

The Landfill Insider: Let's Talk Trash



Fall, 2026 Newsletter

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Fall Seasonal Reminders

Fall brings changing routines, home projects, yard cleanups, and seasonal maintenance projects. As you tackle these projects, the reminders below can help protect your property, prevent accidents, and support safe waste handling for both residents and landfill employees.



Dispose of Rechargeable Batteries Properly

Never place rechargeable batteries or devices containing them in your regular trash or recycling. From phones and laptops to toys and tools, many of our favorite things run on rechargeable batteries. But when tossed in the trash or recycling bin, these batteries can spark intense fires that are nearly impossible to stop. To find a drop off location near you, please visit: <https://batterynetwork.org/locator/handling>



Handle Ashes Safely

Allow fireplace and wood stove ashes to cool completely for several days before disposal and follow local guidelines.



Secure Your Load

Cover and secure materials when transporting them to prevent litter and improve roadway safety.



Follow Our Recycling Guidelines

If you're using our recycle drop off, make sure you're only dropping off the following items: Cans, clean glass bottles and jars, rigid plastic containers and bottles, paper and cardboard.



Ask Astor



Our Ask Astor series is a Q & A column which focuses on providing answers to your most frequently asked questions about the landfill. Astor Lawson, our District Manager at Bethlehem Landfill, is an industry expert with more than 18 years successfully managing landfills.

Q: How does Bethlehem Landfill prepare for changing conditions during the fall season?

Seasonal rain, wind and temperature changes affect how landfill teams plan daily work. Operators monitor site conditions, maintain drainage features, apply cover materials and manage litter controls so the facility can continue operating responsibly throughout changing weather.

For more information, please visit www.bethlehemlandfill.com

Our Economic Impact in Lower Saucon Twp.

Bethlehem Landfill provides host-fee revenue that helps support Lower Saucon Township's budget and public services. According to an independent study by Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions, the Township could lose approximately \$2.8 million annually in landfill host fees if the landfill reaches capacity and closes without expansion. The study also states that the proposed Phase V expansion would generate more than \$63 million in new revenue for the Township. This revenue relationship means the landfill's impact extends beyond responsible waste management. The host fees provide a significant source of funding for the Township and help reduce the amount of revenue that must be raised from other sources.



What If This Revenue Went Away?

The same independent study reports that, without continued host-fee revenue, Lower Saucon Township would face annual budget deficits beginning in 2029 and could deplete its cash reserves. To maintain basic services, the study estimates that property taxes would need to increase by 6.06 mills, from 4.24 mills to 10.3 mills.

For a home assessed at \$175,000, the study estimates an annual property-tax increase of approximately \$1,060. Without the revenue provided by Bethlehem Landfill, Township leaders could face difficult decisions involving taxes, reserves and funding for essential services.

Source Note: Figures are based on the independent SACS study described in the Bethlehem Landfill Summer/Fall 2025 newsletter. Readers can visit www.bethlehemlandfill.com for additional information.

Environmental Responsibility

Capturing and Managing Landfill Gas

As waste naturally decomposes, it generates landfill gas. At Bethlehem Landfill, we use a network of gas collection wells, piping, and control systems to safely capture and manage this gas. The landfill is also home to a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility, which allows captured landfill gas to be processed and converted into a usable energy resource. This active management approach supports safe operations, environmental stewardship, and the beneficial use of landfill gas.



Collect

Gas extraction wells draw landfill gas from within the waste mass.



Transport

A network of piping carries the collected gas to the on-site Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility.



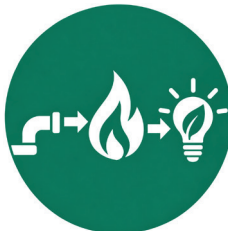
Process

The RNG facility cleans and upgrades the gas so it can be used as a renewable energy source.



Monitor

Teams continuously inspect and monitor the collection and processing systems to ensure they operate safely and efficiently.



Utilize

Captured gas is put to beneficial use through the RNG facility, helping recover energy from materials that would otherwise go unused.

How the Pieces Work Together

The landfill gas collection and Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) systems are part of a broader environmental management program at Bethlehem Landfill. These systems work alongside engineered liners, leachate collection and treatment, groundwater monitoring, daily cover practices, stormwater controls, and final capping systems to support safe, responsible, and environmentally sound landfill operations.

In the Community

2026 Bethlehem Landfill Scholarship Recipients

Bethlehem Landfill is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 scholarship program. We are thrilled to be able to offer these scholarship opportunities to high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in environmental science or engineering. **Congratulations to all of the recipients!**



Erika Broeskke



Charlotte Immer



Noah Kline



Benjamin Taylor



Kora Weber



Mark Your Calendar! Free Fall Clean Up Event

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Residents must obtain a coupon from the Lower Saucon Township office and present it upon arrival.