

Waste & Recycling Hauling Systems Presentation

Thursday, November 29, 2012



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Background



Current System (Private Subscription)

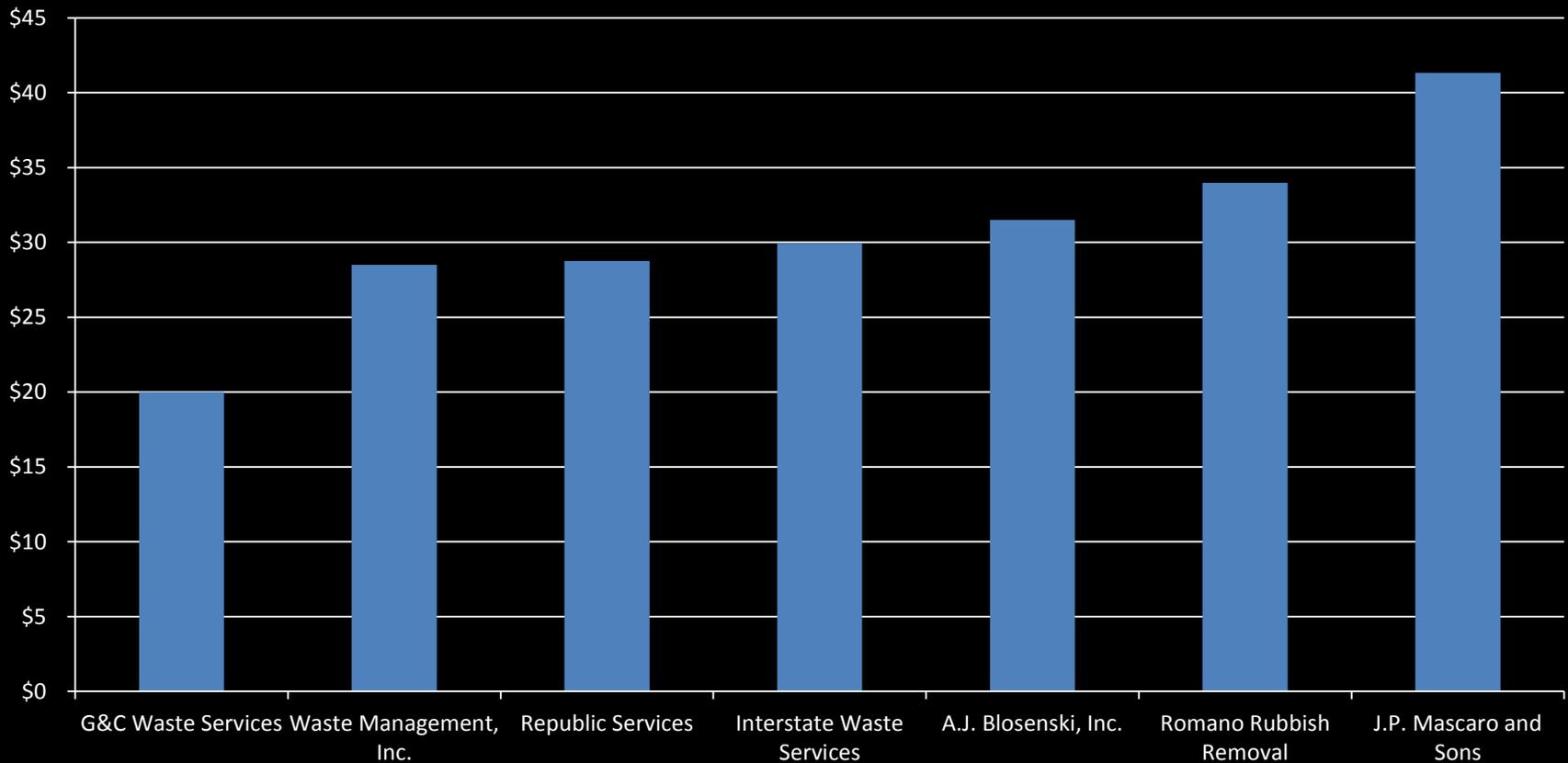


Current System (Private Subscription)



