

January 27, 2022



Wind Gap Borough Council
Attention: Louise Firestone

Dear Wind Gap Borough Council,

Happy New Year!

Grand Central Landfill, through its neighboring municipality agreement provided the Borough in 2021 with \$287,077.50 in tonnage-based fees and free curbside trash and recycling service valued at \$338,805.00. These benefits make living in Wind Gap Borough more affordable for its residents.

Grand Central remains a classroom in the community and offered several educational programs to students and residents. Each program was designed with the community interests in mind and included topics such as recycling, waste reduction, and wildlife conservation. The landfill team partnered with the Monroe County Solid Waste Authority, PA DEP and Monroe County Conservation District to host a teacher workshop focused on integrated waste management; the strategic approach to sustainable management of solid wastes covering all sources and methods for disposal, recycling, composting and reduction. In addition to our education efforts, the facility hosted four bird and butterfly walks on the landfill property. Over 100 guests from the area joined the tour and identified bird species to be included in Grand Central's wildlife habitat council application. Programs such as those earned Grand Central the highest level of certification with the Wildlife Habitat Council in 2021. The team will be recognized in June 2022 at the annual Wildlife Habitat Council Conference.

No investment yields greater returns for a community than an investment in education of our children. Waste Management is one of Pennsylvania's leading contributors to qualifying schools and organizations through the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Since the program's inception in 2001, the company has contributed \$22 million across the Commonwealth, \$2 million in 2021 to 152 approved organizations. The Blue and White Scholastic Foundation and Faith Christian School are two of many area recipients of these funds.

The 2021 E-Waste collection event was a fantastic partnership between the Borough, WM and Pen Argyl Borough. The collection event was sponsored through Northampton County's Recycling and Sustainability fund. This fund is supplied through a voluntary fee collected from haulers and supports e-waste collections, paper shredding events and household hazardous waste collections. Waste Management voluntarily contributes \$1 a ton on Northampton County waste that comes to Grand Central Landfill and Alliance Landfill. In 2021, Waste Management contributed \$141,347.88 to the County's Sustainability fund. Currently, Waste Management is the only hauler providing funds to assist in the special waste collections.

Lastly, our efforts to share our knowledge about managing waste and recycling were featured on WNEP's Mr. Curiosity Podcast and Videocast with Weatherman Joe Snedeker. To view the episode, visit the link provided. <https://youtu.be/iecWO5DGZml>

With the pandemic almost behind us, Grand Central is gearing up for a busy 2022.

- We are expanding recycling education to connect with area residents through our newly created e-newsletter, social media videos and in-person community outreach programs.
- Our annual Earth Day will be held on April 23, 2022 at the Pocono Organics facility in Long Pond PA. The Grand Central team is partnering with the Pocono Raceway, Monroe County Solid Waste Authority and the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau to raise awareness of the Pick-it-Up Pocono's litter program. Everyone is invited to the celebration.
- In 2022, Grand Central will host an Open House, tentatively scheduled for May 21st. This open house will include landfill tours and an opportunity for the public to speak with representatives to address questions and concerns.
- The annual Chili Cookoff is tentatively scheduled for October 8, 2022.

Grand Central is actively involved in many wonderful organizations around the Slate Belt. In 2022, we will be focused on supporting community projects and programs that benefit the community.

Our team is thankful for the opportunity to update Wind Gap Borough at the monthly meetings, and we plan to continue providing these updates in 2022. We will continue to include these updates on our website (www.grandcentrallandfill.com) and Facebook Page to allow local residents access to up-to-date information about landfill operations and events. We will continue to operate our live-operator-staffed, 24/7/365 Community Line (1-888-373-2917) as a resource for neighbors with questions or concerns about our business and will continue to invite our neighbors to tour our site to see the great amount of care and technology we employ to protect the environment.

I look forward to working together in 2022.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Fors
Sr. Community Relations Specialist
Grand Central Landfill
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Mobile is 585-472-2075.

Cc: Joe Statile, District Manager
Ann Flood, PA House of Representatives
Mario Scavello, PA State Senator
Serena Davis, Northampton County