



County of Bucks

Every Day is Earth Day in Bucks County

Top Ten list of County Activities to Protect the Environment and Quality of Life in Bucks County



10. Help Protect Environment Through Planning

- Encourage compact development
- Preservation of our town centers and older communities
- Natural resource protection and sustainability
- Redevelopment of Brownfields
- Protecting water resources
- Encouraging municipalities to protect environment through ordinances: low impact development, control of sprawl



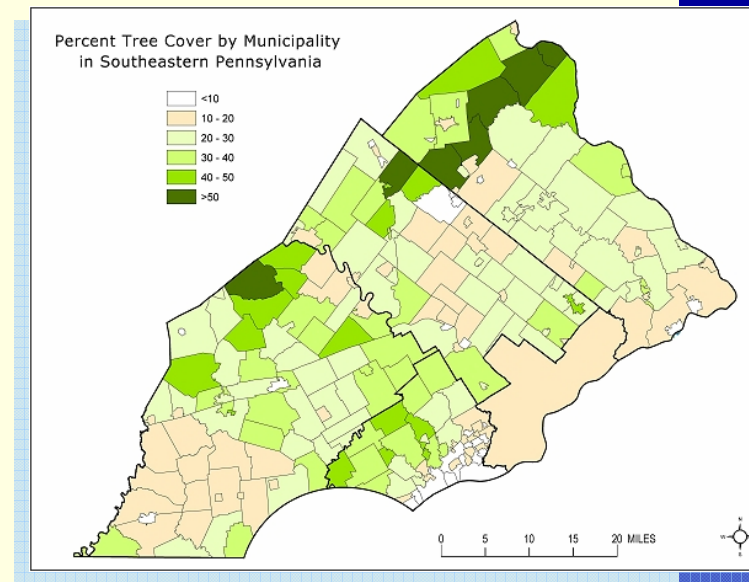
9. Reducing Emissions through Smarter Transportation

- Support transit, walking, biking
- Support congestion control – signals, intersections, trip reduction
- Focus transportation improvements in developed communities



8. Encourage Environmental Protection

- Reduce Tree Removal and Encourage Tree Planting
- Helped get tree planting grants through “Treevitalize”
- Model tree protection ordinance used throughout Bucks
- Prepare ordinances to encourage energy savings:
 - Solar access requirements
 - Wind energy facilities



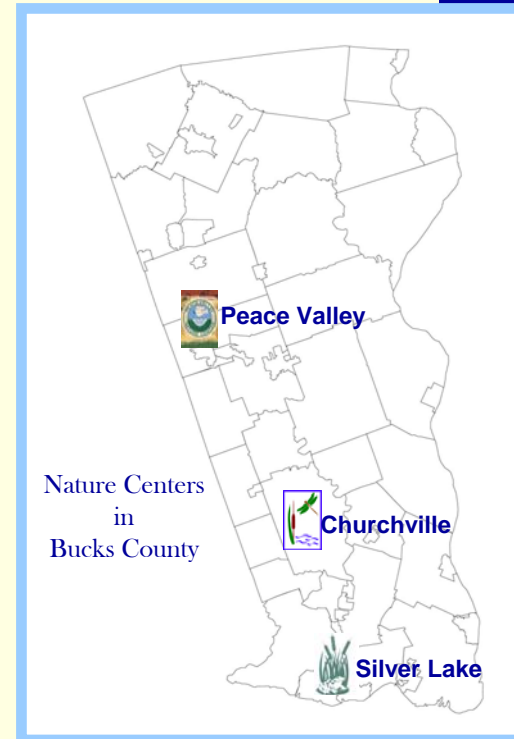
7. Stormwater Management

- Model stormwater ordinances for all municipalities
- Prepare watershed plans
- Encourage infiltration and protection of water quality; recharge aquifers
- Selected for state Best Management Practices Committee



6. County Owns and Operates three Nature Centers

- There are three nature centers in Bucks County: *Churchville, Peace Valley, and Silver Lake.*
- They host a variety of classes on nature and the environment as well as other special events and programs throughout the year.
- There were a total of **308,848** Bucks County residents who took classes or visited nature centers through school programs in 2006. That is equivalent to half of Bucks County's total population (this does not count all the people who visited to walk the trails, birdwatch, or sit by the lakes).
- *Highlights:*
 - Bald eagles nesting
 - Rare and endangered plants and animals



Churchville Nature Center

- The Churchville Nature Center is located in the town of Churchville in Northampton Township.
- There were a total of 84,332 visitors to the Churchville Nature Center last year.



Peace Valley Nature Center

- The Peace Valley Nature Center is located in New Britain Township.
- There were a total of 116,166 visitors to the Peace Valley Nature Center last year.



Silver Lake Nature Center

- The Silver Lake Nature Center is located in Bristol Township.
- There were a total of 108,350 visitors to the Silver Lake Nature Center last year.



