



Grand Central Recycling Facility Earns Pennsylvania Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

By Adrienne Fors / Community & Municipal Relations Manager Greater Mid-Atlantic Region

PEN ARGYL, PA, - WM is proud to announce that its Grand Central Recycling Facility in Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, has been honored with the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, one of the Commonwealth's highest recognitions for environmental innovation and leadership.

This award highlights WM's commitment to sustainability and its continued investment in advanced recycling infrastructure that helps build a more circular economy.

In 2025, WM completed a \$48 million upgrade to the Grand Central Recycling Facility, transforming it into a state-of-the-art, 82,500-square-foot recycling campus equipped with cutting-edge technology. The facility features optical sorters, volumetric scanners, AI-enabled systems, and intelligent control platforms designed to reduce contamination, improve sorting precision, and produce higher-quality recyclable materials for manufacturing.

"Receiving the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award is a tremendous honor and reflects the dedication of our team and our investment in innovative recycling solutions," said Chris Farley, Area Vice President.

Since becoming operational in 2025, the facility has delivered significant environmental benefits:

- 27,146 tons of recyclables processed in its first partial year (May–December 2025)
- Equivalent to removing approximately 16,700 passenger vehicles from the road in greenhouse gas reductions (EPA equivalency)
- Expanded ability to accept a wider range of materials, including more plastics
- Improved commodity quality for reuse in manufacturing

At full capacity, the facility is expected to process up to 120,000 tons annually, doubling the throughput of WM's previous recycling facility and increasing material recovery across the region.

The Grand Central Recycling Facility serves residential and commercial customers across the Lehigh Valley, Poconos, and surrounding communities in Eastern Pennsylvania and Western New Jersey, strengthening regional access to reliable recycling infrastructure.

The facility plays an important role in advancing Pennsylvania's goals under Act 101, which aims to:

- Increase recycling participation
- Reduce landfill dependence
- Achieve at least a 25% municipal waste recycling rate

The Grand Central project is part of WM's broader commitment to increase materials recovery by 60% - reaching 25 million tons annually by 2030. To achieve this goal, WM is investing more than \$1.4 billion to build and upgrade recycling facilities across North America with advanced automation and artificial intelligence.

In addition to its operational capabilities, the facility includes a dedicated education room, providing a space for community engagement and reinforcing the importance of proper recycling.

