



SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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The

▶ 2020 SPRING EDITION

Keystone

Written For the Solid Waste Professionals of the Keystone Chapter SWANA

A Message from the Keystone Chapter

President: Sean Sweeney



Greetings everyone, I hope you are staying safe and healthy. Many things have changed significantly for everyone since

our last newsletter due to the recent worldwide explosion of the Covid 19 virus.

Many of these changes are directly impacting our members, our Chapter and the events and activities we host. Due to the very dynamic situation, and the speed at which things are changing, please keep up to date with the Chapter via our website and social media accounts. Many events may be postponed or canceled due to various impacts from Covid 19.

While you may see changes to in-person events this year, the Chapter's on line resources are still available. We welcome membership input on how the Chapter can assist members during this time of

uncertainty, facilitate training, or support web based industry communications and events by leveraging SWANA resources. We appreciate the work our membership does to serve essential businesses in our industry and continue providing services to the general public to help maintain a healthy safe environment.

I hope you and your family remain healthy and safe and look forward to the next opportunity to see everyone in person again. ▼

Written By: Sean Sweeney, P.E.
Keystone Chapter President
Phone: 717-737-8326



The Keystone has changed its publication schedule!
But we are still going to be publishing three times a year in:

- April
August
December

How Cities Are Turning Food Into Fuel

Every year, America throws away more than 80 million pounds of food. More than three-quarters of it ends up in landfills, where it takes up more room than any other [single] kind of waste and produces as much greenhouse gases as 3.4 million vehicles.

The food waste that doesn't end up decomposing at the landfill is most commonly diverted to compost facilities that turn organic material into nutrient-rich soil. But an increasing number of municipalities around the country are looking to do even more with this untapped resource by turning it into usable energy called biogas.

Driven by legislation and public demand to limit the size of their landfills and reduce carbon footprints; eight states have food-recycling laws, six have food waste bans and even more states or cities have enacted recycling legislation. At least half a dozen American cities have begun using anaerobic digestion to handle food waste. Widespread in Europe, anaerobic digestion uses bacteria to break down organic material in an oxygen-free environment, a faster process than traditional composting, which depends on oxygen to do the work. It's the same technology cities already use in wastewater treatment.

Examples of this technological spread are evident across the United States. Los Angeles is expanding its food-to-biogas program, a private facility recently opened in Salt Lake City to take restaurant food waste, a fuel company in Philadelphia announced plans to build a food-to-fuel processing plant last year, and in Connecticut one anaerobic digester is running while three others are scheduled to be built.

One of the country's largest facilities is in Brooklyn, New York, which in 2016 began using its own Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to process 130 tons of liquefied food waste, roughly 3 percent of the city's daily food waste. And food waste is just a fraction of the sewage that the plant handles in its eight gleaming egg-shaped silver tanks. But officials expect that Newtown will produce approximately 190 to 275 million cubic feet of natural gas for local electricity generation by next year. *"It really is an exciting sort of sustainability circle,"* said Pam Elardo, the city's deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment.

But despite the proven technology, Newtown is still among a minority of the nation's wastewater facilities



Anaerobic Digester Facility in Brooklyn, New York is used to process 3% of NYC Food Waste

Photo Credit: Sarah Blessner - Politico Magazine

handling food waste. Indeed, none of New York's remaining 13 wastewater treatment plants processes food waste.

"We are at one-seventh, maybe even one-tenth of the potential of this industry," said Patrick Serfass, the executive Director of the American Biogas Council. According to the organization, there are over 2,000 anaerobic digesters in the country built to produce biogas, but most that process food waste are on farms not in cities.

Cities have been slow to divert food waste to anaerobic digestion because it is more expensive to start than composting and requires new sites built by private investors or costly updates to existing public infrastructure. Digesters are more expensive to build and maintain than composting facilities like the one in San Francisco, but they have the benefit of producing two valuable byproducts: a rich soil additive prized by agriculture operations and biogas, which can be sold and reused as fuel.

Serfass stresses that composting and anaerobic digestion complement each other; San Francisco uses both. Often anaerobic digesters, especially ones that process sewage and food waste like Newtown, struggle to process yard waste, such as leaves and sticks. Compost can handle it better. Digesters also work best in densely populated or high-use agriculture areas because they need a consistent and large supply of food waste.

Current federal regulations provide a disincentive to make food waste into biogas by reducing the value of renewable gas that a wastewater treatment plant produces if it includes food waste as part of its intake. Nevertheless, wastewater plants can offset their own energy costs by using the biogas they produce. Earlier this year, San Luis Obispo, California, a coastal city of 47,500, chose not to use the city's wastewater treatment facility and instead began sending food waste to a private facility that solely processes food waste from multiple sources on the California coast.



Portion of Newtown Facility in Brooklyn, NY overlooking the river to Manhattan

Photo Credit: Sarah Blessner - Politico Magazine

"We were able to divert all of the organic material to a facility that could capture all of the methane coming off of it and turn it into something productive," said Jordan Lane, the city's solid waste and recycling coordinator.

The facility, owned by Kompogas, takes in about 100,000 pounds of waste a day. The facility produces enough energy to fuel itself and 600 homes a year. The city mitigated odor issues from food waste and complied with California's food waste diversion requirements when it switched to the anaerobic digester.

"We chose to use the digester out of convenience, sure, but also because it was arguably our best and most local option for organics treatment and disposal," Lane wrote in an email.

Expansion is on the minds of New York officials. By 2021, Elardo hopes Newtown can ramp up from the 130 tons processed each day to 250 tons; nearly doubling its capacity, but still a long way from handling all the city's food waste.

"It takes an investment on our side, and it takes public support to be able to drive those investments for that specific need outside of our regular business," she said. *"We could take a hundred percent of the city's food waste. I mean, it's not a crazy idea. What the problem is, it's a logistics problem."* ▼

Cigarette Butts Top List of Roadside Litter in PA



A study of litter along Pennsylvania roadways in 2019 found more than 96 million cigarette butts that had been tossed from passing vehicles.

The Pennsylvania Litter Research Study was done across Pennsylvania this year for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB) as a pilot effort to develop methods that will be used in a nationwide study from the Connecticut-based nonprofit, said Robert Craggs of Burns and McDonnell, and engineering architecture, construction, environmental, and consulting firm based in Kansas City Missouri.

Counters in the field tallied 259,467,023 pieces of litter, ranging from tires to plastic cups to cigarette butts, Craggs reported at the recent 2019 Litter Summit, hosted in Harrisburg by KPB, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Cigarette butts were the largest category of litter turned up in the study, constituting 37.1% of the total, followed by plastics (30.4%), paper (12.2%), metal (6.4%), organics (4.2%), tire treads (3.1%), and glass (1.1%).

Patrick McDonnell, secretary of the DEP, noted that cigarette butts are not simple litter. They are more than bits of paper. They carry all the chemicals that went into producing them, including pesticides, herbiscides, and arsenic.

