

# Lorain County



solid waste management district

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



# REDUCE

# REUSE

# RECYCLE

# COMPOST



# A Letter from the Director

Dear Lorain County Resident:


The year of 2014 was an exciting and productive. The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District (District) continued to explore new programs which allow more and easier recycling, and to improve existing operations to improve our local environmental sustainability. The success in reducing and recycling waste in our county would not be possible without the support and participation from our political subdivisions, residents, and elected officials, and once again we are genuinely grateful.

One of the District's highlights during 2014 was helping local communities to form a consortium for waste collection services. Through this process, Lorain County townships, villages, and the City of Avon Lake were able to secure contracts resulting in cost savings for residents. I am happy to report that the roll-out of these collection services during 2014 has been largely successful. Although we experienced a few glitches initially, issues were ironed out quickly and most residents seem to be pleased with services under the new contracts.

An ongoing project for the District which involves a number of different public and private sector entities is expanding our county's ability to manage organic waste locally. This project continued to move forward during 2014 with the execution of an agreement with Barnes Nursery to provide services related to the development of a Class II compost facility. Negotiations have also been ongoing with the State of Ohio to find a suitable site in the county for a composting facility. We believe that organic waste recovery cannot realize its potential until a processing facility is available and operating in Lorain County. Since organic waste comprises such a high percentage of the total waste disposed, this project is especially important.

Please take the time to look through this report and see all the programs our District has to offer. We hope to see you at our Collection Center or at activities for other programs we offer to the residents, communities, businesses, and institutions in Lorain County. We hope you share in our vision to reduce waste to create a healthier environment and stronger economy.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Bailey  
District Director

## Our Mission

To Implement the Lorain County  
Solid Waste Management Plan by  
Educating & Encouraging  
Recycling Efforts, Waste  
Reduction, & Litter Prevention in  
Lorain County

## Commissioners

**Lori Kokoski**  
**Matt Lundy**  
**Ted Kalo**

## Policy Committee

**Ted Kalo**  
*Commissioner*  
**Chase Ritenauer**  
*Mayor, City of Lorain*  
**David Covell**  
*Health Commissioner*  
**Brian Parsons**  
*Chair, Representing the Public*  
**David Urig**  
*Representing Townships*  
**Ken Schneider**  
*Representing Industry*  
**Dr. David Hintz**  
*Representing the Public*

## District Staff

**Keith A. Bailey**  
*Director*  
**Beverly Gardner**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
**David L. McGuire**  
*Collection Center Coordinator*  
**Brandi N. Schnell**  
*Community Outreach Coordinator*  
**Tiffany Barker**  
*Marketing Coordinator*  
**Marilyn Pileski**  
*Solid Waste Accounts Specialist*  
**Sally Pecora**  
*Project Manager*



A proud member of the Lorain  
County Growth Partnership

# Connect with the District

## Give Us a Call...

We can answer any of your questions about:

- How to dispose or recycle any type of solid waste
- How to dispose of household hazardous materials
- Solid waste district events or programs
- Materials and products that are made with recycled content
- Scheduling a presentation for your school or group

**Toll-free: 1-800-449-5463**

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday

*Last year, we assisted 4,219 residents with questions about recycling and waste management on our hotline!*

## ...Or Visit Us on the Web!

Visit us at: [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste). To serve you better, the website offers easy access to information related to solid waste management and recycling. Our website includes:

- Local solid waste news and events
- Reports and publications
- Hours and materials accepted at the Collection Center
- Educational services and materials, including a “Kids Corner”
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Recycling tips for your home and office
- And much more!



## We're on Facebook!

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is on Facebook! Our page ([facebook.com/LCSolidWaste](https://facebook.com/LCSolidWaste)) is regularly updated with upcoming events, photos, videos, links, articles, and tips on waste reduction. “Like” us to stay connected and get important up-to-date information about local solid waste and recycling issues!

## Information About Your Community

Each local government has different rules concerning curbside pickup of large items, such as appliances, furniture, large tree limbs, etc. Your local service department or township fiscal officer is your best source for community-specific information.



