

**CARLISLE
BOROUGH
SOLID WASTE
MUNICIPALIZATION**



Study Recap &
Next Steps

WHY A WASTE PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL

- **Statutory Mandate:**

Under Act 101, the Borough (Population > 10,000) is legally mandated to establish and implement a source-separation and collection program for recyclable materials.

- **Municipal Responsibility:**

The Act places the power and duty on the municipality to be responsible for the collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of municipal waste, ensuring that adequate service and facility capacity exist for its residents.

- **Mandatory Participation:**

The requirements for participation in the Boroughs program helps meet this State Mandate while helping to keep the service as affordable as possible.

PA Act 101
of 1988
Compliance



WHY ARE WE AT THIS POINT

- **Shifting Recycling Market:**

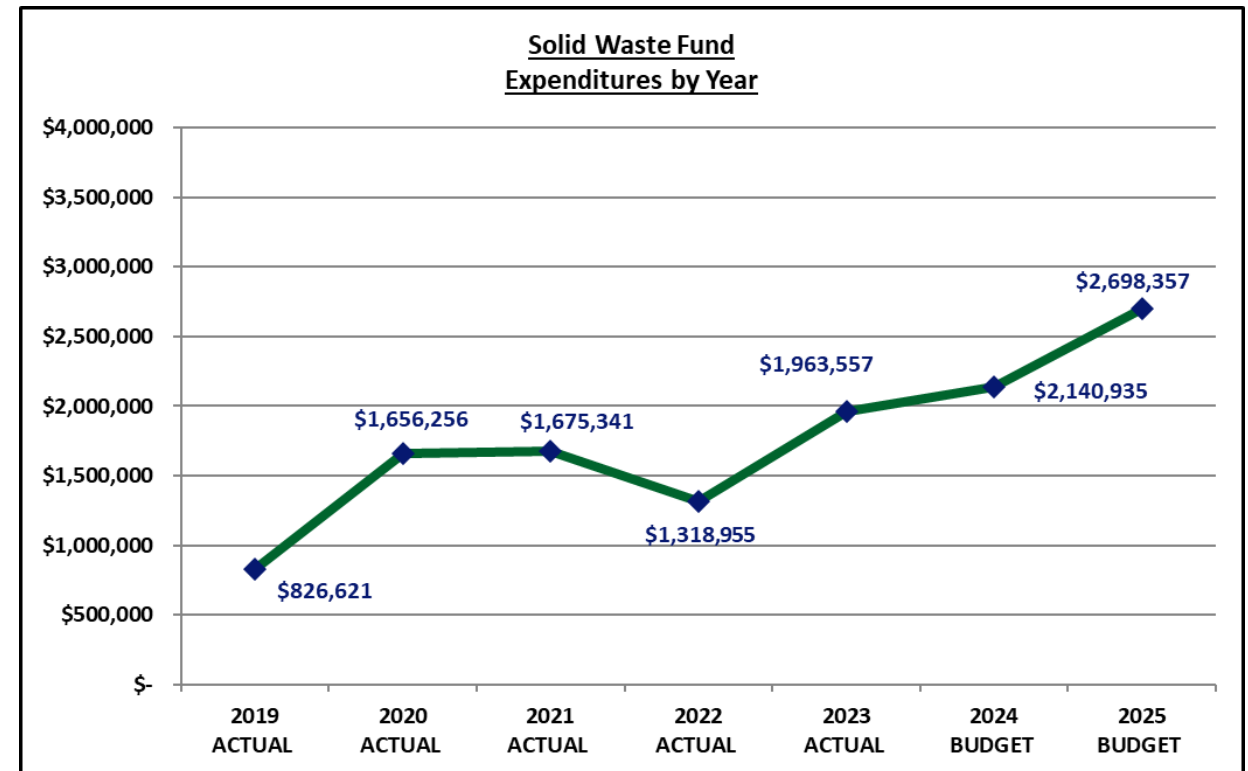
In 2018, the worldwide recycling market changed dramatically when China banned most imports, turning recycling from a revenue generator (~\$20/ton) into a significant expense.

- **Lack of Competition:**

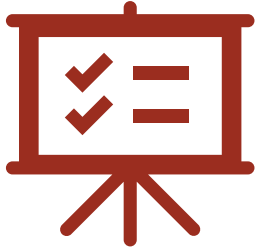
Consequently, the Borough received only one bid during the 2023-2027 cycle, highlighting a lack of market competition.

- **Rising Costs & Loss of Control:**

The current contract includes 7% annual rate increases, and the expiration on Dec 31, 2027, presents a critical window to regain control & implement cost saving measures.



TAKING ACTION



Outside Consultant:

Engaged the Services of Sustainable Resources Consulting to provide an initial opinion on whether a municipal program was realistic for Carlisle. It was reported as realistic.



Established a Sub-Committee:

Borough Council established a sub-committee consisting of Council Members, staff members, and members of the public who met on a weekly to bi-weekly basis to perform an in-depth analysis.