To come up with those numbers, the study covered 180 sampling areas along all types of roadways, expressways to rural backroads, across the state. Each sampling area was 300 by 15 feet, with an interior area of 15-by-15, where items smaller than 4 inches were noted. Cigarette butts would be part of that smaller group.

About 45% of the litter was larger than 4 inches, and of that beer cans comprised 6.3%, water bottles 5.1%, parts and pieces of vehicles 4.8%, and fast-food plastic cups 3.2%.

A second part of the Pennsylvania study was designed to gauge the public attitude through a 38-question, seven to ten minute random telephone survey of people across the state. Craggs said 502 interviews were completed.

Nearly 62% of respondents described litter as a major problem in Pennsylvania, while more than 34% said it is a minor problem and 2.4% felt it is not a problem. While 75% said litter impacts their quality of life, 85% agreed that it is an environmental problem.

Fast-Food packaging was the type of litter most observed by those responding to the survey, listed by 45%, followed by plastic bags at 16%, and nonalcoholic beverage containers at 14%. They told interviewers that the reason people in their communities litter is because they don't care (almost 60% of respondents said that) and because it's more convenient than properly disposing of their trash (almost 50%). ▼

Written By: Marcus Schneck
Published November 24, 2019
Source: Sunday Patriot News

Largest Categories of Litter	
Cigarette Butts	37.1%
Plastics	30.4%
Paper	12.2%
Metal	6.4%
Organics	4.2%
Tire Treads	3.1%
Glass	1.1%

Upcoming SWANA Mini-Tech's

The Keystone wants you to know that there are two Mini-Tech's scheduled so far for 2020. In order to ensure the most up-to-date information, be sure to check out the Keystone SWANA website for updated information.

Natural Aquatic Life Treatment System Mini-Technical Seminar

The Mini-Tech will begin with a presentation followed by a tour of the Natural Aquatic Life Treatment System at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, which includes a series of 14 ponds that are used to treat leachate from an unlined area of the landfill. A networking lunch will follow the tour.

Eric Wiediger from Leachate Management Specialists (LMS) will introduce natural systems for handling leachate, including phyto technologies with plants and trees, enhanced evaporation utilizing wind and salt-loving microbes, and constructed wetlands. Natural systems strategically take advantage of natural processes such as solar radiation, evaporation, evapotranspiration, wind, plants, and biological activity to treat and eliminate liquid waste.

Where:

Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority
1610 Russell Road
Lebanon, PA 17046

When:

Thursday July 9, 2020 (Subject to change)
10:00 AM

Additional Information:

Registration is \$15 for SWANA members and \$25 for non-members. ▼



Metals Recovery from MSW Ash Mini-Technical Seminar

The Mini-Tech will begin with a presentation followed by a walking tour of the facility. A networking lunch will follow the tour.

In April 2016, LCSWMA entered into a long-term contract with Inashco North America, Inc. to site a metals recovery facility (MRF) next to the Frey Farm Landfill. While LCSWMA's WTE facilities currently use in-line metal recovery systems, only larger metals are removed. Inashco offers an advanced metals recovery system to remove pebble-sized metals present in the ash. This includes both ferrous (iron) and non-ferrous (aluminum, copper, brass, zinc, gold, silver, etc.) metals.

In 2018, Inashco constructed the MRG, which processes around 650 tons of ash each day (165,000 annually) and recovers about 22 tons of metals (8,300 tons annually). Not only does this innovative project remove and recycle metals that would have otherwise been landfilled, but it's helping to extend the life of the Frey Farm Landfill.

Where:

Frey Farm Landfill
3049 River Road
Conestoga, PA 17516

When:

TBD - Event is being rescheduled

Additional Information:

Registration is \$15 for SWANA members and \$25 for non-members. Space is limited and participants are required to bring safety toe boots. ▼

WM Mechanics Break New Safety Record

The only thing broken at Waste Management's Delaware Valley-North (DVN) facility is an outstanding milestone. The maintenance team at DVN recently celebrated 13 years without an OSHA recordable injury.

"This is another great achievement for our team to celebrate," said DVN's Senior Fleet Manager Mark Shafer. *"That's 4,748 days. The last injury was back when 'Sexyback' was the number one song, 'The Butterfly Effect 2' was released to the big screen, and North Korea had just performed its first nuclear test."*

A U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration, or OSHA, reportable injury is any work-related injury or illness that results in loss of consciousness, days away from work, restricted work, transfer to another job, or any incident that requires medical treatment beyond first aid.

"A milestone like 13 years without a recordable OSHA injury cannot be achieved without determination and commitment from each member of the team to keep one another safe without compromise," said GMA Vice

President Rafa Carrasco. *"Congratulations to the DVN maintenance team and all those who interact with the shop regularly. You are an example to all of us!"*

"Rarely does a fleet shop achieve zero injuries year after year, but the DVN team has certainly set the pace for all WM shops," said Waste Management Vice President of Safety Services Jeff Martin. *"It is clear that everyone owns safety and expects nothing less than a safe shop as part of their safety culture. Thirteen years without an OSHA recordable Injury is simply remarkable."*

Noting that his team recently received MSDO Silver Certification and that DVN's collections team is maintaining SDO Silver Certification, Mark said, *"There are a lot of great things going on at DVN."*

Mark knows that site safety is a day-by-day accomplishment and is not looking ahead to any milestones beyond safety today. ▼

Written By: Adrienne Fors- - Waste Management



Mechanics at the Waste Management Delaware Valley North facility posing for a photo to celebrate 13 years without an OSHA reportable incident.

Photo Credit: Waste Management

Larry Taylor Retires

It was a delightful spring day on January 10, 2020 (yes, winter was nowhere to be found) when the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA) hosted a retirement luncheon for Executive Director, Larry Taylor. Larry has been active in SWANA Keystone, most recently as its Chapter treasurer for several years. Besides GLRA, several guests were present.



Larry came to GLRA in the early 1990s working as the Authority engineer. When Mike Pavelek retired a few years ago as the GLRA executive director, Larry Taylor was chosen to be the successor to Pavelek. Skip Garner will be the new GLRA executive director to succeed after Larry.



Larry intends to work for a few months as part time to complete some on-going projects. His longer term goal is to devote more time to hiking, hunting and fishing. SWANA Keystone Chapter wishes Larry an enjoyable retirement! 🍷

Mini-Tech Recap

Ron DuPerow from Humdinger Equipment discussed how a 4-wheel landfill compactor compares to a full-width twin-drum landfill compactor regarding compaction density and operating costs.

The presentation was followed by a demonstration of the Tana E-series landfill compactor which is in use at the GLRA Landfill.



November 5th Two-Wheel Drum Trash Compactor Mini-tech at Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority: Attendees checking out the compactor operation.

