

Margaretta Township Recycling Center

The Margaretta Township Recycling Center will be discontinued in September due to several financial and contractual concerns.

As the Township's three-year contract with the waste management company responsible for hauling and disposing of our recycled materials was approaching expiration, the Township approached the County Commissioners about handling Margaretta Township's recycling program directly. The County currently manages the recycling program for Groton Township under this type of arrangement.

Under the County's agreement with Groton Township, the County holds the contract with the recycling waste management company and pays the company's hauling and disposal costs directly from the County's allocated recycling funds. This arrangement eliminates the Groton Township's financial exposure for those costs.

Margaretta Township's program, however, has been handled differently. Margaretta Township holds the contract with the waste management company and is responsible for paying the bills directly. After making those payments, the Township must then request reimbursement from the County. In addition, the County's reimbursement agreement with Margaretta Township is established on a year-by-year basis.

The Township asked the County to reconsider this arrangement and handle Margaretta Township's recycling program in the same manner as Groton Township—by contracting directly with the waste management company and paying the hauling and disposal costs directly.

Given Margaretta Township is currently facing a contract renewal of a three-year agreement with the waste management company and the County's reimbursement commitment remained on a year-by-year basis, the Township would have been exposed to potentially significant costs if County reimbursement were not continued. The County ultimately did not agree to change the arrangement to the direct-payment method currently used for Groton Township.

After considering the circumstances, the Township determined that discontinuing the recycling program was the most financially responsible course of action. The decision was not made because the program lacked value to our community. We recognize the convenience the recycling center provided to our residents and appreciate the significant progress the community has made in reducing contamination by keeping non-recyclable materials out of the recycling containers.

While contamination has been an issue with recycling programs, it was not the deciding factor in Margaretta Township's decision to discontinue the program. The primary concern was the Township's financial exposure under the existing contractual and reimbursement arrangements.

We understand that this change is an inconvenience for our residents, and we appreciate everyone's efforts to participate in the recycling program and improve the quality of the materials being recycled.