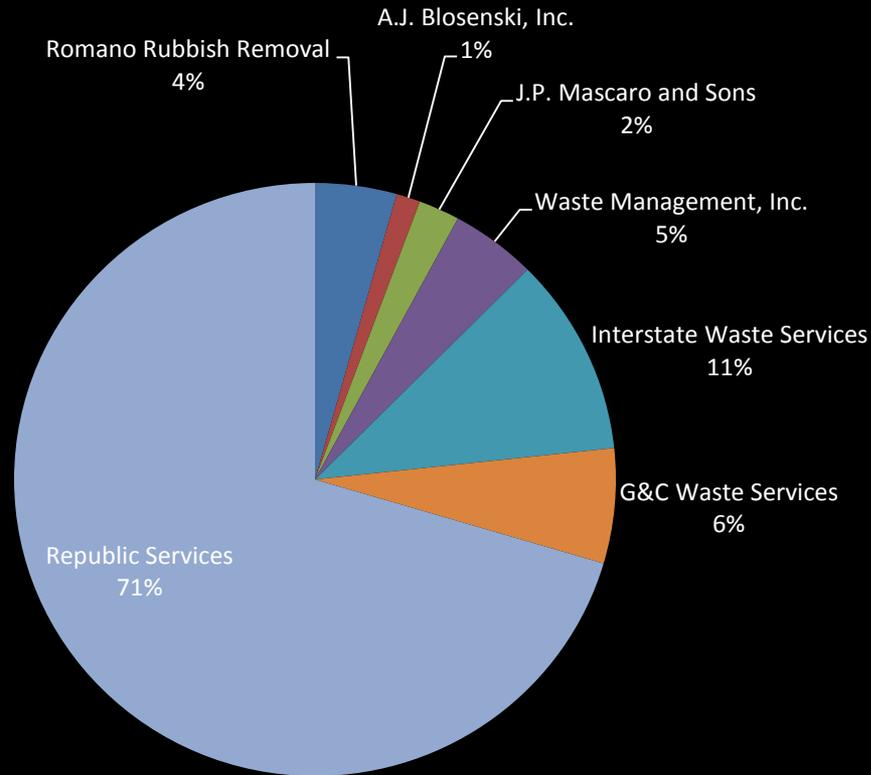
Current System (Private Subscription)

Upper Merion Township Residential Hauler Pricing



Current System (Private Subscription)

**Upper Merion Township
Residential Haulers
% of tonnage collected**



Current System (Private Subscription)



PROS-Private Subscription

- Natural competition amongst haulers.
- Minimal municipal oversight.
- The choice is the homeowners.
- Homeowners have freedom to choose and change.
- Allows for some haulers the ability to pick up everything from the curb without question or extra fees.
- No change required.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Typically 20-30% increased cost per household compared to other systems despite 'house to house' competition.
- Recycling tonnage is not at its maximum due to different size recycling bins and varieties within each haulers system of what and how it's collected.
 - Example: Residents with small 20 gallon recycling containers are not encouraged to breakdown their cardboard for recycling.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Confusion:
 - Increased confusion for new homeowners unaware of who or how to contract for waste collection.
 - Increased confusion on schedules of waste pick up, how waste should be curbed, what can be recycled, what additional services provided (bulk items, Freon containing appliances, etc.) and a variety of pricing.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Increased collection day nuisances:
 - Aesthetically unpleasing to see varying trash/recycling containers on township streets every day of the week.
 - Increased noise.
 - Welcomes unsolicited mail and door-to-door sales of waste services.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Increased damage to township roads.
 - According to the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for Design of Pavement Structures:
 - One trash truck = 1400 cars
 - one (1) waste hauler equals 1,000 car trips or 1 trash truck creates the roadway damage of 1,000 cars on the same road surface.
 - The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute notes that the regular start and stopping increases street damage by 50%-100%.
 - Under the current system, 5+ haulers can create the damage of 5,000 or more cars on a particular roadway.
 - Fewer federal and state funds available for roadway damage.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Increase in emissions due to multiple waste vehicles on township roadways.
 - 7 out of 7 hauling companies in the township operate diesel powered vehicles.
 - Diesel trash trucks typically get 3 -6 miles per gallon and produce significant amounts of particulate matter.
 - Waste service emissions are not limited to municipal boundaries and include the entire operating route, all stops at households and traffic devices.
 - Whether 1 or 5 haulers are used in a neighborhood, the idling time remains approximately the same at each stop. What changes is the total time those trucks are on the road.