## What's Inside:

<b>Community Recycling</b> .....	3
<b>Recycling Report Card</b> .....	4
<b>Special Material Collection</b> .....	5
<b>Scrap Tire Recycling</b> .....	6
<b>Financial Support &amp; Market Development</b> .....	7
<b>Connecting with the Community</b> .....	8
<b>Protecting the Environment</b> .....	9
<b>Commercial &amp; Industrial Recycling</b> .....	10
<b>Education &amp; Awareness</b> .....	11
<b>Composting</b> .....	12
<b>Financial Transparency</b> .....	13
<b>Looking Forward</b> .....	14

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*There is no such thing as “away.”  
When we throw anything away  
It must go somewhere.*

*-Annie Leonard  
Creator of The Story of Stuff*

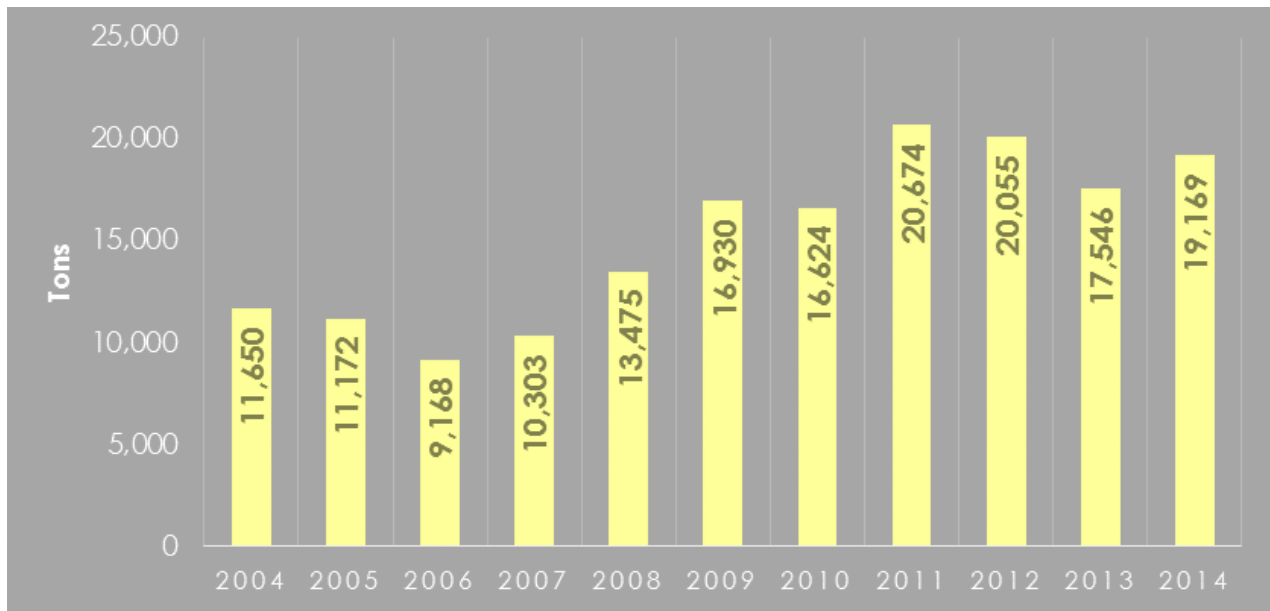


# Community Recycling

## The Decade in Review

Lorain County residents have increased the annual tons of materials collected from curbside recycling and drop-off programs by nearly 65% from 2004 to 2014. The significant increase in recycling is impressive, but there is still plenty of opportunity to improve. Currently, approximately 30% of household waste is recycled in Lorain County, but the EPA estimates that **at least 75% of trash sent to landfills is recyclable**.

### 2004—2014 Lorain County Residential Recycling



### What Influences Lorain County's Recycling Rates?

- **Individual participation** in the District's recycling programs, from residents like you, determine the success of material recovery rates in Lorain County.
- **Recycling infrastructure**, or the basic programs and facilities available to residents to collect recyclable material.  
*Curbside and drop-off recycling programs and material collection facilities, such as the Lorain County Collection Center, are essential to supporting increased recycling rates.*
- **The economy** influences the amount of consumer purchases and directly correlates to waste generation and recycling rates.
- **Education and awareness** about why recycling is important for the environment and the economy, as well as being informed about local recycling opportunities, contributes to higher recycling participation rates.

**Did your community increase its recycling totals this year?**

Check the next page to find out!



