

## Township's recycling efforts rewarded

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middletown

Middletown's various recycling efforts have earned the township a Waste Watcher award from the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association and the Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America.

Bucks County Recycling Coordinator and PROP member Arthur Feltes presented township officials with the award at Tuesday night's supervisors meeting.

The awards are given to recycling, waste reduction, reuse and composting programs in Pennsylvania that exhibit "exemplary performance." This year, 70 awards were given out across the state - including four in Bucks County - to municipalities, counties, private businesses, individuals or community organizations.

Middletown was nominated for the award by Geri Thompson, community relations coordinator at Waste Management, the company that picks up Middletown's trash and recyclables and cooperates with the township on recycling efforts.

Last year, Middletown collected more than 4,100 tons of recyclables, including cans, bottles, cardboard, newspaper and other materials, and also almost 3,700 tons of yard waste, according to numbers provided by the three associations that sponsor the award.

The township holds an annual Earth Day Celebration where recycling and composting programs are emphasized, and has started collecting recyclables at township parks. Middletown collects Christmas trees to turn into compost, and also started a program called Make the Switch that encouraged people to switch to reusable water bottles, an effort to cut down on the number of plastic water bottles going to the landfills.

"Middletown's efforts in these areas are absolutely extraordinary, and above and beyond," said Feltes.

Other Waste Watcher awards in Bucks County went to: The Springfield Environmental Advisory Council for a tire recycling program; the Begin Committee, an association of county employees that works on green and recycling initiatives; Waste Management and the Newspaper In Education departments of the Courier Times and Intelligencer for their cooperative recycling education initiatives.

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