

GROWTH TRENDS

Current, interesting and useful data from the YCPC

Earth Day Edition

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd. Across the country and around the world, various events demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first Earth Day was in 1970, in response to a massive oil spill in the water near Santa Barbara, CA. Today, there are Earth Day events in almost 200 countries. In honor of Earth Day, this edition of Growth Trends will look at energy use, recycling, and resource recovery.

ENERGY

In Pennsylvania, there are 104 electric power-generating facilities. The majority (64) are fossil fuel operations. Additionally, across PA, there are fourteen (14) hydroelectric plants and eight (8) nuclear power stations, as well as two (2) solar, eleven (11) wind, and five (5) biomass facilities. Electric power generation employs 9,398 people.

In York County, there are five (5) electric power generation establishments, including one (1) hydroelectric plant, one (1) nuclear power station, and three (3) fossil fuel-powered electric generation plants.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS



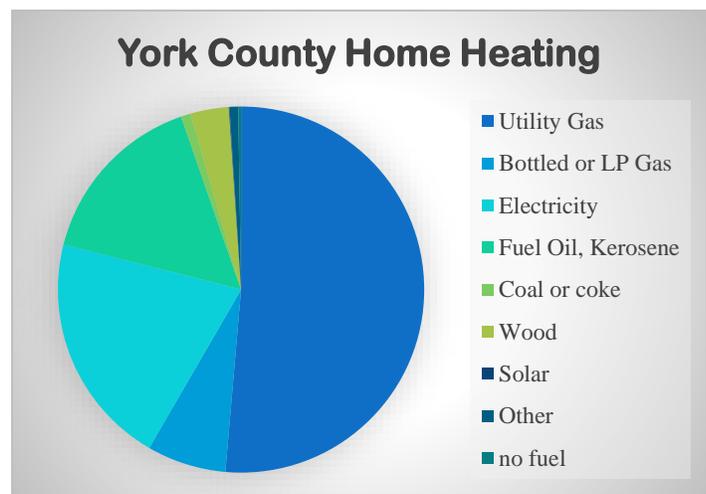
Home Heating in York County



The home heating chart shows how York County households heat their homes. Just over half (51%) use utility gas, 21% use electricity, and 16% use fuel oil or kerosene.

Only 0.05% (100) households in the County report solar power as their primary source of home heating. About 3% heat solely with burning wood.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS



Source: US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

According to the York County Solid Waste Authority, 63 of 72 municipalities in York County participate in curbside recycling programs. Approximately 99% of York County residents have access to curbside or drop-off recycling programs.

What can be recycled?

- Aluminum – food and beverage containers, aluminum siding, car components and lawn furniture. **Although aluminum is non-renewable, it can be recycled indefinitely.**
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Plastic bottles/jugs/containers imprinted with numbers 1-7 on the container.
- Newspaper, cardboard, other paper
- Plastic bags – while not accepted in curbside recycling, plastic bags (grocery, dry cleaning, food storage, and bags labeled #2 and #4) can be recycled at retail outlets.



Recycling conserves natural resources, reduces the need for landfilling and incineration, and prevents pollution caused by the extraction and processing of virgin materials.

Garbage is power!

The average family of 4 produces 2 tons of trash per year!

The York County Board of Commissioners established the York County Solid Waste Authority (YCSWA) in 1971 to assure the adequate and proper disposal of all municipal solid waste generated in York County. In 1979, the Authority began to consider investigating alternative waste disposal options for the County. After analyzing the needs of York County and carefully investigating methods of waste disposal, the Authority selected waste-to-energy technology — a proven environmentally sound and economically equitable method of waste management.

In 1989, the Resource Recovery Center (located in Manchester Township) began processing York County waste and generating electricity. The Center operates 24-hours a day, every day of the year and is designed to process 1,344 tons of waste per day. The facility processes all of York County's combustible municipal solid waste and some types of residual (manufacturing) waste. The Center also accepts waste from out-of-county to maintain optimum daily operations.

At full capacity, three (3) boilers produce 360,000 pounds of super-heated steam that passes through a turbine-driven generator. This produces 36-40 megawatts of electricity. High combustion temperatures help maintain acceptable emissions levels. By using garbage as a fuel to generate electricity (instead of fossil fuel), more than 375,000 barrels of fuel oil are saved each year.

**By using
resource
recovery, York
County...**

- reduces its garbage ash by 90%
- saves 13 acres of landfill space per year
- generates enough electricity to power 20,000 homes
- reuses 100% of the remaining ash residue