# Recycling Report Card

Lorain County Community	2010 Tons	2011 Tons	2012 Tons	2013 Tons	2014 Tons
Amherst (City)	1,163	1,483	1,077	1,292	1,073
Amherst Township	498	436	418	287	434
Avon (City)	3,001	2,481	2,316	1,687	1,837
Avon Lake (City)	1,159	1,020	934	901	1,338
Brighton Township	69	97	58	156	84
Brownhelm Township	39	80	63	43	117
Camden Township	82	62	62	17	57
Carlisle Township	746	715	528	373	579
Columbia Township	715	736	611	396	508
Eaton Township	473	379	306	170	411
Elyria (City)	1,083	2,878	3,665	3,609	3,423
Elyria Township	342	322	330	257	273
Grafton (Village)	240	271	254	174	283
Grafton Township	257	228	200	180	200
Henrietta Township	126	98	DNR	33	122
Huntington Township	106	60	51	51	65
Kipton (Village)	11	21	28	36	15
LaGrange (Village)	187	233	230	256	203
LaGrange Township	342	385	304	283	421
Lorain (City)	1,078	879	909	724	961
N. Ridgeville (City)	1,237	2,433	3,161	2,414	2,587
New Russia Township	183	195	191	102	248
Oberlin (City)	814	775	833	806	446
Penfield Township	167	404	83	164	136
Pittsfield Township	151	148	144	89	107
Rochester (Village)	8	3	3	2	15
Rochester Township	23	35	33	83	23
S. Amherst (Village)	175	220	234	255	213
Sheffield (Village)	182	229	336	288	300
Sheffield Lake (City)	527	913	785	675	812
Sheffield Township	230	569	317	397	226
Vermilion (City)	745	1,376	1,225	970	1,027
Wellington (Village)	382	427	283	273	503
Wellington Township	83	83	83	103	125
<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>16,624</b>	<b>20,674</b>	<b>20,055</b>	<b>17,546</b>	<b>19,169</b>

Recycling saves money, creates jobs, and conserves natural resources and energy for future generations.

**Thank you for recycling!**

# Managing Special Materials

## The Collection Center

The District's permanent Collection Center is located at 540 S. Abbe Rd. in Elyria, Ohio.

### Residents:

Use of the center is free to residents of Lorain County. Residents may drop-off:

- Household hazardous waste (HHW)
- Electronic waste
- Fluorescent lamps & ballasts
- Scrap tires
- Microwaves
- Books (hardback/paperback)
- Cardboard and paper
- Mixed residential recycling (aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers #1-7)

### Businesses:

Businesses with facilities in Lorain County may use the e-scrap, books, cardboard, and fluorescent lamp & ballast recycling programs for free!

### Collection Center Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### 2014 Collection Center Stats

Scrap Tires.....	738,940 pounds
E-Waste.....	515,263 pounds
HHW.....	356,213 pounds
Bulbs and Ballasts.....	84,702 pounds
Mixed Recyclables.....	68,000 pounds
Cardboard.....	62,720 pounds
Books.....	61,876 pounds
Rechargeable Batteries.....	18,020 pounds
Used Motor Oil.....	17,360 pounds
Scrap Metal.....	13,793 pounds
Ink Cartridges and Cell Phones.....	3,298 pounds
Used Cooking Oil.....	2,432 pounds

The Collection Center has allowed us to house many special programs under one roof, making them more convenient & accessible to residents! The following programs are operated at the center:

### Fluorescent Bulb & Ballast Program

Fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and their ballasts, as well as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are accepted.

### Ink Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling Program

Approximately 1,649 ink cartridges and cell phones were recycled. Volunteers sorted and shipped the materials, earning more than \$1,352 to support their organization's programs.

### Electronics Recycling Program

Electronics collected by the District are processed by a contractor that refurbishes some of the equipment so it can be reused by schools or non-profit organizations. If it cannot be updated, then the metals and other electrical components are recycled.

Electronic equipment accepted at the Collection Center includes: computers, monitors, printers, TVs (under 27"), cell phones, (including batteries, chargers and cables), copiers, fax machines, home stereos and selected other home electronics.

### Book Recycling

The District collects "end of life" books, which are books that either contain outdated information or are in poor condition. Soft cover and hard cover books, reference manuals, and phonebooks are accepted.