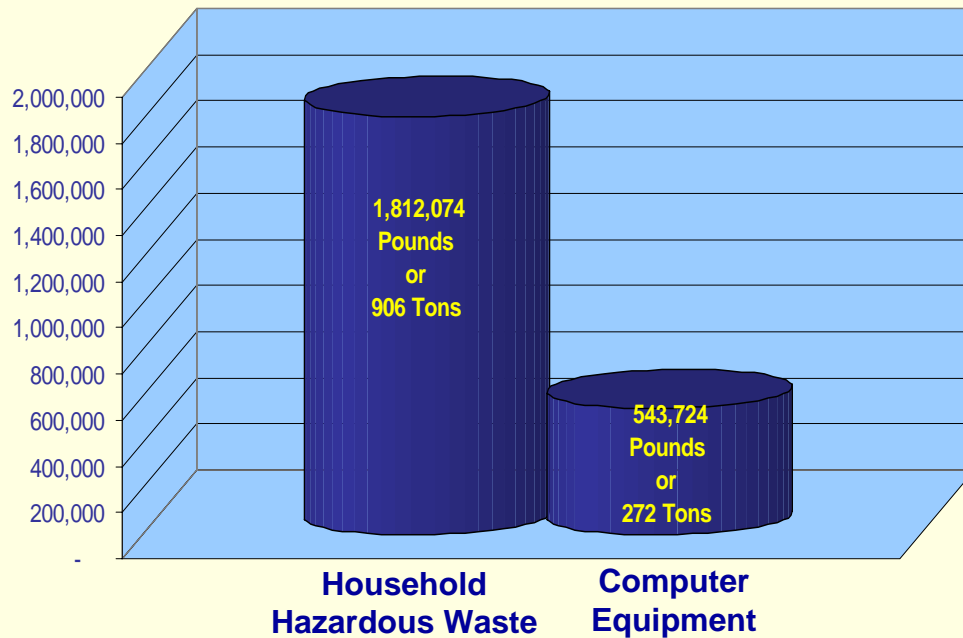
5. County-wide Recycling Program

- Fulltime county staff person oversees county-wide recycling program including internal recycling operations.
- Thousands of phone calls a year are received from the public regarding where to recycle and on the county's household hazardous waste and computer collection programs.



County-wide Recycling Program

**Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste and
Computer Equipment Collection Programs
2002-2006**



2007 Schedule

May 12 Lower Makefield Corporate Center, South Campus (770 Township Line Rd. – Lower Makefield Township)

June 9 Upper Bucks County Area Vo-Tech School (3115 Ridge Road – Bedminster Township)

July 14 Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (2740 Old York Road (Rt. 263) – Warwick Township)

August 18 Bucks County Technical High School (610 Wistar Road – Bristol Township)

September 29 Quakertown Community Pool (Mill Street – Quakertown Borough)

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Rain or Shine



4. Promote Local Agriculture

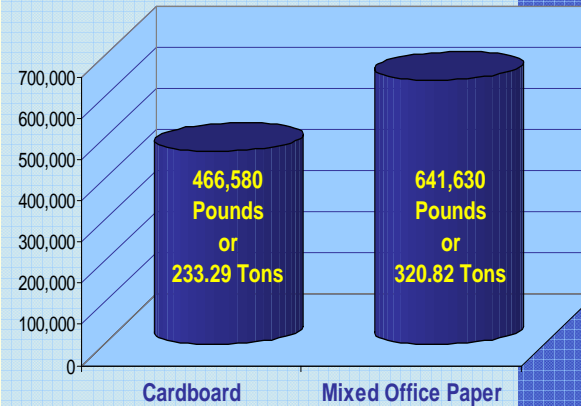


- Agriculture is county's leading industry.
- Development ordinances to protect farmland – secure local food supply.
- Encourage local ordinances to allow business opportunities for farmers – Halloween hayrides, pick-your-own operations.
- Farmland Preservation – 103 farms and nearly 10,000 acres.

3. Internal County Policies in Practice

- Conversion to natural gas in county buildings.
- Use of geothermal technology at Manor.
- Energy audit to see where savings can occur.
- Use of and disposal of fluorescent bulbs.
- Reduced energy usage of computers.
- Investigating compressed natural gas fueling option – study started in 2005.
- Reuse of concrete and wood.
- Internal recycling of cardboard, mixed office paper, toner cartridges, tires, oil, batteries, and antifreeze.

Bucks County's Mixed Office Paper and Cardboard Recycling Program 2002 to 2006



2. Preserve Open Space

- More than 20,000 acres of permanently preserved land:

Parks
Natural Areas
Farmland

- Large farms to small neighborhood parks to environmentally sensitive areas.
- Received \$130,000 grant to update Open Space Parks Plan.
- Task force formed and will be making recommendations on the Open Space Program to the County Commissioners today.



1. We Will Do More

County's interdepartmental work group generated ideas on how Bucks County can do more to strengthen our commitment to:

- Energy conservation
- Recycling
- Greener buildings and greener landscapes
- Internal operating procedures

Next Step – Recommendation to formalize the Bucks Employees Green Initiative (BEGIN) work group to implement new ideas.





Bucks County
Moving Forward