

Grand Central Landfill Potential Closure



Loss of Vital Community Benefits & Services

WM's Grand Central Landfill provides necessary waste disposal services for the Slate Belt, Lehigh Valley and Pocono Region. The facility is operated to the highest environmental protection and safety standards, working with local governments and nearby property owners to be the best possible neighbor it can be.

Grand Central's direct operating expenditures produce approximately \$45.3 million in indirect and induced economic value in Pennsylvania, along with 126 jobs and \$7.6 million in payroll. Construction of the Eastern Expansion will provide Northampton County with a one-time economic investment of \$42.3 million, with total construction value of the expansion during the facility's years of operation at \$222 million.

The potential closure of Grand Central would have far-reaching and negative impacts on the Slate Belt's municipal governments, economic development programs, schools and non-profit organizations. Provided below is a summary of those impacts:

	Eastern Expansion Landfill Benefits	Landfill Closure
Plainfield Township	Host Fee: \$2,219,682 ÷ 2,130 households: \$1,042/savings per household** per year	\$0*
Pen Argyl Borough	Agreement/Capital Improvement Support: \$929,253 ÷ 1,427 households: \$651/savings per household** per year	\$0*
Wind Gap Borough	Agreement: \$287,077 ÷ 1,221 households: \$235/savings per household** per year	\$0*
Free Solid Waste Management/ Recycling Services	Pen Argyl & Wind Gap: \$677,601/year	Annual increased expense per household**: Pen Argyl: \$234/year Wind Gap \$277/year
Wind Gap Ambulance Corps	\$6,000/year	\$0
Services & Contracts with Plainfield, Pen Argyl & Wind Gap Businesses	\$2,271,331 (2021)	Phased out to Zero
Northampton County Volunteer Sustainability Fund	\$141,347 (2021)	\$0
Annual Free E-Waste/Household Hazardous Waste Collection	Ongoing	Ended
Local School/Real Estate Taxes	\$398,000 (2021)	Estimated Reduction of 75%
Slate Belt Rising	\$300,000 (\$50,000/year, 6-year agreement)	\$0
Slate Belt YMCA	Average contribution: \$5,000/year	\$0
Education Improvement Tax Credit Contributions	\$143,179 since 2001	\$0
Green Knight Economic Development Corporation	\$3,000,000 for economic/community development since 2001	Estimated Reduction of 75-80%/year
Free Recycling Drop-Off Center	Ongoing, Per Act 101	Closed
Wildlife Habitat & Education Center/ Meeting Space for Scouts	Ongoing	Closed
Support for Approximately 20 Local Non-Profits	Approximately \$50,000 +/year	\$0

* These benefits save residents of Plainfield, Pen Argyl and Wind Gap significant tax dollars.

**Amounts reflect Grand Central's direct costs to provide these services to Pen Argyl and Wind Gap. Actual amounts could be considerably higher due to bids from new haulers, including labor costs, increased fuel expenses associated with transporting solid waste to more distant landfills and higher tipping fees at those landfills.

Bottom Line: If the landfill closes, taxes will go up to cover the cost of emergency services, capital projects, solid waste and recycling services, and other important programs in these communities

Think About This: The community investments and in-kind services provided by Grand Central each year amount to approximately \$6.8 million. There is not another entity - of any kind - in the Slate Belt that will replace these important contributions to improve the quality of life of Slate Belt residents.