Phonebooks can also be recycled at more than 100 Paper Retriever bins in Lorain County- just look for the green and yellow bins!

# Scrap Tire Recycling

## Scrap Tires

Almost 15 million used tires were discarded in Ohio in 2014. If improperly disposed, scrap tires pose a serious risk to human and environmental health. Used and discarded tires retain water and become a breeding ground for disease-carrying pests like mosquitos and rats. Scrap tires are also a fire hazard because of their ability to retain heat. Once scrap tires ignite, the flames are often difficult to extinguish.

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District provides scrap tire recycling opportunities to residents in an effort to keep Lorain County a beautiful, safe, and healthy place to live. Nearly 738,940 pounds of scrap tires were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2014.



## Where Can I Properly Dispose of My Scrap Tires?

- Lorain County Collection Center, 540 S. Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio
- Lorain City Garage, 114 E. 35th Street, Lorain, Ohio, 7AM-3PM (M-F)
- Grafton Township Hall, 17109 Avon Belden Road, Grafton, Ohio, 8AM-4PM (M-F)

## Did you know...?

**Proper tire maintenance can extend the life of your tires! To reduce the overall number of tires you will purchase and dispose, follow these tips:**

- Use correct tire inflation pressure. *Check once a month and before long trips.*
- Inspect tires regularly for signs of uneven wear patterns. *This can be a sign of misalignment or improper balance!*
- Never exceed your vehicle's load limits. *Check the tire placard in your vehicle's owner manual.*
- Be a smart driver! *Obeying speed limits, avoiding fast stops and starts, and avoiding potholes will prolong the life of your tires.*



## Farm Tire Collection

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District received a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that allowed the District to expand its existing tire collection program to include agricultural tires. Lorain County residents who own or operate agricultural equipment were able to recycle scrap farm tires for free during the Farm Tire Collection event. In 2014, approximately 1,400 agricultural tires totaling more than 60 tons were collected for recycling during the successful 5-hour event!



# Financial Support and Market Development

## Community Incentive Grant Program

The Community Incentive Grant Program helps communities by providing funding annually to improve or maintain curbside recycling programs. Communities are encouraged to use the grant to increase participation rates through education and awareness programs, social marketing campaigns, and improved opportunities for multi-family housing complexes and other appropriately targeted activities or equipment purchases. In 2014, the District made \$250,000 in grant funding available to Lorain County cities, townships, and villages.

## How Does My Community Earn Grant Funding?

Each year, community administrators report the total tons of recycling from curbside and drop-off programs to the District. The amount awarded to each community is based on the total tons collected by curbside and drop-off recycling programs. Communities that recycle the most are awarded more grant dollars.

## District Market Development Grant

The District provided approximately \$75,000 to Lorain County communities and non-profit organizations to purchase products and equipment made from recycled materials in 2014.

## The Recycling Revolving Loan Program

The District's Recycling Revolving Loan program provides financial assistance to Lorain County businesses, organizations, and non-profits that utilize recycled materials either in their building materials or in their manufacturing process.


Supporting the use of recycled materials is important to ensuring the success of recycling programs. Using recycled materials is known as **closing the loop**. When recycled materials are in demand, a stable market is created, causing the cost of the recycled materials to be competitive or lower than their counterparts made with virgin materials.

The use of recycled materials also reduces the need to extract or harvest virgin raw materials and natural resources, thereby saving energy and reducing air and water pollution.

Locally, the Recycling Revolving Loan program:

- Promotes recycling business opportunities
- Provides additional markets for recycled materials
- Retains and creates recycling-related jobs
- Increases the manufacturing capacity for recyclable materials in Lorain County

## How Can I “Close the Loop?”

Look for  the logo on packaging or products. Used alone, the logo means a product or package is both recyclable and made of recycled material.

If the logo is used next to a percentage, the percentage indicates how much of the total product is made from post-consumer recycled materials.

