



White Township Adding Two New Service Fees For Residents

Starting this April, White Township (WT) residents and businesses will receive a new bill incorporating two new service fees. These new fees have been put into place to help WT cover rising costs related to **stormwater** and **recycling**. For many of you, this may be your first experience with a bill from WT; we already bill many residents and businesses for sewer services on a quarterly basis. This newsletter will give you the basics about each of these new programs and how they may affect you. Detailed information will be made available on our website www.whitetownship.org as the programs evolve in the

coming months. WT actively pursues grant funding opportunities where applicable for multiple township services. WT does not have a real estate tax, which is an option; but, then some properties would be exempt, leaving taxpayers to make up the difference. Property tax reform is a statewide issue and WT continues to set a good example by applying dedicated service fees to users and using generated funds only for the purpose for which they were established and not creating excess income.

What is stormwater and why am I now paying for it?

When the amount of rain falling exceeds the land's ability to absorb it, the result is stormwater runoff. Too much stormwater results in a number of challenges for WT. Primarily, these include more frequent and costly flooding events, the need to maintain or replace aging and/or failing stormwater facilities (inlets, pipes, basins, etc.), and declining water quality in our streams. These challenges, along with more stringent regulatory requirements, have forced WT to find new sources of revenue. Our General Fund cannot continue to cover these costs in a sustainable manner for WT.

How much am I going to have to pay?

All developed properties in WT, including tax-exempt properties, are subject to the fee. We all contribute, so we all pay. All residential properties will pay quarterly the same flat rate - \$2 per month. All developed non-residential properties will pay a multiplier of that rate based on the amount of measured impervious cover (paved surfaces, roofs, etc.) on the property. Being respectful of personal economic situations, WT has chosen to implement the stormwater program at 50% of the funds needed to fully support the program in 2016. WT will transition to a fully implemented program in 2017 and you should prepare to see this fee raised to \$4 per month in 2017 for full program operation.



How is money from the fee going to be used?

The revenue collected from the stormwater fee will fund only public stormwater services including:

- Capital projects to replace and upgrade aging or malfunctioning facilities;
- Proactive maintenance and inspection of public stormwater facilities;
- Development of up-to-date stormwater maps;
- Studies to identify the most impactful projects;
- Stream restoration projects for improved water quality and recreation opportunities;
- Education on stormwater and actions that local residents and businesses can take to address WT stormwater challenges.

Why am I now paying a fee for recycling?

By State mandate, WT is required to provide a recycling program. Since 1990, WT has provided curbside recycling service to the residents of WT. After 25 years the cost of this service, provided by the Indiana County Solid Waste Authority (ICSWA) to WT, has increased from a low of \$28,943 in 2007 to \$124,901 in 2015. Reasons for the increase include a decrease in material sales revenue and higher operating costs at the recycling center. In order to continue this mandated service WT must recover this cost or other WT services will be negatively impacted; such as, road maintenance (paving and snowplowing), infrastructure repairs (stormwater and traffic signals) and recreation (parks and services).

Residential curbside plastic collection was instituted in 2015 in an effort to increase materials collected and thereby increase sales revenue. Also, the recycling effort is the right thing to do as good stewards for protecting all our resources. The fee is not just for curbside collection cost but also for operating costs at the recycling center. That means that even if you deliver your recyclables to the center WT still pays for the processing of your materials and the collection trucks still have to drive their routes. We hope you will utilize the curbside collection

service as often as possible to save on your personal fuel costs and time. For those recycling magazines and cardboard, a trip to the center is still warranted but maybe not as often since plastics tend to be the bulkiest materials. Other township costs associated with recycling is the Spring Yard Waste and Fall Leaf Collection service. Again, this is mandated by the PA DEP to fulfill Act 101 requirements and also to qualify for annual Performance Grants. Adding plastics to the curbside collection was also an added cost to WT and is scheduled for a 3 year payback. Overall, the annual costs amount to \$175,000 for the next 3 years. As a reminder to all WT businesses you are also mandated to recycle materials more extensively than residents (including corrugated and office paper). The materials are to be delivered to the center or bulk material handlers and reported to ICSWA at year's end. This does become a credit for materials collected and may increase the amount of Performance Grant dollars received by WT.

What is the new WT Residential Recycling Fee?

The new recycling fee for residents is \$2.00 per month and will be billed quarterly using the new postcard format. All monies collected will be used only for recycling purposes and will not be used for other general fund expenses.

White Township Supervisors
 950 Indian Springs Road
 Indiana, PA 15701

Presorted
 Standard Mail
 US Postage
PAID
 Indiana PA
 Permit No 129

Important Information About Your New Bill



www.whitetownship.org

This is Your New Bill – Postcard Format

This side will highlight the charges that you will currently owe. All of the services that the Township is now charging for are listed here

When you pay your bill, you **keep** this part of it.

White Township Supervisors 950 Indian Springs Road Indiana, PA 15701 724-463-6585 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED Account #: Service Address: Billing Period: Previous Current Total Sewer Recycling Stormwater TOTAL DUE Due Date: Note:				Presorted First-Class Mail US Postage PAID Indiana, PA Permit No. 14	
Payments received after due date will incur late fees					
PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT					
ACCOUNT NO		BILLING PERIOD		TOTAL DUE	
DUE DATE		AMOUNT PAID			

This part of the bill get **returned** to the White Township office for payment.

These bills will be mailed to you every quarter beginning April 1.

Note: WT Businesses with 3 or more accounts will receive a customer billing statement (letter) instead of a postcard.