PATH FORWARD: A COST-CONTROLLED, COMMUNITY-CENTERED WASTE PROGRAM

Draft Plan (Modifications Expected)

■ **Staffing:**

Hiring 12 new employees (Operations Manager, Drivers, Loaders) with designed redundancies to ensure reliability

■ **Fleet:**

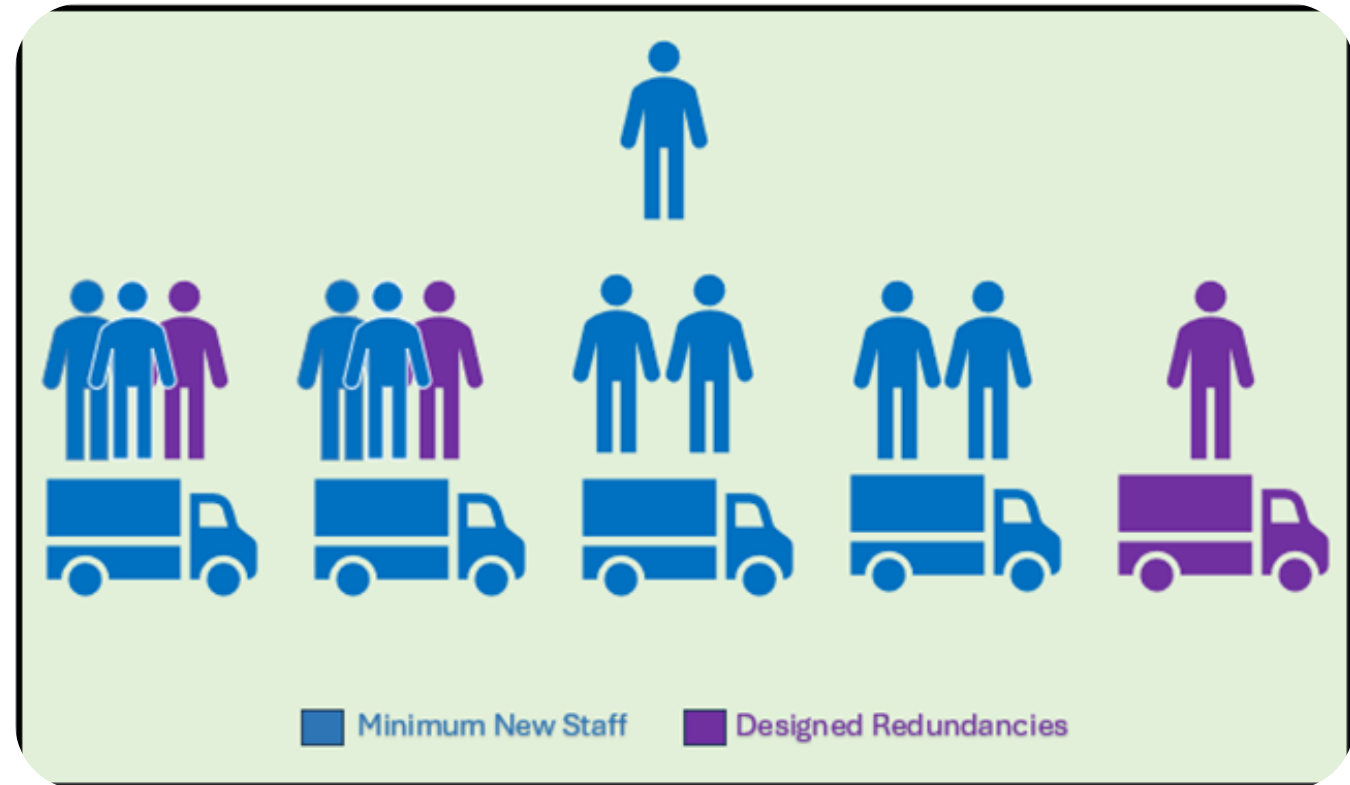
Purchase of five rear-loader vehicles to standardize the fleet.

■ **Equipment:**

Issuing Borough-branded 35-gallon trash containers to complement existing recycling bins.

■ **Infrastructure:**

Construction of a prefabricated building at Public Works for vehicle storage.



