In 2003, Pennsylvania accepted waste from 28 states (including DC), plus Puerto Rico and Canada. 94% of these imports were from New Jersey and New York.
Pennsylvania Waste Facilities Map

[Note: This map doesn't include closed or defeated waste facilities or facilities that aren't permitted as municipal or residual solid waste disposal facilities.]

- Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (48 existing; 4 proposed)
- Residual Waste Landfills (4 existing, including the Harrisburg ash dump; 1 proposed)
- Construction & Demolition Waste Landfills (6 existing; 1 proposed)
- Municipal Solid Waste Incinerators (5 existing; 4 proposed)

Solid symbols are existing facilities; Hollow ones are proposed.
Overpermitting: Making PA the Regional Dumping Ground

PA DEP has issued permits for Pennsylvania's waste facilities to take in 3 times the amount of waste that we generate:

- Extra Amount of Dumping Allowed Under Existing Permits (Permitted Yearly Volume)
- Pennsylvania Waste (Actual Volume from PA in 2003)

PA DEP has permitted this much waste to be dumped/burned in PA

This much waste is dumped/burned in PA

This much waste is produced in PA
Pennsylvania Waste Disposal Trends
(based on PA DEP data)

MSW = Municipal Solid Waste (household and commercial trash)
"Total Waste" figures include industrial (non-MSW) waste streams
Why have Pennsylvania's waste imports started to decrease since 2002?

"Several factors appear to have been at work. First, in the last two years, Pennsylvania imposed a new state fee of $5.00 per ton on waste disposal. Added to pre-existing fees, the state now collects $7.25 on each ton of waste disposed in the state. This may have provided sufficient economic incentive for some haulers to dispose elsewhere. Second, the state appears to be receiving less waste from New York City, whose Mayor has adopted a goal of shipping all of New York City’s waste by rail, rather than truck. Pennsylvania has no landfills served by rail, so some of this waste has been diverted to large landfills in Virginia that do have rail service."

-Interstate Shipment of Municipal Solid Waste: 2004 Update, Congressional Research Service
Cheap Dumping in PA Prevents Recycling in New York City

Recycling also provides the City with a significant degree of control over rising disposal costs by eliminating the transportation costs associated with reaching distant landfills and incinerators. Further, New York City can lower its recycling costs by providing support for markets for recycled goods. Waste prevention efforts, such as legislation limiting excess packaging, avoid 100 percent of all of the disposal costs.

October 2004 New York City Comptroller Report: “No Room to Move – New York City’s Impending Solid Waste Crisis”