



Farmland Preservation

January 25, 2022

Modern Landfill's host fees support farmland preservation efforts

YORK, Pa. (Jan. 25, 2022) – Modern Landfill is vital to helping Lower Windsor Township fulfill its mission to protect farmland and preserve the community's rural character and agricultural heritage.

Using hosting fees from Modern Landfill, Lower Windsor Township established a Purchase Conservation Easement Program to purchase agricultural land and protect it from the pressures of development.

In 2008, for example, the township allocated \$250,000 from its landfill fees to support the program, and through June of that year, seven farms comprising a total of 337 acres had been preserved, according to the York County Planning Commission's "[York County Agricultural and Protection Plan](#)" (Page 25).

Modern Landfill currently pays Lower Windsor Township \$900,000 in annual host fees. Under the proposed expansion, those payments would increase to \$1.2 million per year. Among other benefits, the landfill also would pay the township \$250,000 in three installments for any need it has.

Imagine what that could do for local farmland preservation efforts.

According to a "[Farmland Preservation Strategy](#)" ([Appendix C](#)) prepared in 2002 to supplement and complement an update to the township's [Comprehensive Plan](#), which remains in effect, Lower Windsor Township is in a unique position compared to other municipalities that want to preserve farmland because it has an existing source of revenue in Modern Landfill's fees to fund easements.

In December 2020, however, Lower Windsor Township supervisors voted to end negotiations with Modern Landfill over a new host agreement with revised and higher fees for the proposed expansion. **At current acceptance rates, Modern Landfill only has four years of life remaining.**

Modern Landfill might have a small footprint in Lower Windsor Township, but the benefits it brings are enormous, especially when it comes to helping the township preserve farmland and protect the small town, rural character that residents and local officials cherish.

Learn more at <https://modernlandfillpa.com>.

