

# Making the Best Lemonade

What do you do when you all you have are lemons?



[www.ircenvironment.org](http://www.ircenvironment.org)

# County Programs End

- ▶ Loss of county fees
  - Office closes
  - Four staff terminated
  - Haul-All drop-off recycling program ends
- ▶ IRC COG assumes
  - Compost facility (with two staff)
  - HHW & Special Collections
  - County waste plan update



# Drop-off Recycling

- ▶ Met with municipalities to discuss the issues
- ▶ Only option – municipal partnerships
- ▶ Several stepped forward
  - Greenfield Township & Steve's Recycling
  - Williamsburg/Woodbury & Kane Disposal
  - Frankstown Township & Wertz Disposal
  - Martinsburg Area & Cove Recycling
    - Martinsburg Borough
    - Huston Township
    - North Woodbury Township



# Greenfield Township



- Homemade containers
- Manually collected
- Private Sector Partner
  - Steve's Recycling
- IRC COG provided
  - Signs
  - Educational flyers



# Frankstown Township



- Private Sector Partners
  - Ken Wertz Hauling
  - Burgmeier's Recycling
- Containers
  - Fabricated for commingled
  - Dumpsters for paper/OCC
- IRC COG eventually provided
  - Signs
  - Educational flyers



***Martinsburg Area  
Recycling Center***

# Martinsburg Area

- Paid subscription
- Keycard access 24/7
- Private sector partners
  - Cove Recycling (Local)
  - Burgmeier Hauling (Regional)
- Municipalities
  - Martinsburg Borough
  - Huston Township
  - N. Woodbury Township



# Martinsburg Area



# Key Card Gate System

## **Martinsburg Area Recycling Center Instructions for Members**

1. Place KEYSKAN CARD in front of the "Red" Light.
2. Light will become "Green" and gate will unlock.
3. Push down and pull on gate lever handle to open.
4. Gate is self-closing and self-locking.

**Thanks for recycling!**

# How can we pay for it?

## ▶ Costs

- Construction
- Key card system
- Collection
- Signage & education

## ▶ Income

- Paper & cardboard collected for free
- Annual Membership
- Section 902 Grant



# Why it works?

- ▶ Some municipalities stepped up.
  - ▶ Haulers saw advantages.
    - Source of recyclable materials
    - Some commingled service provided income
    - Feared mandates or contracted hauling
  - ▶ The marketplace provided incentives
  - ▶ The IRC and the county SWAC were persistent
- 

# Why it's not a panacea...

- ▶ Many municipalities ignore waste & recycling.
  - ▶ Most haulers' unenthusiastic about recycling.
  - ▶ Some parts of rural Pennsylvania
    - Infrastructure lacking
    - Marketplace not so favorable
    - Fewer incentives to recycle
  - ▶ Counties still desperately need funding
    - Rural recycling
    - Proper disposal
    - Composting
    - Education & enforcement
- 

# Recycling Utopia

- ▶ Near 100% access to recycling
  - Curbside in Greater Altoona
  - Hauler requirement to recycle in non-mandated suburban municipalities
  - Drop-offs throughout rural communities
- ▶ Policy implementation
  - Ban the burning of recyclables
  - Require reporting of all recycling
  - Require waste collection
  - Require notable OCC and bottle/can generators to recycle