CONS-Private Subscription

- Lack of residential customer accountability.
 - Typically in private subscription communities as much as 10% of residents either share service with their neighbor or do not contract for service. This is a problem for many reasons:
 - 1) Against township and state law.
 - 2) Theft of service.
 - By not contracting, there is still a cost for trucks to pass by that non-contracting house, a cost that is then shouldered by the rest of the township. There is still a cost associated with driving past that household (monetary, environmental, noise, roadway)
 - 3) Promotes illegal disposal via bringing trash to work or dumping at random business
 - 4) Exacerbates incomplete documentation of disposal, waste generation and recycling performance.

CONS-Private Subscription

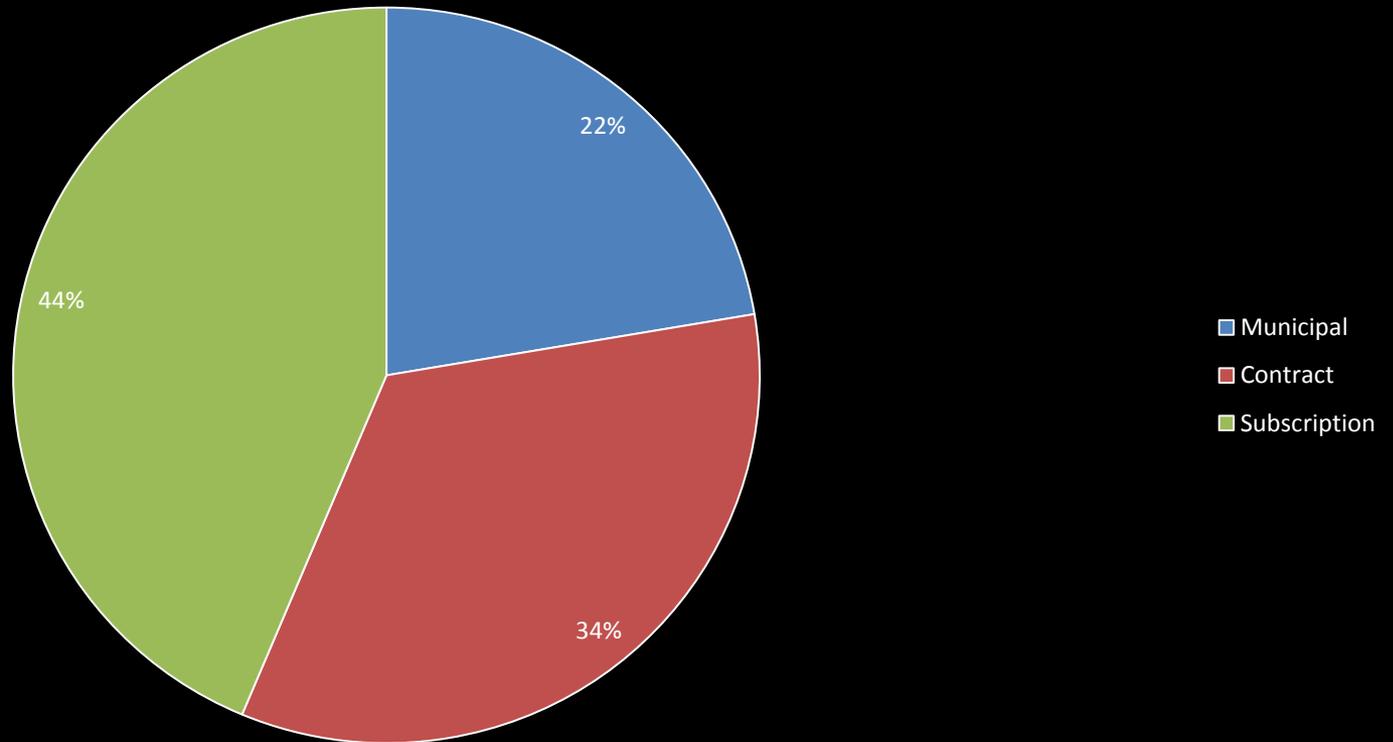
- Lack of municipal oversight allows for:
 - Difficulty in data collection for accurate 904 recycling performance grant reporting.
 - Reduced customer service, specifically missed pickups.
 - Difficult to keep tabs on haulers operating in township.