Photo Credit: Denise Wessels / Keystone SWANA

If you missed out on this, or other Mini-Tech Seminars, be sure to check out our calendar, or visit The Keystone Chapter SWANA website and click on the events tab. While you are there you can find information on other events such as the Annual Regional Road-E-O, Webinar Trainings, and more. 🍷

We hope to see you at our next event!

Log Jam at State CFA Delaying Millions in Awards

In a half hour meeting, the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), Pennsylvania's mammoth economic development engine, can approve millions of dollars for projects ranging from local sewer systems and parking lots, to energy projects, dairy farms, and downtown facelifts. But recently, long delays between meetings have held up funded projects. And the resulting finger-pointing over who is to blame provides a glimpse into the politics surrounding the hundreds of millions of dollars the authority doles out each year.

In particular, some familiar with the process say that nearly all deliberation and decision making about which projects to support generally take place behind closed doors, making the public board meeting largely ceremonial. When board members disagree, meetings are sometimes canceled rather than letting those disagreements spill into the public forum, they say. As a result, a handful of disputed projects can sometimes delay the entire agenda.

"When the board goes for months without meeting and then meets just to approve things unanimously, it leads us to believe deliberation that ought to be public record is being intentionally pushed into secret," said Andrew Abramczyk, a senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Created in 2004 as part of former governor Ed Rendell's economic stimulus plan, the authority is now one of the largest grantors of public money for economic development and infrastructure projects. This year alone, it has doled out nearly \$284 million in state funding, significantly more than the Department of Community and Economic Development.

The authority is staffed by state employees in the department who review applications and make recommendations. But final decision making power rests with the authority's seven-member board. Three board

members (the secretaries of banking, budget, and economic development) are appointed by the governor. The other four are chosen by the leaders of each of the legislative caucuses.

But not all board members have the same power. In order to garner support for the authority's creation, Rendell struck a deal with the Republican-controlled legislature at the time: Projects would need five votes for final approval, with all four of the legislative appointees voting in favor. That essentially gives each of them veto power: without consensus, nothing can get done.

Some say this structure works well, forcing compromise and bipartisan cooperation. Others complain that it makes the process more political, and the horse-trading required

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to get everyone on board slows down approvals. Demand for funding from the authority usually far exceeds the amount of money available, creating intense competition.

The board usually meets every other month, but recently, meetings have been repeatedly cancelled, leaving months-long stretches during which no funding can be given out. The board did not meet between September 2015 and July 2016, a gap of almost 10 months. In 2017, more than five months elapsed between meetings. And after meeting in September 2018, the board did not meet again until this past March, a six-month delay.

In April, House Speaker Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny County, introduced legislation that would require the authority to meet six times a year. At only 40 words, the bill itself is straightforward. It passed the House in the spring [2019] and was advanced by the Senate committee in November 2019. But few can agree on why the authority's board need a legislative sap on the wrist in the first place, especially since the legislative appointees wield so much power.

In a press release announcing the bill, Turzai said, *"there is no reason to delay or cancel meetings because board members intend to vote against certain proposed projects."* But in an interview, he backed off saying this was *"second or third-hand"* information. Turzai blamed the governor's office and Dennis Davin, the secretary of the state's economic development department, who chairs the board and is responsible for scheduling meetings. *"The delays are due to the fact that the governor's office doesn't want everyone to meet for a variety of reasons,"* he said, without going into specifics.

Davin, however, disputed Turzai's contention, saying it's the legislative appointees who are responsible for the delays because the board cannot meet unless all four are present. When they aren't available, he said, meetings have to be cancelled. *"They know upfront when all the meetings are,"* he said. *"We expect all of them to attend."*

A spokeswoman for Joe Scarnati, the Republican leader of the Senate, said in a statement that meetings are

sometimes delayed because more time is needed to reach a consensus. But Scarnati's appointee to the board, D. Raja said he's *"really not sure"* why meetings have been delayed. Regardless, he said he supports Turzai's bill.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa, D-Allegheny County, echoed Davin's argument. Costa's board appointee, Austin Burke, declines to comment. And a spokesman for House Minority Leader Frank Dermody, D-Allegheny County, said House Democrats overwhelmingly support mandating a regular meeting schedule. *"It's always challenging to reach consensus when there are competing interests, but the CFA over a period of years has managed to do that work."* the spokesman, Bill Patton, said. *"Each of the projects stands on their own and if you have a regular meeting schedule, that should keep things moving fairly well."*

Dermody's appointee to board, Marc Little, did not respond to requests for comment. Turzai's appointee to the authority's board, Philadelphia real estate developer Michal Karp, said in a statement that he agreed with the speaker's intention that meetings should be held regularly, even if board members disagree about some projects, *"so that other projects that are not in contention can be voted on."*

Karp tends to be one of the more outspoken board members: questioning, for instance, if private companies should receive loans instead of grants, and often asking for more financial information from applicants. When there have been dissenting votes, they often have come from him. But meeting minutes from the past few years show public dissent is rare. Board meetings tend to be cordial and brisk, with unanimous votes on blocks of dozens of projects at once, often with little discussion.

As of September, the last time a board member voted against a project was four years ago. ▼

Written By: Charlotte Keith
Published: December 19, 2019
Source: Patriot News

Need Dirt? There's an App For That!



Chris Teetor, director of operations for DE Storage, which builds storage units, mobile homes, and other properties across Delaware, needed 800 cubic yards of clay material typically used for berms in ponds. He did what construction people usually do; he called all his contacts, looking for the material, to no avail. *"It delayed our job for a couple of weeks,"* he recalls...Then he literally hit pay dirt.

He came across an app called Soil Connect and put up a request. *"Four days later I got a call and it was free soil. I just paid for hauling and loading,"* Teetor says. *"I saved \$20,000."*

Similar to a dating app, Craigslist or Airbnb, Soil Connect matches builders, contractors, landscapers and other industry professionals so they can arrange the transport and management of soil between those who need it and those want to get rid of it. Traditionally, the construction community has had to rely on word of mouth and its established networks to broker these exchanges of earth.

Cliff Fetner, founder and CEO of the Soil Connect startup, conceived of the idea two years ago during a project. *"I've spent 20 years building luxury homes,"* he says. *"We had 2,000 cubic yards of material and didn't know what to do with it. Soil Connect was born at that minute. Why should I pay you to get rid of my dirt, when two hours later someone else will call me willing to pay for it?"*

Fetner and his son hired a software development firm to build the beta version of the app. *"After nine months, we had several thousand users and over 22 million yards of material posted on our site,"* he says. *"It is the first*

institutionally backed platform addressing the movement of soil in the country."

Users can see how much and what kind of soil is on offer, and where it is located. The app is attracting a variety of users. *"You might have a national homebuilder from the Midwest who needs to get rid of one million yards of soil, and might only post one time for a year,"* says Fetner. *"Then you might have Tommy the pool guy who moves [smaller amounts of] dirt every day."*

Fetner used the venture capital received to invest in version two of the app in 2019. *"We have a couple thousand more users and posted 83 million cubic yards of material,"* he says. Soil Connect says the number of users is now around 4,000. The app is still free, although Fetner hopes to someday monetize it.

