

## **Walt Davenport**

Walt has dedicated his life and career to providing professional leadership and service to clients and customers in the waste management and recycling industry both in the Commonwealth, and across the U.S. Many of you may not be aware that Walt actually got his start in the waste & recycling industry by working on the back of a rear-loader truck as a teenager. From here, Walt began his career working for private sector haulers, where he specialized in managing residential, commercial, and roll-off operations. He spent over 10 years as a district manager, where he specialized in troubleshooting low-performing collection districts for several major haulers. He excelled at this troubleshooting because of his operational knowledge, clear communication at all levels of the organization and strong leadership qualities.

During this time, Walt became aware that so many of the largest customers – including authorities, cities, counties, townships and boroughs – needed help with optimizing their waste management and recycling systems. Recognizing this need, Walt made a career shift in the 90's that continues to this day. He exited the private hauler world and began taking on consulting work to help cities and counties improve their systems. For the next 10 years, he worked as a sole proprietor consultant, taking on projects directly with some communities, but also quickly earned a reputation as an operations expert and was added to project teams by multiple consulting and engineering companies. In 2005, Walt launched MSW Consultants to form a platform to better serve local governments.

Walt was instrumental in developing the sampling plan and executing PA DEP's 2002 statewide waste characterization, where he led project teams at a dozen landfills and transfer stations across the Commonwealth for weeks at a time. In 2008 with MSW Consultants, Walt secured and managed the performance of the City of Philadelphia's residential waste characterization study. Today, he is managing DEP's 2020 update to their statewide waste composition. In addition, he has helped Pennsylvania clients establish technically robust auditing programs to identify the composition and contamination levels in their single stream recyclables.

Another great accomplishment of Walt's has been to help local governments improve their collection efficiency and recycling optimization. He has provided collection optimization guidance to over two dozen boroughs and townships through the Recycling Technical Assistance program that spanned roughly 10 years up to 2016. Walt was among the first consultants who realized that maximizing efficiency of the refuse collection system saved money and created the ability to expand curbside recycling collection. In recent years, he has guided MSW Consultants as the only consulting firm in the industry to create an online, app-based system for MRFs and/or their suppliers to perform their own audits and upload the results to a cloud-based system where both parties can review their contamination levels and calculate the market value of their recyclables in real time.