

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 9
NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS: Approximately 78 percent of solid waste collected in Delaware County is required to be incinerated at the COVANTA incinerator in Chester, PA, due to stipulations in the current contract guaranteeing minimum waste volumes;

WHEREAS: Incineration of solid waste in Delaware County is a significant source of air pollution in our County and Township, a persistent threat to the health and quality of life of Chester and Nether Providence Township residents, an inefficient source of renewable electricity, and a significant source of toxic ash that must be landfilled after incinerating waste;

WHEREAS: The current contract for the COVANTA incinerator expires in April of 2022 with renewal consideration beginning in May of 2021;

WHEREAS: The County's and Township's residents and the environment would be better served by taking steps to transition to a Zero Waste strategy to significantly reduce solid waste;

Be it RESOLVED that The Nether Providence Township:

1. Asks the Delaware County Council in collaboration with Chester City Council ensure that the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority does not extend the COVANTA incineration contract under its current terms when the option is presented to the Solid Waste Authority by COVANTA as early as May 1, 2021. If the COVANTA contract is extended after a thorough analysis of all available options, Nether Providence Township asks the Delaware County Council in collaboration with Chester City Council negotiate a shorter renewal term, a reduction in the guaranteed minimum quantity of waste incinerated, and substantial improvements in incinerator environmental performance.
2. Asks the Delaware County Health Department, once established, to assess the environmental, air quality, and noise pollution in neighborhoods affected by the incinerator, evaluate short- and longer-term health effects on residents, and recommend substantive actions to improve public health and quality of life.
3. Asks Delaware County Council (in consultation with the Delaware County Sustainability Commission and/or the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority) to retain Zero Waste experts to perform an audit of waste management in Delaware County, including options for reducing and recycling solid waste, and composting of

organics, before the current Solid Waste Authority contract with COVANTA expires in April of 2022.

4. Asks the Delaware County Council to develop and incentivize municipalities to expeditiously implement a county-wide Zero Waste Plan, including "Pay- or Save-As-You-Throw" programs, curbside organics collection and composting, and other proven waste-reduction strategies. The county-wide Zero Waste Plan should also incentivize and support businesses to enact similar Zero Waste behaviors.
5. Asks Delaware County Council in collaboration with Chester City council to evaluate any associated decrease in the host community fee paid by COVANTA to the City of Chester, and identify off-setting economic development measures to implement.
6. Will request that Township's Environmental Advisory Commission assess Township waste management with a goal of developing a Nether Providence Township Zero Waste Plan.

RESOLVED, This 22nd day of April, 2021

By: 
President of Commissioners

Attest: 
Township Manager