






# Limited Recycling



 <b>POPULATION</b>	387,404
 <b>RECYCLING RATE</b>	21% (residential only)
 <b>RECYCLING PROGRAMS</b>	Mandatory Single-Family Residential Recycling Mandatory Multi-Family/Commercial Recycling
 <b>MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	Single-Family Residential: Municipal Multi-Family/Commercial: Open Market
 <b>HIGH-ROAD ECONOMIC POLICIES</b>	Green Purchasing Policy

**The City of Pittsburgh benefits from state regulations** that establish a 35% recycling goal and make recycling mandatory at residences, businesses and institutions. Within this framework the city's efforts to increase recycling focus primarily on single-family residences with consideration of Pay-as-You-Throw and education programs to increase participation. Increased recycling is recognized as a stream of revenue for the city and has created some momentum to create a stronger system. While funding and budget constraints make expanding recycling programs challenging, the city could consider adopting a stronger management system that would enable the city to set service and job quality standards for commercial and multi-family collections and potentially generate revenue. In addition to building a more robust commercial recycling program, the food scrap and construction & demolition waste streams should be addressed in order to build toward a sustainable recycling system.

**Sources:**

*Interview with the Department of Public Works Environmental Services  
Allegheny County Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan  
City of Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan*

