

## **EPA Disclaimer**

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# Roll With It!

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Abington Township Variable  
Rate Automated Program

# Hybrid

**Took aspects of other programs and put together what worked best in our community.**



# How to get program started

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- **Do your homework**

**Make sure you have your act together – know the anticipated program inside and out.**

- **Enterprise Fund**

- **Pilot Program**

**Use several small areas that are representative of your township's demographics.**

- **Do a corporative analysis.**

## How to get program started - continued

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- Get other involved departments prepared for change.
- Iron out all possible union problems, prior to inception of program.

# Educational Program

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- Frequent small town meetings with wards, civic groups, senior citizen groups, etc.
- Newsletters
- Mailings – Brochures
- Local channels
- Web site
- Answering 300+ phone calls per day.

## Educational Program - continued

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- Staff is well educated.
- All involved, i.e. politicians, residents are kept aware of program's problems, successes, etc.
- All available and approachable at all times.

# Fully Automated – Complementary Programs

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- Trash and Recycling Collection.
- Yard Waste is collected by conventional trucks (bagged leaves/yard waste is picked up curbside once a week, year round).
- Vacuum leaf collection throughout township – 3 collections (October through December).
- Large Item Collection weekly (furniture, metal, etc.).
- Township wide clean up day (twice a year).

# Results

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- Substantial decrease in workforce – substantial savings.
- Workmen Compensation claims reduced by 85%.
- Increased our recycling materials.
- Reduced trash tonnages by 4,000 tons (17.5%).
- Diversion rate has increased from 42% to 53%.

## Results - continued

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- In 2009 trash fee went from a projected cost of \$284 per household (without variable rate automated program) to:

95 gallon - \$262

65 gallon - \$235

35 gallon - \$207

With variable rate automated program.

# Anticipate

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- Prepare for the worse scenarios.
- Keep in mind “Change is uncomfortable” to residents.
- Addressing groups with “Special Needs”.
- Be flexible and understanding.
- Insure staff knows what to expect.
- Don't be intimidated by the few. Keep forefront you are doing what is best for the majority.

# Ongoing

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- Monitoring and Evaluation of Program

# Comparison of Refuse Fee

2006 – 2009

With Variable & Without Variable Rate Automated Collection