Alternatives to Private Subscription



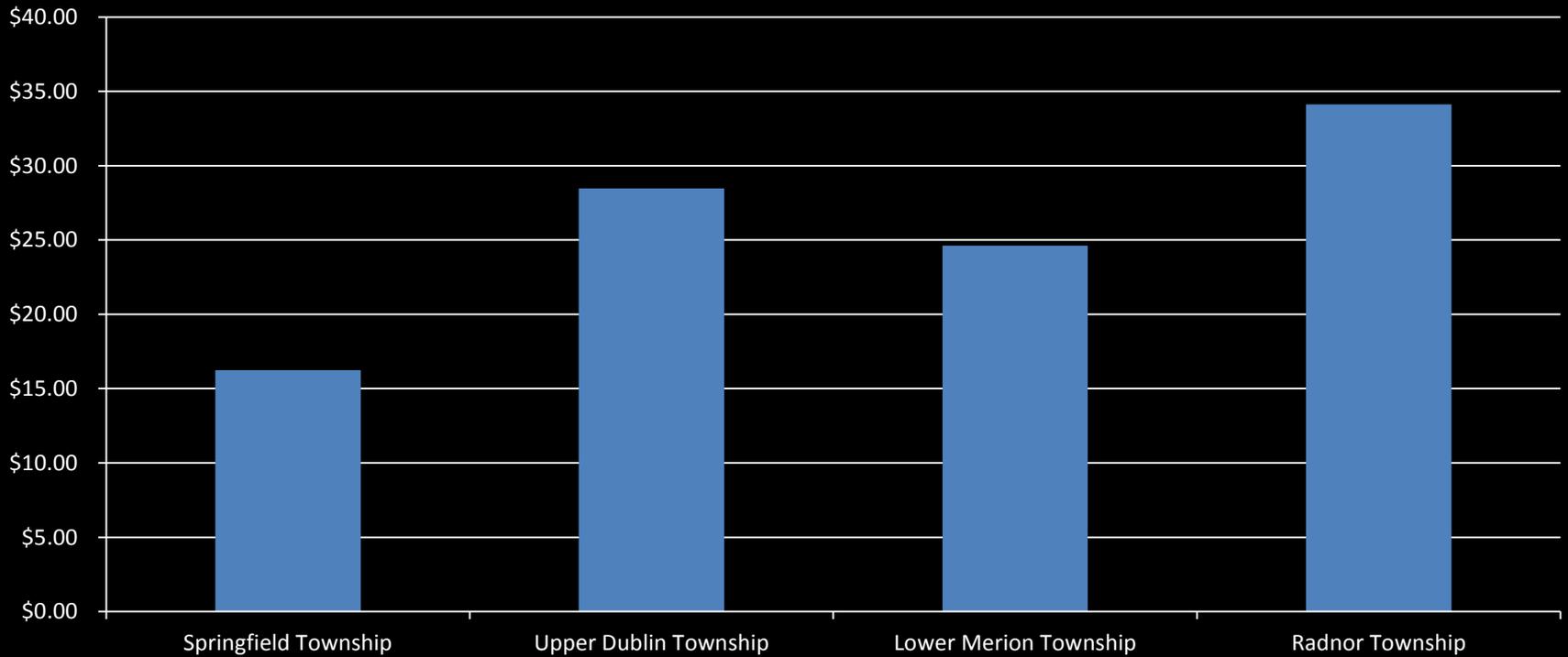
Alternatives to Private Subscription

Montgomery County Hauling Systems
By Population



Municipal Collection

Municipal Collection Costs Per/Month



Municipal Collection



Presentation
Handouts

PROS-Municipal Collection

- Allows direct municipal oversight, planning and implementation of waste services.
- Ability to cater program specifically for residents.
- Municipality has direct incentive to reduce trash costs which can have immediate impact on future costs.
- Personal relationship with service workers.

PROS-Municipal Collection

- Cost is more or less depending on services offered. You get what you pay for. For instance, in Radnor and Lower Merion residents have the option for back door service but pay a little more to enjoy that privilege.
- All residents are on the same page with regard to what goes in, how much goes in and when to put it out.
- Creates additional jobs for municipal workers.
- The top recycling municipalities in Montgomery County and around the Country all operate a municipal collection system.
- Ability to work with a consortium of municipalities to market recyclable material.

