

PENNSYLVANIA'S ACT 101 LEAF WASTE COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Act 101, Section 1501(c)(1)(ii) and (iii), requires persons in mandated municipalities to separate leaf waste from other municipal waste generated at residential, commercial, municipal and institutional establishments. "Leaf waste" is defined in the Act and its regulations as "Leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and similar material, but not including grass clippings." Source separated leaf waste, as with other recyclable material, is to be collected at least once per month as set forth in Act 101 Section 1501(c)(2) and (3) and processed at Pa. DEP-approved composting facilities.

Act 101 mandated municipalities with programs that collect leaves only in the fall are not in compliance with the Act. Mandated municipalities desiring to establish leaf waste collection programs in compliance with Act 101 must, as a minimum:

1. Require by ordinance that leaf waste consisting of leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and other similar material are targeted for collection from residences and commercial, municipal and institutional establishments; and
2. Establish a scheduled day, at least once per month, when leaf waste is collected from residences; or
3. Establish a scheduled day, not less than twice per year and preferably in the spring and fall, when leaf waste is collected from residences, and facilitate a drop-off location or other collection alternative approved by Pa. DEP that allows persons in the municipality to deposit leaf waste for the purposes of composting or mulching at least once per month. The leaf waste drop-off location may be located in a neighboring municipality or at a private sector establishment provided that an agreement is in place to utilize that location and the municipality keeps residents and commercial, municipal and institutional establishments informed of the option at least once every six months.
4. Ensure that commercial, institutional and municipal establishments generating leaf waste have collection service.
5. Municipalities are encouraged to manage source separated Christmas trees as leaf waste for processing at Pa. DEP-approved composting facilities.