



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF STREETS  
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Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2013  
To: Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee  
From: Phil Bresee, Recycling Director  
RE: **JANUARY 2013 SWRAC STAFF REPORT**

This memo updates the status of various recycling and solid waste related programs and projects in the City of Philadelphia.

- **Curbside Recycling Collections:** Unofficial results show a 20.5 percent diversion rate for FY 2013's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, including an all-time high 22.4 percent achieved in December. Year-over-year through two quarters recycling tonnages are up slightly, to 31,251 tons, while residential garbage disposal has decreased by about 9 percent. Overall residential MSW generation (recycling + garbage) is off by 7.3 percent compared to this point in FY 2012.
- **Recycling Rewards Program:** The City of Philadelphia and Recyclebank were selected for the Outstanding Award in Public/Private Partnerships by the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). The award was announced during the USCM's winter conference on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Nutter, Recyclebank's Vice President for Community Solutions Erika Diamond and staff were on hand in Washington to accept the award. More information can be found through these hyperlinks:

<http://www.philadelphiastreet.com/>

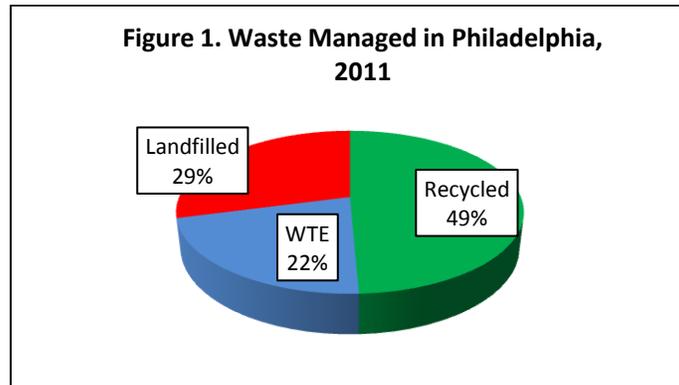
[http://www.usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper/documents/01\\_28\\_13/](http://www.usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper/documents/01_28_13/) (detailed on page 17 of *U.S. Mayor*)

<http://www.greenphillyblog.com/philly-represent/philly-honored-for-recycling-public-private-partnership-with-recyclebank/>

- **Holiday Tree Recycling:** Trees were able to be dropped off at the City's three sanitation convenience centers for a two-week period, ending on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and at 10 locations managed by various neighborhood and civic organizations on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (Northern Liberties Association provided overall coordination among civics). Trees were accepted by Fairmount Park and processed into mulch. A combined estimated total of 55.5 tons of trees were collected through the program.

CLEAN AND SAFE STREETS

- **Update to 2011 MSW Reporting to PA DEP:** Staff has completed its compilation of non-Act 101 recyclables diverted during calendar year 2011. When C&D is included in the calculations, an estimated 49.3% of the more than 2.8 million tons of solid waste generated was recycled in 2011. Additionally, some 71 percent of the City's overall solid waste is being diverted from landfill disposal through recycling and waste-to-energy (WTE). Removing C&D from consideration drops the recycling rate to 43.7% and the overall MSW generation to 2.48 million tons.



- **Recycling at Philadelphia Marathon:** The data reported by staff as part of the December SWRAC agenda did not include recycled footwear and apparel, or the significant amount of unused food donations. Final results show a diversion rate of close to 88 percent of the 28.2 tons of waste generated. The four-day race weekend included nearly 25,000 finishers, 60,000 spectators, and 3,300 volunteers. An application for certification by the Council for Competitive Sport (think LEED for sporting events) is pending.



- **Recycling Program Rebranding:** Redesigned promotional materials for residential recycling and recycling in City facilities have been delivered. The residential recycling flyer was mailed along with City water bills in December and changes have begun to be made to the City's website. Additional campaign components are in development.

Please feel free to contact me at 215/686-5504 or at [phil.bresee@phila.gov](mailto:phil.bresee@phila.gov) if you have additional questions.

C: Donald Carlton  
Scott McGrath