New features include a text-alert function. *"It's a dirt alert,"* says Fetner. Another feature vets the users and materials, as regions vary in terms of regulations and certification of material. *"If you need a geotechnical report, you click a box. If you need a soil analysis, you click another box. I can post that I have 10,000 cubic yards of certified, clean fill,"* says Fetner.

"We want to be the one-stop shop for all your dirt needs someday."

- App Creator: Cliff Fetner

Arco/Murray, a Chicago-based design-build construction firm specializing in commercial and industrial work, is a strategic partner with Soil Connect, providing feedback and suggestions.

"We see the opportunity for hundreds of projects," says Eric Whobrey, Arco/Murray technology manager. *"We have several earthwork subcontractors that have saved money using this to trade dirt as opposed to taking it to the dump or paying to have someone take it away."*

Version three, expected to be ready later this year, will include digitization of both the manifests for the truckers hauling material and the entire ticketing process, says Fetner. Currently, *"we're manually taking tickets, putting*

them into the system and sending them to clients, and often they can't read [the tickets]," he says. "We [will be] digitizing ticketing using GPS and uploading the information into the clients' accounting software. Then, the truck driver doesn't have to do anything but drive."

Future versions could include an Uber-like function where truckers are on-demand to haul material, says Fetner. "We want to be the one-stop shop for all your dirt needs someday." ▼

Written By: Aileen Cho
Published: April 1, 2020
Source: <https://www.enr.com>

Editors Note: Members of *The Keystone* newsletter committee have not tried this application, and are not endorsing the use of this product via this publication.



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Note of interest—sponsors to either the Road-E-O or the annual Fall Conference are eligible for a free advertisement in an upcoming issue of the Keystone SWANA Newsletter.

Showing Gratitude and Positivity in the Community

Thinking positively is not an easy task these days. The news media is infiltrating our heads around the clock, making it very difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel as we wade through this pandemic. However, one individual on the Waste Management team has been spreading uplifting messages for months – long before this virus entered our lives.

Tami Hill-Shelly, a Scalehouse Attendant at Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl, PA sends around landfill updates to customers daily informing everyone of the site conditions, weather and number of trucks staged during their busiest hour. Among those notes, Tami has been including “words of wisdom” and “quotes to live by” at the end of the emails to help brighten everyone’s day. When asked why she adds these little notes at the end of her emails, she stated *“Because I like to see people smile and hope to break up the monotony of their day. My hope is to get at least one person to smile.”*

So this lead us to ask, how else are people showing positivity and gratitude in these times? As it turns out, many people are taking to good old fashioned pen and paper (and crayon and marker) to show appreciation for the workers who still have a job to do, whether there is a pandemic or not. And the best part is, we have some photos to share to prove it!

So to all of you working out there, whether on the streets and landfills, to the scalehouse, truck cab, or from your home; from wherever you are working right now; Thank you for what you do! 🍀

Written By: Alison D’Airo with help from Adrienne Fors

Photos Courtesy of Waste Management





Why Your Kid Loves the Garbage Truck So Much



For Ryan Rucker, a dad in Vacaville, California, the weekly summons comes on Wednesday mornings, usually around seven. For Rosanne Sweeting

on Grand Bahama island, in the Bahamas, it's twice a week; Mondays and Thursdays, anytime from 6 to 8:30 a.m. And for Whitney Schlander in Scottsdale, Arizona, it's every Tuesday morning at half-past seven.

At these times, the quiet of the morning is broken by the beep beep beeping of an approaching garbage truck—and broken further when their kids start hollering, begging to be escorted outside to wave or just watch in awe as the truck collects and majestically hauls away the household trash. Rucker's daughter Raegan, 3, takes her stuffed animals outside with her to watch the pickup. Cassidy Sweeting, 4, enlists her mom's help to deliver granola bars and water bottles to the three trash collectors. Finn Schlander, 3, invited the neighborhood garbage-truck driver to his birthday party. (Ultimately, he was unable to attend, but the party had garbage-truck decorations nonetheless.)

For decades, children have been fascinated by the garbage-collection vehicles that visit their home (as a kid, Finn's dad wanted to grow up to be a garbage-truck driver himself, according to Finn's mom), and their widespread fascination has been commemorated in a surprising variety of ways. The nationwide waste-disposal company Waste Management, for example, sells a branded WM garbage-truck toy on its online shop, and a representative for Waste Management told me that the company frequently receives requests from customers for things such as costumes and party kits for kids. Some city governments and waste-disposal companies have released safety guidelines for parents whose kids are

especially curious about their garbage trucks. (*"Wave from your window or doorway, keeping at least 20 feet of safe distance. Our drivers will wave back if they see you!"*) Meanwhile, the children's-web-series host Blippi, who has some 6.5 million YouTube subscribers, wrote a life-ruiningly catchy song about garbage trucks (*"Some are blue, some are brown, and some are green. And wouldn't you know it, there are some that can pick up recycling!"*) that has been listened to a staggering 31.8 million times as of this writing.

I, too, had a more-than-passing interest in the garbage truck as a kid; with palpable residual excitement, I can remember peeking through the window shutters of my parents' front room to watch the vaguely menacing robotic arm jut out, snatch our garbage can, and dangle the can upside down over its back while the trash tumbled out. Why generations of kids have been so transfixed by the trash pickup, though, remains something of a mystery. So I asked parents, kids, child-development experts, waste-management professionals, and even the creator of a kids' show about an anthropomorphized garbage truck for their insights. Together, we made our way, more aptly, lurched and rumbled our way, toward a unifying theory of why kids are so wild about garbage trucks.

The garbage truck I remember watching out our window as a child; big lumbering hulk, single hungry grabber claw is known in the waste-management industry as an *"automated side loader."* When I excitedly mentioned to Whitney Schlander that the automated side loader was introduced 50 years ago on the streets of Scottsdale, I discovered this was old news to her and Finn: *"We went to the trash-transfer facility last year. Of course,"* she said with a laugh. *"They have the original one."* Other varieties in the United States have automated forks on their front to pick up larger trash receptacles such as Dumpsters, while still others depend on human workers to manually pick up, empty, and replace the garbage cans.

When I asked Sheila Williams Ridge, who teaches early-childhood education at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development, for any insights she could give me on why kids love garbage trucks so much, she thought of her own daughter, now 21. When her daughter was little, Williams Ridge remembered, the weekly arrival of the garbage truck was both dazzling and, in a way, reassuring.

"Humans have always thrived with routine," she told me. "But children, their memories aren't long enough. Sometimes, when we're getting our 3-year-olds dressed for winter, they're like, 'I can't do it!' And we're like, 'You've put on snow pants before. You've put on boots.' But for them, it's so long ago. They don't remember snow from when they're 2; it's new again for them." So having something happen every week at the same time, and especially something that *"seems a little bit magical"*, can

boost kids' sense of familiarity with the world, not to mention give them something to look forward to.

