizational framework of the plan to consist of 4 sections including 1) Principles, 2) Vision Statement, 3) Goals, 4) Action Items—the steps the Borough and School District will implement.

Principles

The Plan will be structured around 3 principles of Infrastructure, Education and Connected Communities, meaning that each step of the Plan, including its Goals and Action Items, should advance the broad concepts advocated through these principles:

- *Infrastructure* refers to the built and natural environments and includes streets, buildings, facilities, as well as trees, streams, and open space – anything that contributes to the physical setting of the Borough. In terms of sustainability, infrastructure heavily influences the way people feel about their

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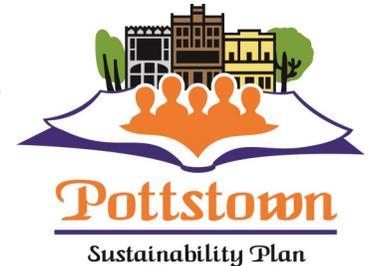
- surroundings. Creating a safe, healthy and clean environment is key to creating a positive quality of life.
- *Education* means raising awareness through public engagement to create a well-informed community that embraces sustainability.
- *Connected Communities* signifies equity for all who live, work and play in Pottstown. Striving to connect all the diverse communities of Pottstown is essential to sustainability. For Pottstown to be more sustainable, the qualities of every type of population in the Borough must be addressed with respect and fairness.

Plan Logo

The following draft logo was designed to represent the Principles of infrastructure, environment and connected communities. Note that the logo incorporates the facades of several buildings located along High Street!

Vision Statement

The vision statement is a concise description of the plan's objectives. The statement guides the development of Goals and Actions that will instruct how to achieve the plan's vision.



Draft Vision Statement

The Borough of Pottstown strives to improve the quality of life for all community members by creating a well informed citizenry that makes sustainable decisions that positively affect the environment.

Goals

The draft goals of the plan support the Vision and Principles, and set the agenda for creating Action Items that can be implemented with the intent of achieving the goals.

Draft Goals:

- Through education and outreach, develop a deeper awareness among residents of the Borough and the greater Pottstown region that results in an understanding of the role of sustainability and how each individual's actions impact the greater community.
- Improve the overall well-being of residents of the Borough and the greater Pottstown region by providing opportunities that promote healthy choices.
- Promote economic growth and revitalization opportunities that contribute to a vibrant, diverse, and dynamic community.
- Conserve, protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's built and natural resources.

Action Items

The Action Items represent how the plan will be implemented. While the plan will provide Action Items that apply specifically to Borough and the School District operations, it will also feature additional recommendations that can be put into action by individuals and community groups.

Examples of draft Borough and School District Action Items:

- Educate residents about sustainability through workshops, public presentations and through use of the Borough website
- Improve recycling
- Buy sustainable items for use in facilities (paper, cleaning products, utensils, etc.)
- Connect with local and regional partners to support sustainable practices
- Connect with local and regional partners to support School District curriculum and provide unique learning opportunities for students
- Increase walkability to local destinations