Minimum New Staff Designed Redundancies



PATH FORWARD: A COST-CONTROLLED, COMMUNITY-CENTERED WASTE PROGRAM



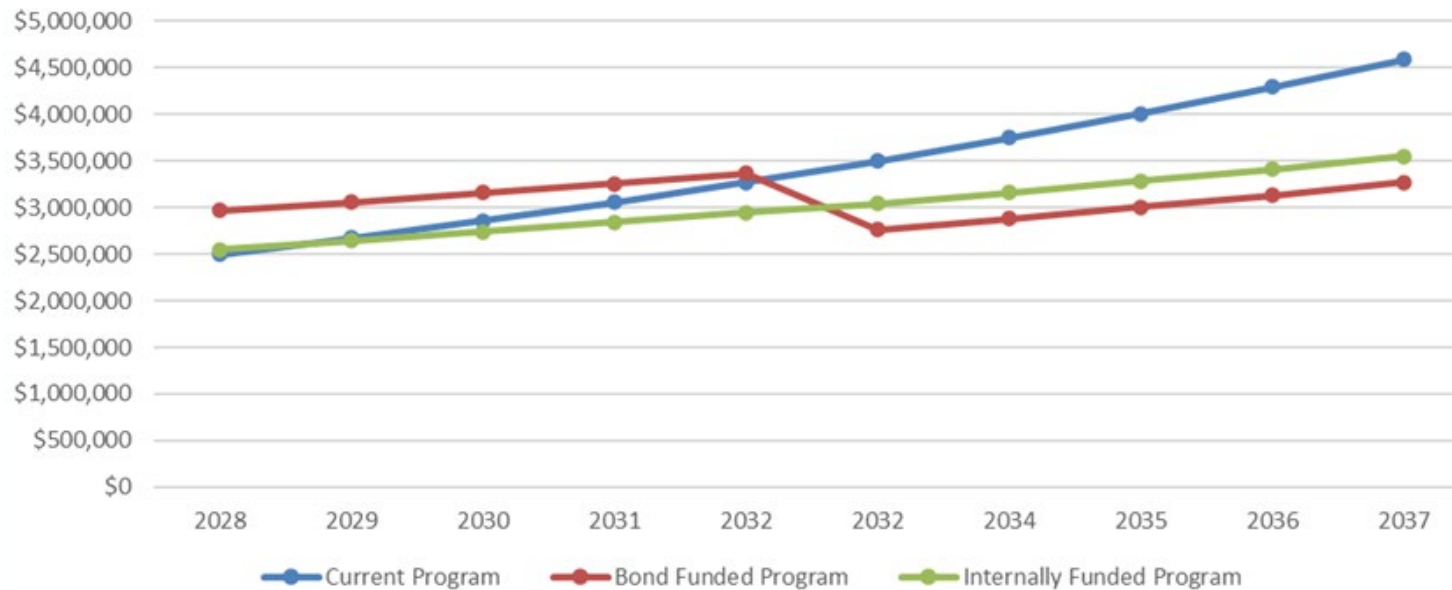
Addressing Community Goals

- **Sustainability:**
Provides opportunities to meet recycling and waste diversion goals.
- **Efficiency:**
Allows for optimization of local routing for multiple Borough Services to prioritize environmental impact over profit.
- **Control:**
Helps to eliminate third-party profit margins leading to long-term cost stabilization
- **Community Flexibility:**
Provides the flexibility needed to analyze and potentially develop alternative rate structures.



FINANCIAL IMPACT & PROJECTIONS

Projected Annual Program Costs



- **Startup Investment:**

- \$2.4 million in capital outlays (vehicles/bins)

- \$1.1 million startup operating funds.

- **Break-even Point:**

- Savings over the contracted model are projected to begin as soon as 2029.

- **Long-Term Savings:**

- By 2037, the in-house model is anticipated to provide significant savings which translates into lower rates for our residents and customers.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Sub-Committee Findings presented to Council;
Public Information Portal launched.

July 2025

Community outreach (East Side Neighbors Association & Rotary Club);
Survey results presented publicly alongside 2026 Budget.

Nov. 2025

Sep. 2025

"Quality of Life" survey conducted and promoted to gather resident feedback.

Dec. 2025

Presented a recap prior to considering a "Resolution of Intent".



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (SURVEY RESULTS)

Robust Response:

- Over 1,000 responses (17.9% response rate).

Satisfaction:

- Residents are generally satisfied with current service levels.

Key Request:

- Many respondents desire a tiered system offering lower costs for low-volume users.

Conclusion:

- An in-house system provides the flexibility to implement these requested efficiencies.





NEXT STEPS: SUMMARY & RESOLUTION

- **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends adopting a resolution to begin the transition to an in-house system that provides enhanced service quality, operational flexibility, and long-term cost stabilization.

- **Upcoming Action:**

A Resolution of Intent will be presented at the December 11 Council Meeting formally expressing the Borough's intent to transition to an in-house, municipally-operated program effective January 1, 2028.

- **Quarterly Updates:**

If approved, staff will regularly provide updates to Borough Council on the progress of this new program as it gets designed.



UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- ✓ July 2025: Presented analysis to Borough Council; Established a Public Information Portal.
- ✓ Sept. 2025: Conducted a “Quality of Life” Improvement Survey.
- ✓ Nov. 2025: Presented survey results during 2026 Budget Development; presented to outside agencies.
- Dec. 2025: Present Recap of Progress; Consider Resolution of Intent
- Jan. 2026: Start Operational Program Design to include Route Improvements, Parking Modifications, and Quality of Life Enhancements for Customers; Order Vehicles
- Jan. 2027: Container Purchase
- Sept. 2027: Hiring of Staff Finalized and Containers deployed
- Dec. 2027: Update Ordinances in Borough Code
- Jan. 2028: Service Started

