Lancaster Landfill History

In August 1984, the Chester County Commissioners established the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). In September 1984, the CCSWA became owner and operator of the Lanchester Landfill, a 600-acre property located in Honey Brook, Salisbury and Caernarvon Townships that includes 160 acres of landfill. The landfill changed its name in 2022 to Lanchester Landfill and Reclamation Center (LLARC).

Lancaster Today

- The CCSWA provides an essential public service to 49 Chester County communities, about 450,000 residents and hundreds of businesses throughout the county.
- The Authority is comprised of Chester County citizens appointed by Chester County Commissioners and one representative from Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, (a host community).
- The CCSWA currently employs 30 full time Operating, Administrative and Management personnel. Salaries and wages represent less than 16.0% of the Authority’s total Annual Budget for 2023.
- Lancaster accepts an average of 800 tons/day of non-hazardous municipal refuse and residuals. About 90% of this waste is generated in Chester County.
- Portions of Lanchester’s tipping fee are directed to benefit host communities as well as county and state environmental stewardship programs. From every $79/ton fee, $2 goes to the Pennsylvania Recycling Fund, $4.25 to the Environmental Stewardship Fund, $2.93 to Chester County, $3.92 to Caernarvon Township, $0.62 to both the Borough and Township of Honey Brook and $0.17 to Salisbury Township.
- Wastes accepted for disposal are municipal solid waste, asbestos, construction and demolition debris, sludges and other PA Department of Environmental Protection approved non-hazardous residuals.
- Lancaster continues to expand the items collected for recycling. Lancaster accepts newsprint, mixed paper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, #1, #2 and #5 plastic food containers, leaves, waste oil, oil filters, 4’ fluorescent bulbs, Ni-cad batteries, lithium batteries, plastic bags, aluminum foil, pie tins, bubble wrap, wood waste for recycling, corrugated cardboard, Styrofoam™, antifreeze, cooking oil, mixed metals, and eyeglasses. Appliances with refrigerant are accepted for a small fee. TVs, computers, peripherals, and some smaller electronics are accepted from Chester County and Caernarvon Township residents at no charge.
- Lancaster won the Wildlife Habitat Council’s 2015 Corporate Lands for Learning Rookie of the Year Award.
- In 2016, Lancaster won the Solid Waste Association of North America’s Silver Award for Landfill Excellence.
High-efficiency reverse osmosis leachate treatment plant construction was completed in 2021 to increase treatment capacity.

The Authority’s landfill gas developer, EDL, compresses, filters and dries the landfill gas from Lanchester and sends it via pipeline to replace natural gas at seven local businesses. They also use it to generate 3 megawatts of electricity.

The Authority will continue the past practice of using goats and sheep as natural, low-cost weed and grass control.

The Authority is required to use a uniform layer of approved daily cover. The Authority utilizes several different approved daily and intermediate covers on the landfill—such as tarps and Posi-Shell®, a spray-on daily cover, as cost-effective ways to reduce soil use and save landfill space.

The Authority completed Area E Cell 2B in the fall of 2022 and will start filling in 2023.

The Authority plans to install the final cap on an additional 5 acres of existing landfill in 2023.

In 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection promoted the natural succession of vegetation on a portion of the North Slope of the landfill by discontinuing annual mowing. The third phase of this project—strategic planting of bushes and grasses to promote a more natural look is planned for 2023. This project is being done at the request of Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County and with the input from a citizens group from the surrounding five municipalities.

The new solar field is used to offset a portion of the electrical consumption of the Leachate Treatment Plant.

The Authority received recertification in 2020 by the Wildlife Habitat Council for its wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

The Authority extended its Nature Trail to the Scenic Overlook in 2022.

In 2021, the Authority launched its Zero Waste Plan to manage all discarded materials in the Lanchester Service Area with minimum environmental impact and with an overall long-term goal of zero waste.

The Authority administers the Chester County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, serving almost 67,000 households and collecting over 5 million pounds of hazardous waste to date.

The Authority’s goal is to establish a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility in 2023.

The Authority offers tours, interactive and age-appropriate educational presentations, as well as composting classes.

The Authority conducts an annual Open House, a compost giveaway day, and a bicycle and sewing machine donation event.

The Authority provides continuous technical assistance to municipalities and businesses in waste reduction and recycling.

The Authority holds monthly public meetings where current projects and developments are discussed.

The Authority conducts educational presentations about Lanchester and the Chester County recycling program for community groups, schools, business and professional organizations.

CCSWA Total Annual Tonnage 2014—2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>305,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>286,563</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>271,835</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>289,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>296,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>278,441</td>
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At the current rate of disposal, the Authority predicts that current permitted capacity at Lanchester will be filled by 2031.

Please write to the Authority at: Chester County Solid Waste Authority 7224 Division Highway Narvon, PA 17555

Website: www.ChesterCountySWA.org Fax: 610-273-9870 or 717-355-5345 Call: Chester County – 610-273-3771 Lancaster County – 717-351-6025 Commercial Customers – 800-626-0067