Plus, what the truck is actually doing when it arrives has an air of the forbidden. Despite the fact that kids are frequently discouraged from making messes at home or at school (or perhaps because of that fact), *"children love dumping things. They just do,"* Williams Ridge said. *"So the fact that a truck is coming to do this on purpose, and everyone is happy about it? It's like, 'Yes! This is my dream! I just want to dump stuff out, and you let this person do it!'"* The same goes for being noisy: *"I think that's the other thing with a lot of big trucks, and with police cars, fire trucks, snowplows,"* she added. *"They're loud, and no one's complaining about it."*

Next I turned to Guy Toubes, the creator of the animated Amazon children's series *The Stinky & Dirty Show*, whose



Sanitation Workers on the Job

Photo Credit: Wallpaper Flare

eponymous protagonists are a backhoe loader (Dirty) and a garbage truck (Stinky). I reasoned that he surely must have some insights into what makes garbage trucks so fascinating.

He did. For starters, *“kids think smelly stuff is really funny,”* Toubes told me. There’s a sort of naughty appeal to talking about gross stuff and calling things *“stinky,”* he said, and in the run-up to the premiere of *The Stinky & Dirty Show*, he saw it in action: Two little girls in a focus group cracked up every time a character on the show said the name *“Stinky.”* *“They just kept saying the word over and over again,”* he remembered, *“every time.”*

Toubes also noted that the particular movement patterns of vehicles such as garbage trucks and backhoes (and snowplows, fire trucks, street sweepers, and the like) are entirely unique. Even if a child is familiar with how buses and cars move through space, the movements of a garbage truck’s grabber arm or a backhoe’s inward-curling shovel appendage can be mesmerizing because they’re so unusual. Add that to the fact that children frequently conceive of a vehicle as an enormous living creature. *“It has lights and those look like eyes, so suddenly it’s got a face,”* Toubes pointed out, and it’s almost no wonder that some kids look at garbage trucks like gigantic zoo animals visiting their home.

That said, Toubes and I immediately agreed that garbage trucks can also be pretty mesmerizing to adults because what they do is so visually unusual. Toubes is himself the father of a onetime garbage-truck aficionado: *“My second son was sort of obsessed, and when we asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he said a garbage truck,”* he told me. *“We were like, ‘You want to drive a garbage truck?’ And he was like, ‘No, I want to be the truck.”* And when his son ran to the picture window to watch the garbage pickup, *“I’d go to the window and watch along with him,”* Toubes remembered. *“Like, Actually, that is interesting.”*

At this point, I’d heard the experts’ theories. But I would be remiss not to consult the two foremost authorities; kids and garbage-truck drivers. So first I went to Rene Vesi, a Waste Management truck driver based near Portland,

Oregon. Vesi’s friendship with a boy with autism was the subject of a local-news segment earlier this year.

I asked Vesi whether that was common, whether he was accustomed to having young friends and admirers. Garbage-truck enthusiasts are common enough that he considers *“making kids happy”* to be part of the job, he said, but he’d never take their enthusiasm for granted. *“We have kids on almost every route. Moms hold babies at the door, toddlers wait at the window and sometimes a whole family will come out to watch and wave,”* Vesi wrote to me in an email. *“It makes you feel like a rock star.”*

As for why those kids are so excited, Vesi largely agreed with Toubes. *“They love the lights and all the moving parts,”* he wrote. *“For a toddler, it probably feels like a Transformer has come to visit.”*

When I asked an actual child, however, why she loved garbage trucks so much, her answer surprised me. Was it the recurring excitement? The anticipation? The dumping? The gross-out factor, or perhaps the anthropomorphic factor? The fact that, as Toubes and I (and for that matter, pretty much every adult in this story) agreed, garbage trucks are objectively awesome, no matter how old you are?

No, Raegan Rucker told me. Her favorite part of the whole greeting-the-garbage-truck ritual is when a friendly, familiar face shows up at her house. She loves *“walking outside with socks on,”* pointing at the truck as it approaches, and *“drinking milk outside,”* she told me; sometimes with her stuffed animals alongside her, sometimes on the swing her parents installed out front pretty much expressly for the purpose of garbage-truck watching., but most of all, she loves waiting for the truck driver to stop and say hi. ▼



Written By: Ashley Fetters
Published: December 6, 2019
Source:
<https://www.theatlantic.com>

Garbage Collector Wows On ‘American Idol’

Doug Kiker, a garbage collector from Mobile, Alabama, began his audition for “American Idol” as one of the most inexperienced hopefuls the talent show had ever featured. He ended it by receiving the opportunity of a lifetime.

Kiker got a ticket to Hollywood from panelists Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan in Sunday’s season premiere. *“Hey, Doug, that wasn’t garbage,”* Perry said. *“That was greatness.”*

Kiker started out rattled by the experience and Richie asked him to warm up outside first. He returned to the room and showed some soul-country chops as he sang Rascal Flatts’ *“Bless the Broken Road.”*

Bryan joined him on piano to coax more range out of the 27-year-old contestant, whose only previous experience was singing on the back of his sanitation truck. *“There’s so much in there,”* Bryan said.

Kiker said he wanted to show his 2-year-old daughter there’s *“nothing you can’t do.”* He just took a pretty big first step toward proving that.

Check out the video online by searching for: *“Garbage Man Doug Kiker Charms the Judges – American Idol.”* ▼

Written By: Ron Dicker
Published: February 17, 2020



Doug Kiker onstage at American Idol auditions

Photo Credit: CinemaBlend/ABC Media

Wagner Sells Penn Waste to Toronto Firm

Businessman and Republican politician Scott Wagner has sold his York County-based trash collection and recycling business to a Canadian firm, a trade publication reported. Penn Waste was bought by Waste Connections in December although the Toronto-based company didn’t name Penn Waste at the time.

Wagner is known across Pennsylvania for his unsuccessful run against Governor Tom Wolf in 2018. Before that, he served in the State Senate.

Waste Connections has more than 7 million residential, commercial, and other customers in Canada and 42 states, according to a news release. Its operations include two landfills in the Lehigh Valley, according to Wastedive.

Wagner co-founded a waste disposal company in the mid-1980’s and eventually sold it, according to Waste Dive, which covers the trash and recycling industry. He started Penn Waste in 2000, with the company presently collecting trash and recyclable materials from about 180,000 homes in more than 60 municipalities in York, Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry counties, according to its website.

Penn Waste includes a recycling facility in Manchester and East Manchester townships, York County, capable of processing up to 45 tons per hour, according to Wastedive.

