

Waste to Energy Position

The Chamber recognizes that dealing with waste materials has been getting more difficult and expensive ultimately increasing the cost of doing business. To the greatest extent that is practical and economical, the hierarchy of managing waste is:

1. Minimize the amounts of waste material generated.
2. Reuse/return materials in their original form.
3. Recycle materials for reprocessing into useful feedstock for new uses.
4. Convert remaining waste materials into energy.
5. Dispose in landfills.

The focus of this position is on conversion of waste-to-energy. Although great efforts have been under way for many years on the preferred recycling of waste materials, the end results have still left us with some serious and expensive issues. To varying degrees, and in spite of best recycling efforts, there will be unusable and unrecoverable volumes of waste. Absent sufficient capacity for conversion to energy, it is promptly directed to landfills, the least desirable option.

Considering energy needs and the environmental advantages, the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce encourages the establishment of additional waste-to-energy plants in conformance with all federal, state and local requirements.

The establishment of more waste-to-energy plants will:

- Decrease the amount of recycled material streams that just go to landfills
- Provide for a large reduction of waste volume
- Provide for the recovery of metals
- Provide renewable and reliable energy
- Provide more job opportunities throughout the state

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