

SHARED SERVICES: Bucks County Examples

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Middletown Township Manager

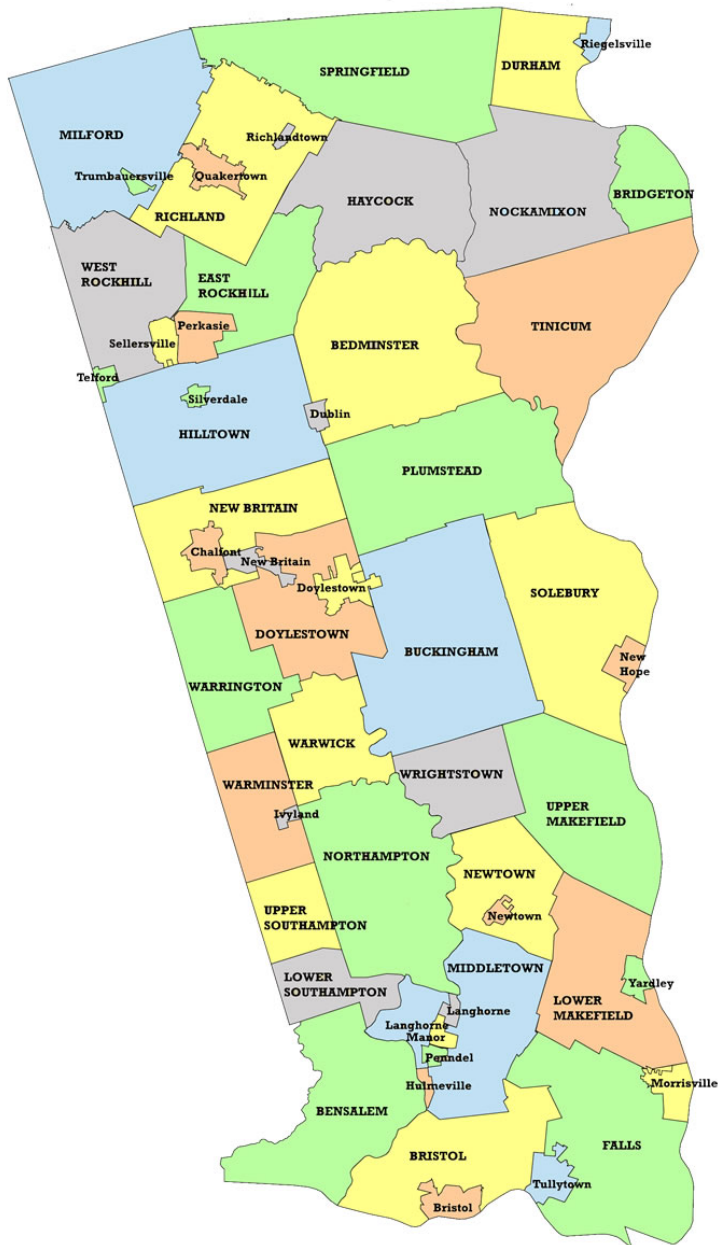
June 7, 2013

Examples

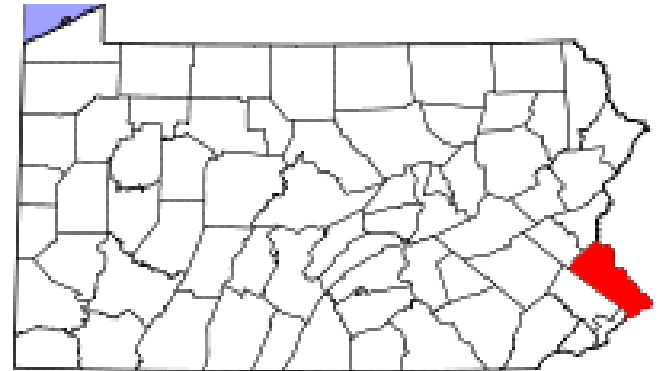
- **Bucks County Consortium**
- **Delaware Valley Trusts**
- **Towns Against Graffiti (TAG)**

Bucks County Consortium





Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Bucks County Consortium

- **Initiated in 1980**
- **Discussion of common interest areas**
- **Monthly meetings led to the official creation of the Bucks County Consortium**



Bucks County Consortium

- Today includes 38 communities, operating under formal Articles of Agreement adopted by membership



Articles of Incorporation

- **Voluntary organization**
- **Seeking solutions to mutual problems for mutual benefit**
- **Combining resources to meet challenges**

Wide Variety of Inter-municipal Programs

- **Joint Bidding**
- **Addressing Governmental Mandates**
- **Personnel and Labor Relations**

Joint Bidding

- Road Salt
- Heating Oil
- Gasoline/Diesel Fuel
- Road Materials
- Pipe
- Leaf Recycling Bags
- Road Paint