Wastedive reported that, as with many in the industry, Waste Connections faces declining recycling revenues and noted, *“The fact that Penn Waste has already begun resetting its recycling pricing may bode well for integrating these new assets.”* ▼

Written By: Mark Pynes
Published: January 19, 2020
Source: Patriot News

Typhoid Mary and the Heath Impacts of ‘Super-Spreaders’

How a civil engineer, who specialized in sanitation, discovered the spread of disease by non-symptomatic carriers and changed the history of the health industry.

George Soper was not your typical detective. He was a civil engineer by training, but had become something of an expert in sanitation. So when, in 1906, a landlord in Long Island was struggling to trace the source of a typhoid outbreak, Soper was called in. The landlord had rented his Long Island house to a banker's family and servants that summer. By late August, six of the house's 11 inhabitants had fallen ill with typhoid fever.

Soper had been previously hired by New York state to investigate disease outbreaks. *"I was called an epidemic fighter,"* he later wrote, and believed that typhoid could be spread by one person serving as a carrier. In Long Island, he focused his attention on the cook, Mary Mallon, who had arrived three weeks before the first person became ill.

What Soper discovered would demonstrate how an unwitting carrier could be the root of disease outbreaks, and, later, spark a debate about personal autonomy when it's pitted against public health.

Combing through the roster of wealthy New Yorkers who had employed Mallon in their summer homes between 1900 and 1907 he found a trail of 22 infected people. Typhoid fever is a bacterial infection typically spread through food and water contaminated by salmonella. Patients fall ill with high fever, diarrhea, and (before antibiotics were developed to treat it) sometimes delirium and death.

"What Soper discovered would demonstrate how an unwitting carrier could be the root of disease outbreaks, and, later, spark a debate about personal autonomy when it's pitted against public health."

At that time, without regulated sanitation practices in place, the disease was fairly common and New York had battled multiple outbreaks. In 1906, the year Soper began his investigation, a reported 639 people had died of typhoid in New York. But never before had an outbreak been traced to a single carrier; and certainly not one without any symptoms themselves.

Soper learned that Mallon would often serve ice cream with fresh peaches on Sunday. Compared to her hot, cooked meals, he deduced that *"no better way could be found for a cook to cleanse her hands of microbes and infect a family."*

Hunting the carrier

Four months after he started the investigation, Soper found Mallon working in a Park Avenue brownstone. The 37-year-old Irish cook, he later described, was *"five feet six inches tall, a blond with clear blue eyes, a healthy color and a somewhat determined mouth and jaw."* When confronted with his evidence and a request for urine and feces samples, she surged at Soper with a carving fork.

Dr. S. Josephine Baker, an up-and-coming advocate of hygiene and public health, was dispatched to convince Mallon to provide samples, but was also chased away. Baker, whose father had died of typhoid, later made it her mission to promote preventative medicine (and became the first woman to earn a doctorate in public health). *"It was Mary's tragedy that she could not trust us,"* Baker later wrote.

Finally, Mallon was escorted by Baker and five policemen to a hospital where, after a nearly successful escape attempt, she tested positive as a carrier for Salmonella typhi, a bacteria that causes typhoid. This would later be confirmed by more tests. She was quarantined in a small house on the grounds of Riverside Hospital. The facility was isolated on North Brother Island, a tiny speck of land off the Bronx.

Mallon herself had no symptoms of typhoid and didn't believe she could be spreading it. It's likely Mallon never understood the meaning of being a carrier, particularly since she exhibited no symptoms herself. The only cure, doctors told Mallon, was to remove her gallbladder, which she refused. She was dubbed "*Typhoid Mary*" by the New York American in 1909 and the name stuck.

In a hand-written letter to her lawyer that June, Mallon complained. *"I have been in fact a peep show for everybody. Even the interns had to come to see me and ask about the facts already known to the whole wide world. The tuberculosis men would say 'There she is, the kidnapped woman,'" she wrote. "Dr. Park has had me illustrated in Chicago. I wonder how the said Dr. William H. Park would like to be insulted and put in the Journal and call him or his wife Typhoid William Park."*

In 1909, she sued the New York City Department of Health and the case was brought to the Supreme Court. In the court of public opinion, Mallon had stirred a debate over individual autonomy and the state's responsibility in a public health crisis. In the court of law, her lawyer argued she had been imprisoned without due process. The court declined to release her, saying *"it must protect the community against a recurrence of spreading the disease,"* but Mallon was freed early the following year by the city's new health commissioner. He agreed on the condition that she stop cooking.

Without other skills and unconvinced that her condition was a danger, Mallon drifted back to her old job around New York and New Jersey. She prepared meals for a hotel, a Broadway restaurant, a spa, and a boarding house. When, in 1915, a typhoid outbreak sickened 25 people at Sloane Maternity Hospital, George Soper was again called to investigate. The cook, "*Mrs. Brown,*" was discovered to be Mallon.

A life in exile

Mallon was sent back to North Brother island; permanently. She spent her days reading and working in the laboratory preparing medical tests. She died there of a stroke in 1938, after a quarter-century of quarantine. She

never admitted to being a carrier of typhoid, and perhaps without the education to understand it, actually never believed it. Nine people attended her funeral at St. Luke's in the Bronx.

During the course of two outbreaks, at least 51 people caught typhoid through Mallon, and three died. The number of cases was probably much higher. *"The story of Typhoid Mary indicates how difficult it is to teach infected people to guard against infecting others,"* Soper warned. But the authorities had already changed the way they responded to such threats. At the time of Mallon's death, more than 400 healthy carriers of typhoid had been identified by New York officials, and none had been forced into confinement.

The legacy of "*Typhoid Mary*" as an asymptomatic vessel for disease led to the theory of "*superspreaders*" that has surfaced in disease outbreaks ever since. *"Since 'Typhoid Mary' was discovered, the whole problem of carriers in relation to infectious diseases has assumed an immense importance,"* Soper said in a speech in 1913, *"an importance which is recognized in every country where effective public health work is done and in every army where communicable disease has been brought under control."* ▼

Written By: Nina Stochlic

Published: March 17, 2020

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>



Image of Typhoid Mary (closest) in Hospital

Photo Credit: Wikipedia

You Might Be Buying Trash on Amazon—Literally

Just about anyone can open a store on Amazon.com and sell just about anything. Just ask the dumpster divers.

These are among the dedicated cadre of sellers on Amazon who say they sort through other people's rejects, including directly from the trash, clean them up and list them on Amazon.com Inc.'s platform. Many post their hunting accounts on YouTube. They are an elusive lot. Many The Wall Street Journal contacted wouldn't give details about their listings, said they stopped selling dumpster finds or no longer listed them as new, didn't respond to inquiries or stopped communicating. Some said they feared Amazon would close their stores.

So the Journal set out to test whether these claims were true. Reporters went dumpster diving in several New Jersey towns and retrieved dozens of discards from the trash including a stencil set, scrapbook paper and a sealed jar of Trader Joe's lemon curd. The Journal set up a store on Amazon to see if it could list some of its salvaged goods for sale as new. It turned out to be easy.