CONS-Municipal Collection

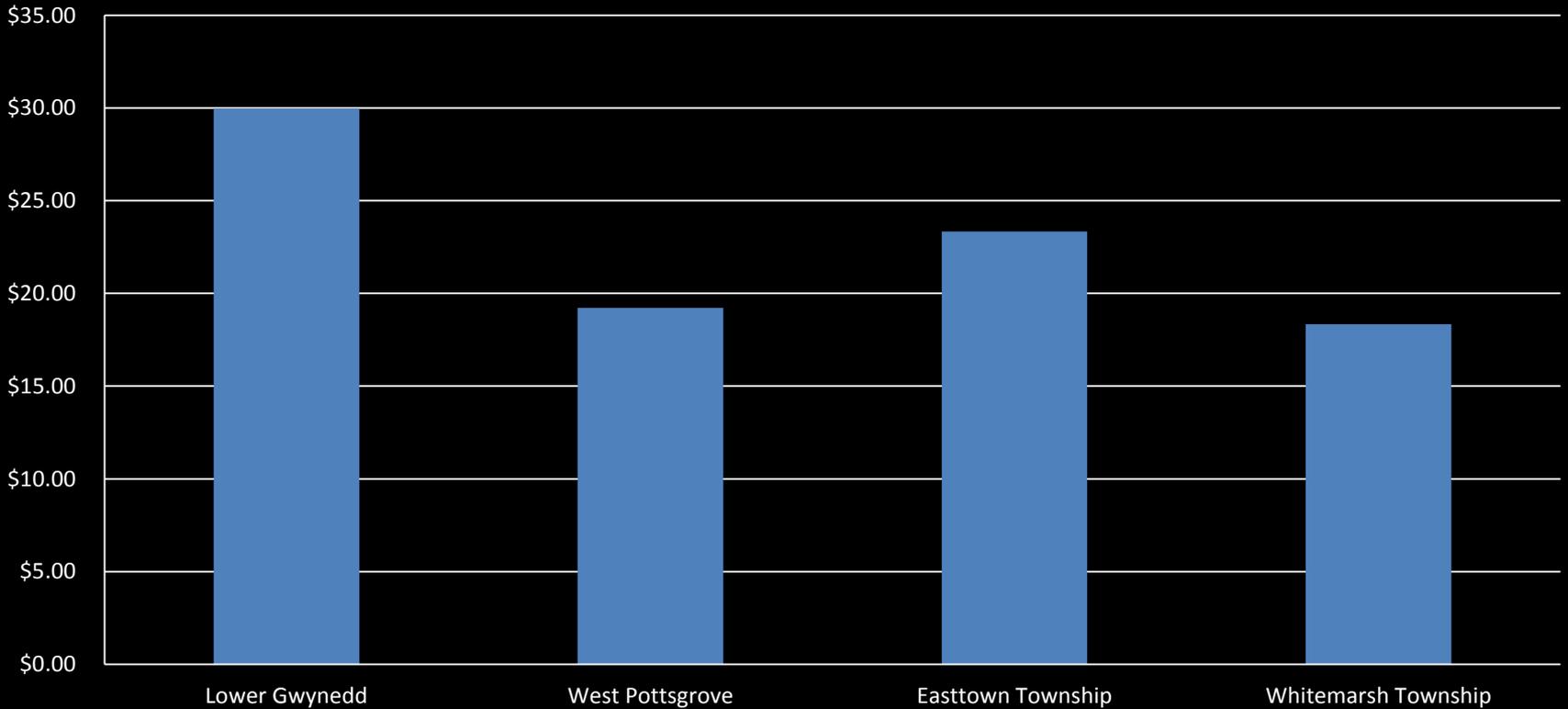
- Direct municipal responsibility over program could be seen as a burden to oversee.
 - Education
 - Missed pick ups
 - Complaints
 - Billing
 - Etc.
- Municipality is responsible for equipment, including purchase and vehicle maintenance.
- Municipality is responsible for workers compensation through injuries and other job related problems.
- Residents can pay more for waste services than is necessary do to added services and perks.
- Residents do not have a choice to change or hire a different hauler if they do not like their municipal service.
- Municipality would have to increase or reallocate staff in order to accommodate this type of service.

Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)



Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

Municipal Contract Costs
Per/Month



Municipal Collection



PROS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- A municipal contract can typically reduce costs to each homeowner 20-30%.
 - Additionally, a contract locks residents in to guaranteed low price over the course of the contract which are typically 3-5 years.
- Reduced confusion for new homeowners unaware of who or how to contract for waste collection since entire municipality is serviced by 1 company.
- Reduced confusion on schedules of waste pick up, how waste should be curbed, what can be recycled, what additional services provided (bulk items, Freon containing appliances, etc.).
- Reduced collection day nuisances:
 - Municipality does not have a variety of trash/recycling containers on all streets every day of the week.
 - Decreased truck traffic = decreased noise and pollution.

PROS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- Municipality can set the minimum insurance coverages that are typically not controlled through a private subscription system.
- Potential for municipality to work in consortium with surrounding municipalities on a joint RFP.
- The municipal contract allows for companies to compete by sharpening their pencils through the RFP process which generates accurate pricing and easily comparable services.
 - Allows the municipality to cater the program to their liking and add in services it sees as important. Ability to add trash/recycling pick up at parks and public spaces, community events or business districts.
 - Ability to add trash/recycling to existing tax bills which decreases work for residents and likelihood of missed payments and also increases compliance of proper payment in a timely manner. Or the municipality can designate responsibility of billing, customer inquiries/complaints and services to chosen hauler.

PROS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- Reduced damage to township roads. For the same reasons a private subscription system increases damage to township roads, one hauler servicing the entire town reduces damage to roadways.
- Decrease in emissions due to the minimum # of trucks servicing the town in the most efficient routes possible.
 - Ability to contract for haulers to only use Compressed Natural Gas vehicles which reduces emissions and noise.
- Increased residential customer accountability. All residents have service and are compliant with the laws for trash/recycling. (No shared service)
- Efficient routes servicing all residents lead to less missed pick-ups and a happier public.
- Increases municipal oversight which allows for:
 - Accurate data collection for 904 recycling performance grant reporting.
 - Consistent and seamless education to all residents.

PROS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- Ability to maximize recycling tonnage collected and waste diverted. As an option, if Upper Merion provided all homeowners with 64-96 gallon wheeled recycling containers, this would increase recycling because more materials will be able to fit such as cardboard. Small containers discourage recycling. For many once the bin is full, the rest goes in the trash.
- The new, convenient and standardized program will make waste and recycling participation easy and minimize (not eliminate) the level of enforcement required for residents.
- Facilitates hauler enforcement: the selected hauler will be legally bound by a contract to provide the services in accordance with the executed agreement. Penalties can be put in place if service is not carried out properly. For instance, Lower Providence Township has the ability to fine it's hauler \$500 each time a truck and crew fail to finish a regular route. \$50 for missing a trash/recycling pick up. \$500 for using or maintaining a truck in a leaking or unsanitary condition... etc.

PROS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- Can use the contracted hauler to be required to participate in the education process, thus assuring both the hauler and municipality disseminate consistent program information.
- Bid/RFP specifications can request a senior citizen discount trash rate.
- Low-volume discounts can be included within the bid/RFP for households generating small quantities of trash (e.g. one bag per week).

CONS-Municipal Contract (Single Hauler Contracting)

- Public resistance and negative media can hinder taking the first step to release a RFP or Bid. Haulers could send letters to customers and take other aggressive public action to prevent an RFP/Bid, particularly small hauling companies. The key arguments include:
 - Freedom of choice
 - Unwanted government control/socialism
 - I like current service and hauler
 - Cost will increase
 - The cost is another tax
- May require municipality to get more involved with it's waste and recycling program.

Other Considerations



So, what is the real cost to Upper Merion residents?