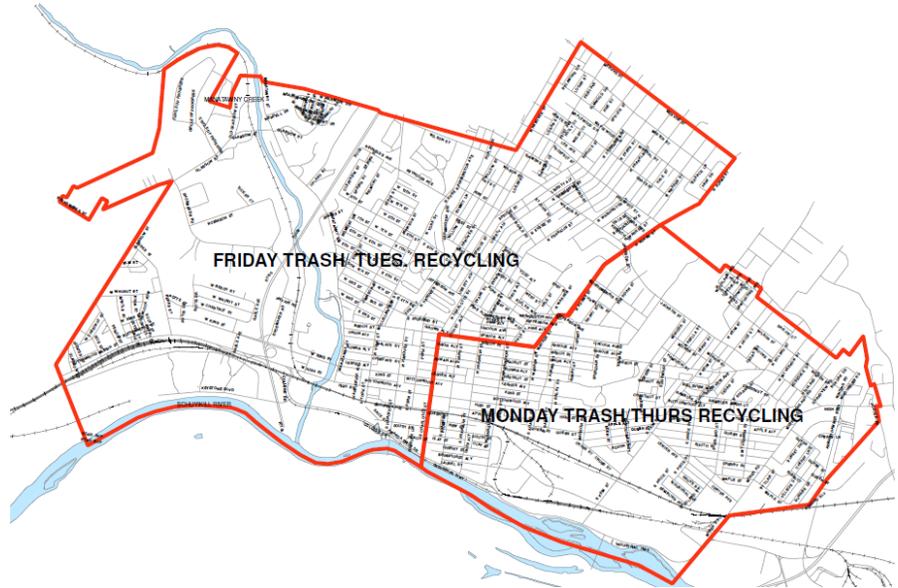
- Increase community gardens and access to local foods
- Increase tree cover throughout the Borough

Get Involved!

Keep an eye out for future announcements this winter about the Sustainability Plan Open House, which is being planned for the first quarter of 2016! This event will be open to the general public and will provide an opportunity for you to voice your opinion about the initiatives proposed and to offer your ideas about how to create a Sustainable Pottstown for all. For more information about the Sustainability Plan, contact Donna Fabry at dfabry@montcopa.org or Erica Batdorf at ebatdorf@pottstown.org.

Trash and Recycling

J.P. Mascaro is the Borough's contracted recycling and trash hauler. The Borough is split into two regions for trash and recycling collection. The North/West Region has trash pick up on Friday, recycling on Tuesday. The South/East Region has trash pick up on Monday, recycling on Thursday.



What NOT to recycle?

Do your part to make single-stream recycling a success by keeping the following items out of your recycling container:

- Disposable diapers
- Paper towels & tissue paper
- Window Glass
- Textiles, fabric, & clothing
- Light bulbs
- Ceramics, chinaware porcelain, & Pyrex dishware
- Batteries
- Toys
- Syringes & needles
- Liquids
- Computer and electronic equipment
- Mirrors

Commercial Recycling

A good idea is now the **LAW!** PA State Law and Local Ordinance requires commercial businesses and institutional facilities to recycling the following materials:

- Aluminum cans
- Corrugated cardboard
- Office Paper
- Yard Waste



If you need assistance setting up a recycling program for your business or institution, please contact your waste hauler or property manager.

Household Hazardous Waste Events

Montgomery County offers FREE residential collections events for household hazardous waste at various locations throughout the County. For a listing of dates and times, visit www.montgomerycountyclecycling.org or call the recycling line at (610) 278-3618.

Event workers will unload your materials so please remain in your vehicle.

Acceptable:

- Gasoline, Oil, Kerosene
- Turpentine, Paint Thinner
- Oil Paint, Stain, Varnish
- Pool Chemicals
- Herbicides, Pesticides
- Antifreeze
- Fluorescent Tube Light Bulbs, CFL Bulbs
- Caustic Cleaners, Solvents
- Mercury
- Thermometers
- Flares
- Fire Extinguishers
- Lead Acid & Rechargeable Batteries
- Mini Propane Canisters, Electric Oil Filled Heaters



NOT Acceptable:

- Latex or Water Based Paint
- Prescription Medications

FREE Tire Collections

The Montgomery County Commissioners authorize annual tire collection events to prevent tires from being improperly disposed of and to reduce breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquitoes. For more information including dates and times of the events, visit www.montgomerycountyclecycling.org or call the recycling line at (610) 278-3618.

- Open to Montgomery County Residents ONLY
- Free of Charge
- 8 Tires per Vehicle Maximum
- No Off Road Tires
- Rain or Shine
- No Businesses



Paper Shredding Events

The Montgomery County Commissioners, in conjunction with Shred One Security Corporation will be sponsoring FREE community paper shredding events throughout the County. Please visit www.montgomerycountyclecycling.org or call the recycling line at (610) 278-3618 for a list of dates and times.