Amazon's stated rules didn't explicitly prohibit items salvaged from the trash when the Journal disclosed the existence of its store to the company last month. The rules required that most goods be new and noted that sellers could offer used books and electronics, among other things, if they identified them as such.



"Sellers are responsible for meeting Amazon's high bar for product quality," an Amazon spokeswoman said. Examples the Journal presented to Amazon of dumpster-sourced listings *"are isolated incidents,"* she said. *"We are investigating and will take appropriate action against the bad actors involved."* She declined to comment on the Journal's store.

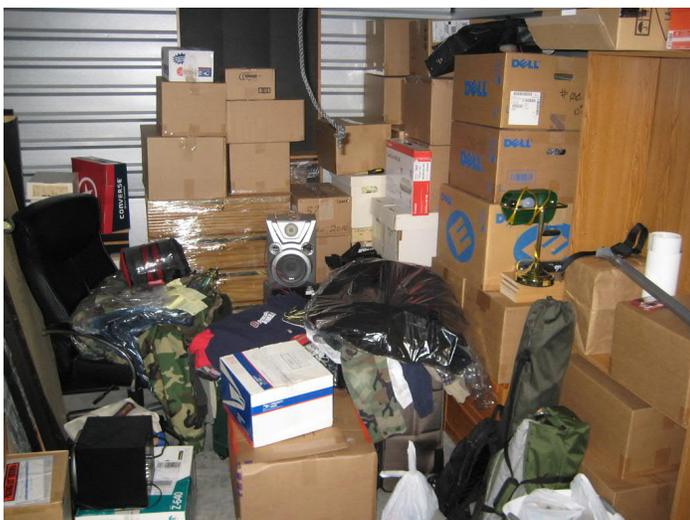
Late last week, Amazon said it updated its policy to explicitly prohibit selling items taken from the trash, adding to its list of unacceptable items any *"intended for destruction or disposal or otherwise designated as unsellable by the manufacturer or a supplier, vendor, or retailer."*

Control Issues

Amazon exerts limited control over its third-party marketplace, which connects buyers with millions of merchants around the world. The company has said it isn't liable for what these merchants sell, saying in court cases Amazon itself isn't the one selling the products listed by third parties.

"We had an internal saying: Unless the product's on fire when we receive it, we would accept anything," said James Thomson, who helped oversee the Fulfillment By Amazon program (under which Amazon handles logistics for third-party sellers) before leaving in 2013. He is now a consultant to brands with Amazon accounts. In his view, he said, *"Ultimately consumers are the police of the platform."* The Amazon spokeswoman said Mr. Thomson's *"statements are demonstrably false."* Mr. Thomson said he stood by his assertions.

Wade Coggins, near Beaverton, Ore., said he finds items to sell on Amazon and eBay in store clearance sections, abandoned storage units and dumpsters. He said he has salvaged cardboard boxes, bubble wrap and peanuts from trash bins to package his orders. Blemishes need to be cleaned off, he said, adding that some people shrink-wrap



items to make them look more legitimate. *"When you send stuff in to Amazon,"* he said, *"it needs to look brand new."* Coggins identified one Amazon store and said he had another that he declined to disclose. The Amazon spokeswoman said the company couldn't find evidence of a second store.

To list items under Amazon Prime third-party sellers send them to an Amazon warehouse where the retailer handles packaging, delivery and returns. Shipping boxes or labels often include Amazon branding. Sellers can also ship directly to customers from their homes and warehouses, qualifying for a Prime designation if they enroll in a program called Seller Fulfilled Prime.

Amazon merchant David Gracy, 49, who among other things resells new merchandise purchased from stores and brand closeouts, said his business partner in 2016 salvaged items from dumpsters including a batch of humidifiers and keyboards in Austin, Texas. Gracy's Amazon store sold such items for more than a year under Amazon Prime, he said. He said he hasn't sold dumpster finds since then. He said he wouldn't be comfortable selling certain salvaged items, such as food, on the site, but *"Amazon's not going to ask 'Where'd you get it from? Did you get it from a dumpster?'"*

Amazon said it requires sellers to provide government-issued identification and uses a *"system that analyzes hundreds of unique data points to identify potential risk"* and *"we proactively block suspicious businesses."*

'DJ Co' Opens Shop

The Journal applied to open an Amazon store in September by submitting a reporter's driver's license and bank statement. Two days later, "DJ Co" was open for business. An email arrived declaring: *"Welcome to Fulfillment by Amazon."* The Journal signed up for a \$39.99-a-month account and paid additional fees, such as for storage.

Late one night several days before the store opened, reporters with flashlights and blue latex gloves visited Clifton, Clark and Paramus, N.J., scouring dumpsters behind outlets such as a Michaels craft store and a Trader Joe's grocery. The bins were a humid mess of broken glass and smashed boxes, a stench of rot in the air. Several products were in original packaging, some soiled with coffee grounds, moldy blackberries or juice from a bag of chicken thighs. Among items the reporters retrieved were a stencil set, a sheet of scrapbook paper and the lemon curd. The curd jar showed an expiration date of May 2020.

The Journal cleaned and packed the three items (bubble-wrapping and taping the curd jar) and mailed them to an Amazon warehouse in Pennsylvania in September and October. The Journal completed Amazon's documentation requirements by specifying the items' universal product codes, the numbers next to bar codes on most products. Amazon didn't ask about the inventory's origins or sell-by dates. The Journals' dumpster finds were soon up for sale with an Amazon Prime logo, available to millions of shoppers, including the listing for "Trader Joe's Imported English Authentic Lemon Curd 10.5oz" at \$12.00. [The WSJ says they quickly bought the product themselves so that no one else would.]

After a later dumpster dive, the Journal was able to go through almost all of the listing process with salvaged breath mints, sunflower seeds, marmalade, crispbread, fig fruit butter, olives, a headband and a Halloween mask, stopping just short of shipping them to the Amazon warehouse, which is required for an item to appear for purchase on the site. To list a sunscreen lotion, Amazon asked for a safety-data sheet. Attempts to list a protein powder, a pea-powder dietary supplement and a

face sheet mask (all from the dive) elicited a request from Amazon for proof of purchase.

A Trader Joe's spokeswoman, Kenya Friend-Daniel, said the grocer doesn't approve of its products' sale on Amazon and that its policy is to discard an item only if it isn't fit for sale. Michaels spokeswoman Mallory Smith said: *"We do not approve of the sale of Michaels products by unauthorized third party sellers."*

'Broken things'

Amazon uses warehouse workers to identify problematic products, and computers direct workers to make spot checks. Some former employees said the daily volume is often too large to handle, with workers charged with scanning sometimes hundreds of items an hour. *"I myself ignored broken things more often than not,"* said Chris Grantham, who held several roles in Amazon's fulfillment center in Ruskin, Fla., until 2017, including quality-assurance inspector.