Programs Addressing Governmental Mandates

- **Drug Testing Program**
- **Cooperative Effort to address Storm water Management Regulations**
- **Healthcare Legislation**



Personnel and Labor Relations

- **Labor Contracts**
- **Annual Salary Survey**
- **Personnel Policies**
- **Training**



Monthly Programming

- Annual budgeting roundtable
- Meetings with elected officials at other levels of government
- Discussion of timely topics
 - Social media
 - Economy
 - Performance Measurement
- Joint Programming with Montgomery County Consortium

Benefits - Financial Savings

- **Joint Bidding:** advertising costs, bulk purchasing savings, contract administration, staff time.
- **Addressing Mandates:** power of group, less duplication of effort, access to higher-level professionals
- **Personnel/Labor Relations:** access to information can lead to savings, cost reduction for group training

Other benefits

- Knowledge sharing
- Mentoring of junior managers
- Networking with peers



Delaware Valley Insurance Trusts



What are Delaware Valley Insurance Trusts?

- Risk-sharing pools
- 94 public entity members
- Members opt to voluntarily leave commercial insurance market and share, or collectively retain, risk
- Delivering tailored, quality coverage for significantly lower administrative overhead



Risk pooling coverage lines

- Property & Liability (DVIT)
- Workers Compensation (DVWCT)
- Health & Dental (DVHIT)



Management

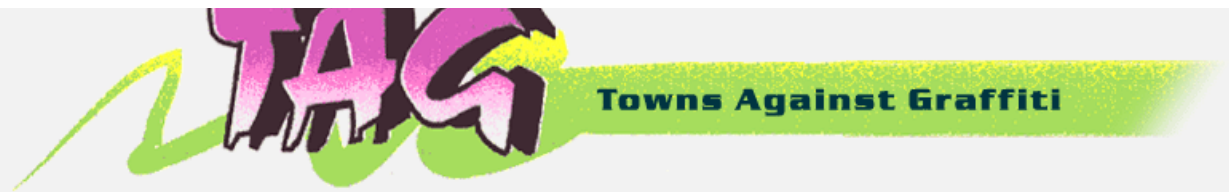
- **Trusts governed by a Board of Trustees**
- **Each municipality receives one (1) vote on the Board; voting is not weighted.**
- **Executive Committee provides management oversight**

| Trust | Initial Members | Premium | 2011 Membership | 2011 Premium |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| DVIT | 18 (1989) | \$3 Million | 38 | \$7.7 Million |
| DVWCT | 27 (1992) | \$3.1 Million | 58 | \$9.5 Million |
| DVHIT | 16 (1999) | \$6.8 Million | 83 | \$75 Million |

Overall advantages

- **Excess funds returned to membership:**
 - Dividends
 - Rate Stabilization Fund
 - Multi Trust Discounts
 - Loss Control Grants
- Coverage levels and technical services greatly surpass conventional insurance programs.
- Conservative premium-to-surplus ratio.

Towns Against Graffiti



Towns Against Graffiti

- **Cooperative program formed in 1997**
- **9 Municipalities**
 - Bensalem Township
 - Bristol Borough
 - Bristol Township
 - Falls Township
 - Lower Makefield Township
 - Lower Southampton Township
 - Middletown Township
 - Penndel Borough
 - Tullytown Borough

History

- Proliferation of graffiti in early 1990s
- Association of graffiti with gang activity
- Effort initiated by Mayor of Bensalem



Getting Started

- **Working committee**
 - Elected officials and police
- **Gain bipartisan support of elected officials**
- **Goal**
 - Full time employee and equipment to provide graffiti removal

Getting Started

- Fundraising:
 - Corporate Donations
 - Grants



Three pronged approach

- **Graffiti Abatement Legislation**
- **Graffiti Removal and Criminal Enforcement**
- **Community Awareness**



Graffiti Abatement Legislation

- **Zero Tolerance Ordinance**
 - Possession of aerosol container of spray paint or broad-tipped indelible marker by any minor is prohibited on all public property
- **Prohibition of Sale to Minors**
 - Sale to minors prohibited

Graffiti Removal and Criminal Enforcement

- **Graffiti hotline**
- **Response from full-time employee**
- **Removal within 48 hours**
- **Photo documentation of all “Tags” for use in enforcement**
- **Coordination with schools**



Community Awareness

- Public involvement in fight against blight
- TAG hotline



Addition of Litter Removal Program

- **Public Partnership with Department of Corrections**
- **5 days/week**
- **All main thoroughfares**



Results

- More than 10,000 sites addressed since inception
- Because graffiti is about recognition, prompt removal has led to a reduction in incidents
- 57,000 bags of trash
3,300 tires collected
since 2002



Questions?

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