



## Alphabet Soup: What are CCSWA and LLARC?

What is the difference between the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) and the Lanchester Landfill and Reclamation Center (LLARC)? Authorities in Pennsylvania are usually established to provide specific types of services to residents across multiple political boundaries and operate in the interest of the public. CCSWA serves 49 municipalities in Chester County and Caernarvon Township (one of three Host Municipalities) in Lancaster County.

LLARC is the name of the facility CCSWA operates. CCSWA employs Chester County's Recycling Resources Manager and Administrative Assistant. Together, they work with all 73 Chester County municipalities to provide a range of recycling support services in the county. In a future issue, we will explore the facility's history and the origin of the name LLARC.

## Leachate Collection & Treatment Protects Groundwater

The collection and treatment of leachate is an important part of Lanchester Landfill's comprehensive environmental management program, as it ensures the protection of groundwater resources. Landfill leachate is created when precipitation slowly seeps through waste to the bottom of a landfill cell, and must be managed according to state Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

The liquid is collected at low points of the landfill's engineered double-liner system to prevent it from entering groundwater. The top layer of the liner system includes 18 inches of crushed rock, designed to keep waste from damaging the liner system and support the collection of leachate. Each layer of liner below the crushed rock is made of a thick plastic membrane with a layer of manufactured clay beneath it.

Collected leachate is pumped to storage tanks before being conveyed to an on-site Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP). The LTP is equipped with a reverse osmosis (RO) system with a capacity to treat up to 50,000 gallons of leachate daily. RO systems have been used at many landfills in North America since 1997, treating nearly two billion gallons of leachate.

Lanchester's LTP has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, issued under federal Clean Water Act regulations, allowing for the discharge of treated water to the Conestoga River. The facility has operated its LTP in compliance with all NPDES permit limits for more than four years.



LLARC uses state-of-the-art equipment and technology to treat leachate and comply with state environmental protection regulations.

### STAY CONNECTED

## Recycling Your Yard Waste

LLARC's compost facility, located near the landfill's entrance, accepts leaves, yard waste and lumber from commercial and residential sources. Composting takes this material out of the waste stream, conserving landfill space and creating a recycled landscaping product.

**Leaves** are LLARC's largest volume of compostable material, with most received in the fall and early winter. Leaves make up the facility's primary compost. **Yard waste** includes lawn clippings, brush and leaves, varying on a seasonal basis.

This material is ground up and either mixed with leaves or sold as screened compost. **Non-pressure treated lumber**, which must be paint- and stain-free, is ground up and sold as wood chips. LLARC's grinder includes a magnet that removes most nails, screws and metal items from the final product.

Leaf composting involves a three-step process. Leaves are accepted in bulk or in paper bags, with foreign materials removed before grinding. Ground leaves are placed into a pile and turned frequently over a six-month period. Compost is then screened and prepared for sale when it nears ambient temperature.

### New for 2025: Static Pile Aeration

LLARC's 2025 capital improvement plan includes a new Static Pile Aeration system to allow for more efficient processing and the creation of more uniform compost, and will reduce energy consumption. This technology forces air into compost for about six weeks; it is then cured and screened into a final product.

## Taking Flight: CCSWA and CCRC Club Celebrate New Scenic Overlook

CCSWA celebrated the grand opening of the Lanchester Scenic Overlook last month through a partnership with the Chester County Radio Control (CCRC) Club. CCRC Club members gathered under clear skies to mark the occasion, sending 16 different radio-controlled vehicles into the air during a morning of flight, fun and fellowship.

Battery-powered drones, fixed-wing aircraft and sail planes all took to the skies, soaring above the valley and showcasing the beauty of this newly designated recreational flying area. The overlook offers sweeping views of the surrounding landscape, and now, a perfect launch site for local aviation hobbyists.

This new community amenity reflects CCSWA's continuing commitment to the local community, providing a range of services beyond recycling and the safe management of municipal waste. By working with the CCRC Club and providing access to unique open space on the authority's land, CCSWA supports safe and educational recreational opportunities for area residents.

"The opening of the Lanchester Scenic Overlook is just one example of how CCSWA continues to find creative ways to serve our community," said CCSWA Executive Director Bob Watts. "We are excited to watch this partnership grow—and even more excited to see what takes flight next."

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Sixth Annual Used Bicycle & Sewing Machine Collection Drive

Saturday, Sept. 13,  
9:00 AM-12:00 NOON

West Goshen Municipal Complex  
1025 Paoli Pike, West Goshen

CCSWA is proud to join again with Pedals for Progress to recycle adult and kids' bikes and sewing machines for use in countries in the developing world. A \$20 donation is requested to offset shipping costs. Please contact Patti Lynn (plynn@chesterccswa.org) for information about this opportunity to find new homes for unused bikes and sewing machines, or visit [www.P4P.org](http://www.P4P.org).

#### Honey Brook Sweetwater 5K/1 Mile Kids Fun Run

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2:00 PM

CCSWA and the Honey Brook Community Partnership are pleased to hold this unique run/walk event that starts and finishes near the LLARC entrance, covering portions of the Lanchester Landfill Nature Trail as part of a challenging and scenic course. Registration information can be found at [www.runsignup.com/sweetwaterrun](http://www.runsignup.com/sweetwaterrun).



7224 Division Highway  
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