Real Cost

Trash & Recycling Collection (Private Hauler) - \$240-\$480/year

Leaf Collection/Composting (Upper Merion) - \$62.88/year

Waste Generation Fee (WSAEMC) - \$12.00/year

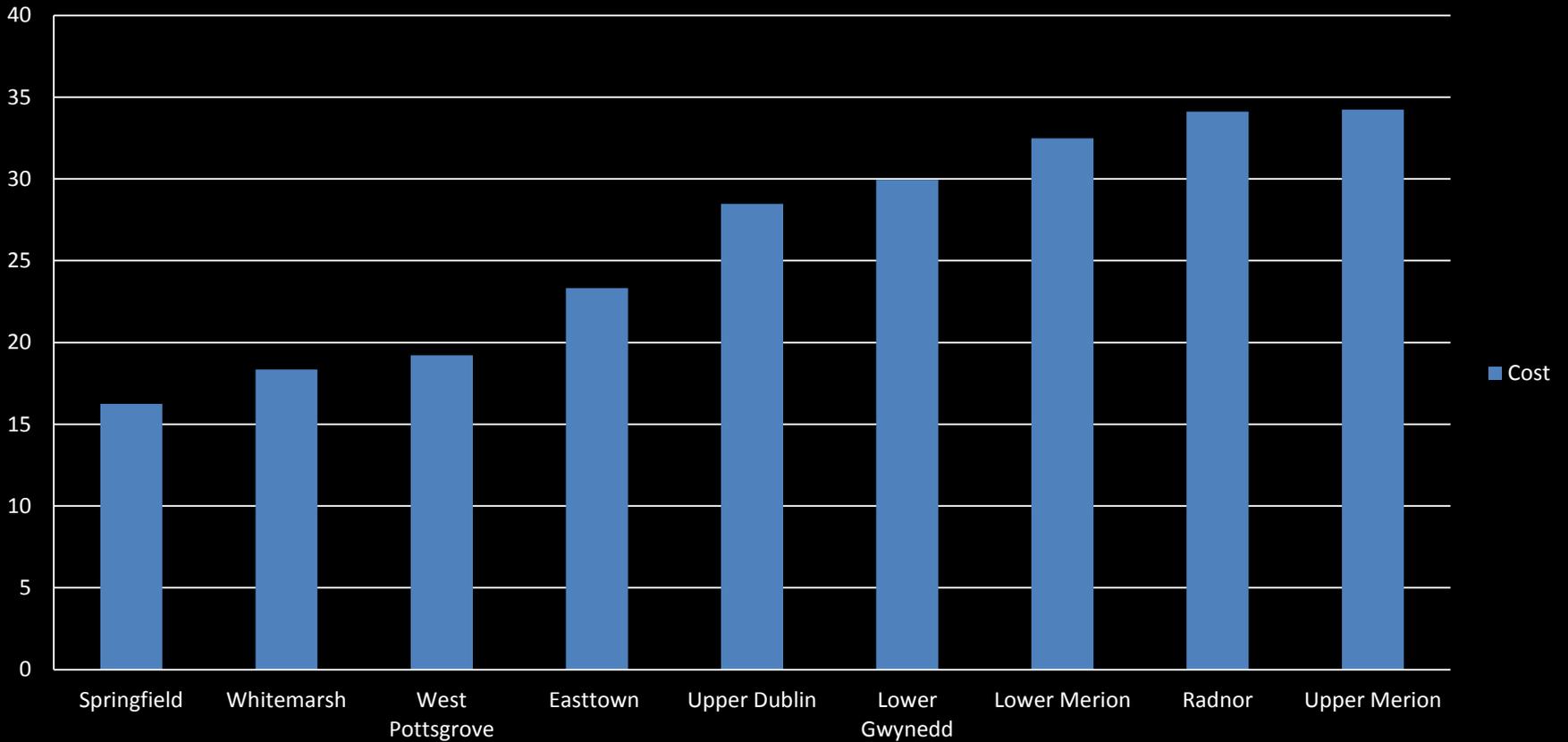
TOTAL AVG COST for Trash/Recycling/Leaf Collection =

~\$34.24/month

(\$410.88/year)

Conclusion

**Cost for Waste Services
Per Month**



Recommendations

- 1) Explore option of municipal collection for trash/recycling services.
- 2) Issue a RFP to obtain pricing for a municipal contract.
- 3) Look at privatizing municipal leaf collection and compost operations.

Questions?

Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council

- Chris Kaasmann – Chair
- Ed Campbell – Vice Chair
- Viv Peikin
- Sandy Moskowitz
- Janet Medrow
- Dan Yarnall
- Sal Sonsino
- Smriti Chauhan – Student Liaison