

P2E2 Roundtable

May 18, 2017

Weis Markets, Selinsgrove, Snyder County



On May 18, 2017, members of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency Roundtable (P2E2 RT) met at Weis Markets for their second quarter meeting. The meeting was attended by Microbac, Emerson, Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD), Patterson-Kelley, Maryland Biochemical Company, Snyder County Solid Waste Management Authority, SPX Corporation, SC Engineers, Clinton and Centre County Solid Waste Management facilities. The locations of the attendees ranged from the Allentown area, central PA, northeast PA, Maryland, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Weis Markets, Inc. has recently been recognized by the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) for its food waste composting initiative and its reusable and plastic bag recycling programs with the 2016 annual "Business Leadership in Recycling Award." Weis recycles over 33,000 tons of material. The award recognizes Weis Markets for its food composting program currently conducted in 70 stores throughout the Mid Atlantic region, its creative recycling of waxed cardboard that is used to produce Enviro-Log Fire Logs sold in company stores, and its recycling of plastic bags, which are used to produce Trex wood-alternative decking. The plastic lumber made from these bags is also built into benches that are distributed throughout local communities.



The tour included a demonstration of Weis's Grind2Energy system that is used to divert food waste from landfills. The USDA states that a full 10% of the available U.S food supply is wasted every year and this waste stream has caught the eye of legislators in the U.S. The ground-up food material is stored in a tank and later pumped out and trucked to a wastewater treatment plant or privately owned, stand-alone digester. This has a dual benefit in diverting organic waste from landfills while helping to generate more biogas and more energy. TYAD expressed an interest in using the system for their cafeteria waste. A steering committee meeting was held to discuss plans for the 20th Anniversary of the Roundtable.