The Association believes that government at all levels has a responsibility to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy a clean, safe, and bountiful environment. Accordingly, the Association has consistently supported local, state, and federal policies that will ensure the preservation of our environment for all Pennsylvanians without imposing an undue burden and cost on the residents.

The state Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should recognize local governments as partners and work with them in the protection of the environment. To that end, both agencies should recognize the variety of environmental problems faced by Pennsylvania’s municipalities and the need for diverse, multifaceted alternatives to meet local environmental needs.

**Solid waste**

The Association continues to believe that local governments must have a strong voice in the siting of all waste disposal facilities in the commonwealth, including hazardous, solid, and low-level radioactive waste facilities.

PSATS supports the implementation of siting distance requirements, stronger facility performance requirements, and greater authority over waste shipped through and/or disposed of in a municipality.

The Association supports the notion that counties and municipalities can work together to develop effective solid waste management plans under Act 101 of 1988 that address their mutual concerns. However, municipalities must continue to have a voice in solid waste management decisions made at the county level.

**Recycling**

The Association has been a leading advocate of establishing and maintaining recycling programs to reduce the volume of trash disposed of in landfills. However, the recent collapse of recycling markets is creating significant stress on these programs, and townships are now being forced to landfill materials that were formerly recyclable.

For municipal recycling programs to continue to function, new national and international markets for recycled goods must be created, and the commonwealth must undertake educational efforts to re-educate residents on what materials are recyclable and how to prepare these materials for recycling. The commonwealth should increase funding for existing recycling programs and provide incentives for businesses that produce goods with recycled content and consumers who purchase such goods.

PSATS supports the continuation of the state Recycling Fund and opposes the transfer of funds from the state’s recy-
cling program for unrelated purposes, which weakens support for local recycling programs. Without both start-up funding and performance grants, many townships will not be able to financially meet their mandate to recycle, and voluntary recycling programs will be eliminated.

DEP should not create policies that limit municipal flexibility to determine how to enforce recycling ordinances and should not punish a municipality that fails to comply with department policy that has not gone through the regulatory process by withholding grant funding.

Waste tires should be required to be recycled at the point of sale for new tires, and dealers should be regulated to ensure that old tires are properly disposed of.

**Electronics Recycling**

While well-intended, the Covered Devices Recycling Act of 2010 has created a situation where it is impossible or cost-prohibitive to recycle or dispose of large electronics, such as old monitors and televisions. Townships are plagued with these devices, either properly disposed of or collected from along local roads.

This act must be amended to create a more stable and comprehensive manufacturer-implemented electronics recycling infrastructure. Such amendments must provide for year-round collection of electronic waste in a manner consistent with convenience standards relevant to both rural and urban populations and alleviate the immediate financial pressures faced by local governments because of this act.