



10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
eacbethlehempa@gmail.com

October 6, 2018

Michael Halbfoerster, Director of Recycling
City of Bethlehem
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Dear Mr. Halbfoerster,

On behalf of the entire Environmental Advisory Council, I welcome you as Director of Recycling for the City of Bethlehem. There are many talented people at City Hall and the EAC appreciates every opportunity to work with them.

At our monthly meetings we discuss a wide variety of topics in the environmental purview, some of these dealing with issues surrounding recycling. Given your new position, we invite you to join us for one of our meetings, so that we may meet and see where our interests coincide.

If you are able, the EAC meets on the first Thursday of every month, 7pm at Illick's Mill, 100 Illick's Mill Road in Bethlehem. We are usually joined by others in the community and always have a good dialogue.

For your information, the EAC sent the attached letter in April of 2017. We are not aware of any actions taken to furnish recycling containers in the downtown areas and ask that you take the recommendations in our letter under consideration when you have a chance, given that you are just settling into your new position.

We are delighted that you will be heading the City's recycling and sustainability efforts and look forward to assisting your department in any way possible.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

on behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Elisabeth Cichonski, Kathy Fox, Jack Gambino, Brian Hillard, Mike Topping

cc: Mayor Donchez
City Council



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April 7, 2017

City of Bethlehem
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Honorable Members of City Council:

It has come to our attention from citizen comments that the City of Bethlehem does not have recycling containers located on its Main Streets on both the North Side and the South Side of the City.

Recycling is an important part of a waste-reduction strategy. Recycling efforts can significantly reduce the amount of wastes in a landfill, reducing the potential of chemicals leaching into our groundwater. It also reduces the necessity of using ever more precious resources to create more disposable products, and instead turns products back into a raw material. Recycling is also beneficial in that it can serve as an income stream for municipalities.

The City of Bethlehem has embraced its recycling program and has an exemplary recycling center and curbside recycling program. The City requires businesses and institutions to recycle under Pennsylvania Act 101. Residents are also required to recycle at their homes under [City Ordinance #3821, Article 933.04](#).

However, the downtowns do not have any receptacles for recyclables located in the main street areas. The Hoover-Mason Trestle area does have recycling receptacles near its trash containers. When the Environmental Advisory Council representatives inquired about this omission, we were informed that there is inadequate budget to purchase the historically appropriate containers. Publicly visible recycling containers are a strong indication of this City's values and commitment. They would also serve as an additional income stream for our existing recycling program. Thus, we strongly recommend that funds be allocated to covering the cost of recycling containers and that alternative styles, quantity or placement be investigated.

The EAC believes that recycling containers on the North Side and South Side Main Streets are important to the continued success and sustainability of our city. We are proud that the Administration is committed to recycling and are willing to assist as needed.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

on behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

John Brunner

Jack Gambino

Brian Hillard

Kalya Procyk

Mike Topping

cc: Mayor Donchez

Michael B. Conway, Director of Recycling