

East Whiteland Township – Curbside Leaf Waste Collection

- **DEP Compliance Requirements for 902 and 904 Grant Programs:**

- Two curbside leaf waste collections per year (spring and fall), **PLUS** a designated drop off site open to residents year-round

OR

- Monthly curbside leaf waste collections

- *Hough Associates worked for weeks with DEP and local landscapers, farms, etc. to find a suitable drop-off location for residents. Every option we found was deemed too far for residents to travel and “not convenient enough for practical use by residents” by DEP.*

- **Leaf Collection Options for Township:**

- Permit by rule composting facility – The Township could set up and run a composting facility on Township land. The costs to set up and run would be far greater than the amount of the grant awards received.

OR

- Require (by ordinance) haulers operating in the Township to offer a monthly curbside leaf collection. This costs the Township virtually nothing and requires very little oversight by the Township.

- **Current Leaf Waste System in East Whiteland Township:**

- Haulers are required by ordinance to offer residents a monthly curbside leaf collection
- AJ Blosenski is the largest hauler in the Township and handles 85-90% of residents’ leaf waste. AJB offers residents two options for collections:
 - On-call Thursday collections – residents call to schedule a pick up and are charged \$5
 - Township-wide Saturday collections – residents do NOT have to call and were NOT charged

- **Problems and Recommended Solutions for Leaf Collection in East Whiteland Township:**
 - **PROBLEM:** The Township received a small amount of complaints regarding leaf collection in 2016 (less than 1% of AJB customers complained, see statistics on following page). Complaints were mostly regarding the On-call Thursday collection and the \$5 additional fee.
 - Residents did not like the rotating schedule and having to call ahead to schedule a pick up on Thursday collections.
 - Residents did not like paying an additional fee for Thursday collections.
 - **SOLUTION:** After working with AJB for the past few weeks, it has become clear that the current schedule of Thursday and Saturday collections cannot be changed without a significant increase in collection costs for residents. East Whiteland Township curbside leaf collection is part of a route that runs through other neighboring municipalities. To change the current Thursday/Saturday schedule to have all collections on Saturdays would require entirely new routes just for East Whiteland. Residents would then be billed for these additional collections. As such, Hough Associates recommends the following:
 - Keep the same Thursday/Saturday schedule in 2017 – Changing the leaf collection system again will only lead to more confusion and more complaints from residents. Keeping the same schedule will still require residents to call to schedule collections on Thursdays, but the Township can use social media and its website to remind residents of the rotating schedule.
 - We are negotiating the removal of the \$5 fee for residents for the On-call Thursday collections with AJB. Since most resident complaints stemmed from this charge, its removal should drastically reduce the number of calls to the Township. Residents will have access to a no-cost, robust leaf collection program and the Township will remain in compliance with DEP regulations.