- No plastic, plastic bags, batteries, cardboard, or metal (other than staples and paper clips) in the waste
- 2 boxes or paper bags per vehicle
- Volunteers will assist with removing documents from vehicles
- No businesses—Montgomery County residents ONLY

Bulk Items and White Goods

Bulk waste items are large items of refuse, such as household furniture, sofas, chairs, mattresses, box springs, dressers, carpet (cut into 3-4 foot pieces and tied, etc. White goods are home appliance items such as washers, dyers, water heaters, stoves, refrigerators, and freezers. Items containing a refrigerant such as Freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners) will not be collected unless the item has a sticker certifying that the refrigerant has been properly removed and recovered. Contact an appliance dealer for this service.

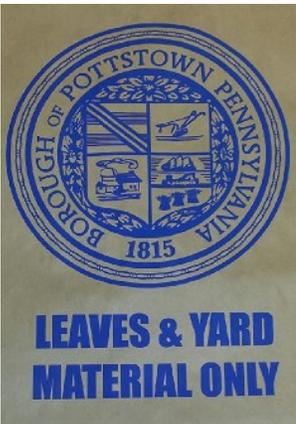
Bulk items and white goods must have the required sticker attached. Bulk items are picked up on regular trash days.

Bulk item fee—\$15 per item

White good fee—\$25 per item

Visit www.pottstown.org for the Bulk Waste and White Goods Pick-up Service Order Form.

Yard Material and Leaf Disposal



Do not dispose of yard material or leaves in the recycling or trash totes provided by the Borough. Yard material must be placed in brown leaf bags, a separate can with the lid off, or bundled with twine/rope (no metal) approximately three to four feet in length. Tree limbs must be no larger than five inches in diameter. Yard material placed in plastic bags will **NOT** be taken. No grass clippings will be picked up.

Yard material/leaf disposal collection begins weekly on Wednesdays, beginning April 6th and concluding on December 21st. Bags may be purchased at Borough Hall. For a list of other locations, contact Public Works at 610-970-6527.

Reminder:

Per Borough Ordinance No. 2071, no trash or recycling is to be set out for collection prior to 4pm the night before the scheduled pick-up. All empty totes are to be removed by 6pm the day of pick-up.

Frequently Asked Questions

My tote is missing. How do I get a replacement?

- The cost for a replacement tote is approximately \$70.00
- If your trash tote is missing, contact JP Mascaro at 1-888-MASCARO for a replacement.
- If your recycling tote is missing, contact Public Works at 610-970-6527. Each recycling tote has a unique serial number, which can be supplied by Public Works. Then check with your neighbors to be sure they didn't pick it up by mistake.

How do I dispose of unused prescription drugs?

- The Pottstown Police Department houses a secure drop box for unused prescription drugs that is accessible 24/7 in the Police Department lobby, first floor of Borough Hall.

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Sustainable Pottstown

Stormwater - When it rains, it drains

- Storm inlets are not garbage receptacles. Items such as garbage and oil pollute the river. If you see someone dumping anything in the storm inlets, report them to the Police Department or Public Works immediately.
- Do not sweep or blow grass clippings or leaves into the street. It is a violation of Borough Ordinance #1773.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn to prevent dirty, soapy water from flowing into the storm inlets.
- Check your car for leaks and make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and dispose of it in the trash. NEVER rinse a spill into a storm inlet.
- Do not dump used oil or other automotive fluids down the storm inlets or dispose of them in the trash. Recycle them at a service station.
- Use de-icing salts sparingly, as excessive amount can harm water ways.
- Look for possible mosquito breeding grounds in your backyard. Water can collect in unused flower pots, buckets, cups, tires, and other items that may hold stagnant water.



Water quality effects everyone's life in some way. Pollutants brought on by stormwater runoff can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

For more information, visit www.pottstown.org.