Amazon urged speed over precision, penalizing workers who didn't hit productivity requirements, he said. Workers sometimes changed expiration dates for expired products in the computer, he said, so they wouldn't be expected to perform a complicated disposal process; a shortcut noted by several warehouse employees in a discussion reviewed by the Journal in a restricted Facebook group for Amazon workers. The investigation even found that over-the-counter medications and personal care products were often *"trash"* items which had been previously thrown out by another retailer for being expired.

The Amazon spokeswoman said workers have the authority to sideline unacceptable products and that Amazon employs *"multiple checks and balances in the inventory and picking process to ensure quality control standards are upheld."* Regarding worker-productivity requirements, she said *"performance is measured and evaluated over a long period of time."*

Jesse Durfee said he has used Amazon to sell toys, videogames, electronics and trinkets from dumpsters including bins behind Michaels and GameStop stores. The 26-year-old in Torrington, Conn., said one of his

favorite places to find things to list on Amazon is his town dump. He said he lists his dumpster finds as used and declined to identify his storefront, saying he fears other sellers might try to sabotage him. In a 2017 YouTube video, he tests out television remote controls he said he found in a dumpster and tells viewers they can wash off corroded battery compartments with baking soda and water.

He said he opened his Amazon store six years ago after realizing it was more lucrative to resell inventory than work as a photographer. *"I started with dumpster diving because I had no money to buy inventory,"* he said, and branched into buying at thrift stores and discount-store clearance sections for items to sell on Amazon. *"I'll go to pawnshops, I'll go dumpster diving,"* he said. *"I'm one of those people who does everything"*.

Negative Comments

Some sellers on Amazon's internal discussion boards have voiced concerns about garbage showing up on the site. One, in a post titled *"Dumpster Divers Overrunning Beauty Category,"* wrote of items in bad condition that resulted in complaints directed at the poster and other sellers in the category.

Among the 4,300 listings the Journal reviewed, 241 (including generic ibuprofen, Sun Chips and an Amazon's Choice face lotion) had at least five reviews from different customers suggesting the item was used or expired. One reviewer said lipstick arrived with no packaging, marred and mildewed. Five reviewers said they received a protein bar sprouting white fungus, one writing: *"My daughter has eaten a handful of them and called me into the kitchen today to show me that there was MOLD on the bar she had eaten half of!!!!!!"*

The Amazon spokeswoman said the seller's characterization of the category as being overrun *"is wrong and baseless."* ▼

Written By: Khadeeja Safdar, Shane Shifflett and Denise Blostein

Published: December 18, 2019

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/>

Landfills as Museums: Sustainability & Fashion

A new perspective on waste and recycling has some students in the New York City area thinking twice about what they throw away.

Recently, a group of team members from the Greater Mid-Atlantic Area hosted a landfill tour for the Slow Factory, The Parsons School of Design, The Fashion Institute of Technology, and Adidas. The Slow Factory, a design lab that works with companies to research and implement sustainability-focused initiatives, contacted the Fairless Landfill team to journey on a partnership that would transform fashion students into sustainable designers.

The project called *“Landfills as Museums”* is an initiative driven by Celine Semann, founder of The Slow Factory and sustainability advocate, that feels designers should gather information and knowledge through an observed experience. That experience led 30 designers, professors and Celine to the Fairless Landfill to get an up-close understanding of the educational process of handling waste and recycling.

District Manager of the Fairless Landfill, Bobby Jones explained to the students the need for landfills and their role as society shifts to thinking more sustainable. He stressed that preserving the current air space in today’s facilities can be achieved by designing end products that can be more easily recycled or simply last longer.

“Opportunities to collaborate on projects like this, help all of us manage the lifecycle of the products we manufacture and consume,” said Scott Perin, Area Director of Disposal Operations for the Greater Mid-Atlantic Area

The Slow Factory and students from the fashion schools will continue their exploration through hands-on learning later this year as they have plans to visit a Waste Management recycling center.



The Slow Factory and Adidas developed a video on this topic: <https://vimeo.com/388864835> ▼

Written By: Adrienne Fors - Waste Management



(Center) WM staff discussing landfill operations to his class.
 (Left) Jay with the Parson’s School of Design is meeting with WM Staff for a facility tour.
 (Right) WM tour guide educating local fashion students about the landfill.

Photo Credit: Waste Management

SWANA Keystone Chapter Calendar of Events



For more Information, event registrations, and updated information please go to the Keystone Chapter's website: <http://www.keystoneswana.org/>

****NOTE Schedule is subject to change****

APRIL 2020

- Distribute Spring Edition of *The Keystone*

MAY 2020

- Friday 5/1 Chapter Scholarship Application Deadline
- Thursday. 5/7 at 10 am: **Board Meeting Conference Call**
- Nominating Committee presents Slate of Officers and Directors for election

JUNE 2020

- Monday 6/1 Deadline for Submittal of Grant H. Flint Scholarship recommendations to SWANA
- Thursday 6/4 at 10am: **Board Meeting Conference Call**
- Review annual budget

JULY 2020

- **No Board Meeting**
- Thursday July 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM: **Natural Aquatic Life Treatment System Mini-Technical Seminar, Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority Landfill**
- Wednesday 7/15, Article Deadline for Summer Edition of *The Keystone*

AUGUST 2020

- Thursday 8/6 at 10am: **Board Meeting Conference Call**
- Distribute Summer Edition of *The Keystone*

SEPTEMBER 2020

- Thursday and Friday, 9/17-9/18, **Annual Joint Fall Conference, Hilton Harrisburg**
- Friday 9/18 **Chapter Annual Business Meeting and Election** - immediately following Joint Fall Conference.



The SWANA Newsletter is published 3 times a year in **April, August, and December.**

If you would like to have your article included in *The Keystone*, please submit it by the 15th of the month prior to the scheduled release date. Any late articles will be held until the next issue.



****As a reminder articles are accepted throughout the year and while we encourage original articles they do not have to be originally written as long as a proper source is cited.****

Chapter Officers and Board of Directors

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Sean C. Sweeney, P.E...... **President**

Associate

Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Michele Nestor..... **Vice President**

President

Nestor Resource, Inc.

Tom Lock..... **Secretary**

Northeast Regional Manager

SCS Field Services

Dayle Anderson..... **Treasurer**

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

Bryan M. Wehler, P.E., P.G...... **Immediate Past President**

President and CEO

ARM Group Inc.

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Environmental Services Director

Streets Department, Sanitation Div. City of Philadelphia

Scot Sample

Executive Director

Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority

Jim Lambert

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Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority

Mike Engel

Assistant Operations Manager

Wayne Township Landfill

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Public Services Manager

Waste Management

Denise Wessels, P.E.

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Jill Hamil, P.E.

Project Manager

Civil and Environmental Consultants

Carolyn Witwer

Director of Sales Development

Penn Waste

▶ International Board Member

Robert Watts

Executive Director

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

▶ Young Professional Director

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*Thank you to all of our
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