Common products made with post-consumer recycled content materials include:

- Paper products: office paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, cardboard boxes
- Clothing made from recycled cotton or plastic soda bottles
- Building and construction materials
- Automobiles: re-refined motor oil, mud flaps, retreaded tires, used parts
- Gardening supplies: hoses, fencing, mulch, and compost

# Connecting with the Community

## The C.A.B. ("Clean and Beautiful") Program

The District has multiple "C.A.B." trailers, which are stocked with all of the essentials needed to complete litter clean-up and/or beautification activities. Supplies include a lawn mower, leaf blower, trimmer, assorted rakes, shovels, pruners, gardening tools, safety vests, gloves, safety cones, garbage bags, and more. Communities and organizations can request to borrow one of the four C.A.B. trailers for FREE!

To maximize the use of the C.A.B. trailers in 2014, the District partnered with local organizations to hold special collection drives. Two food drives were held to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank. As a result of the two events, 1,933 pounds of food was donated! Additionally, a C.A.B. trailer was used during the County Fair to collect donations of dog food, leashes, and other supplies for the Lorain County Dog Kennel.



**To request a C.A.B. trailer, please contact Tiffany Barker, Marketing Coordinator, at 440-328-2368!**

## Pride Days

Each year, Lorain County residents have the opportunity to take part in Pride Day, a county-wide litter collection and beautification event promoted and sponsored by the District. The District celebrates Pride Day as part of Keep America Beautiful's Great American Clean Up, the nation's largest annual community improvement program.

We would like to thank the 2,192 residents who volunteered a combined total of 6,576 hours to make Lorain County a beautiful and safe place we are proud to call "home!"

If you want to be part of your community's Pride Day activities, call **1-800-449-5463!**



## 2014 Accomplishments

### Cleaned up:

- 62.75 miles of roadway
- 4.5 miles of railroads
- 188 acres of parks
- 7.5 miles of trails
- 7 school yards
- 1.25 miles of waterways
- 33 playgrounds
- 8 graffiti sites and 6 houses

### Collected:

- 472 illegally dumped scrap tires
- 1,171 pounds of electronics
- 7,518 pounds of paper
- 100 pounds of aluminum
- 588 pounds of plastic bottles
- 170 tons of litter removed
- 3,320 pounds of clothing

### Planted:

- 17,345 flowers
- 1,126 trees
- 1,004 food-producing plants

## Disaster Debris Management Assistance

The District and Commissioners assisted Lorain County residents with disposing of flood debris caused by storms in May of 2014. More than \$38,500 was provided to place dumpsters in communities affected by flooding. Flood debris totaling 373.95 tons was collected and disposed from the following communities: Sheffield Twp., Elyria Twp., North Ridgeville, Avon Lake, Lorain, Elyria, Sheffield Lake, Columbia Twp., Eaton Twp., and Vermilion.

## Community Events

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District connects with communities throughout the year by conducting presentations and attending local events, festivals, and the Lorain County Fair. Visiting the District's educational booths are a great place to ask questions and pick up flyers on topics ranging from recycling and source reduction to composting.

We encourage you to stop by next time you see our booth at a community event!



# Protecting the Environment

## Environmental Crimes Unit

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and the Lorain County Sheriff's Office established the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) in 2009. The ECU was started to protect Lorain County residents and the environment. The ECU responds to complaints about litter, open dumping, and other environmental crimes reported by the general public, local businesses, cities, townships, and county governments, as well as other law enforcement agencies. The ECU also provides the public with information and resources on how to properly dispose of different types of waste. The ECU aims to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lorain County through education and enforcement.



### Saving Tax Dollars and Neighborhoods

The Environmental Crimes Unit aims to save Lorain County residents tax money and improve neighborhoods. Areas affected by illegal dumping and litter can be expensive to clean up. The ECU saves residents' tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on costly cleanups. Once areas affected by illegal dumping are cleaned and offenders are off the streets, crime goes down, property values improve, and families start moving back into previously blighted areas.

### In 2014, the ECU investigated:

- 153 Abandoned vehicles cases
  - 10 Littering cases
  - 18 Open dumping cases
  - 8 Open burning case
  - 44 Other Ohio Revised Code violations and reports
- 233 Potential Criminal Charges and Processes**



### Snapshots from 2014 Investigations

**Crimes against the environment affect everyone.** Littering attracts more litter and decreases property values. Open dumping attracts disease-carrying pests. Abandoned tires are a fire hazard. Illegal trash burning can contaminate the air and groundwater with dangerous toxins.

To report littering, dumping or other environmental crimes contact the Environmental Crimes Unit by visiting [www.loraincountysheriff.com](http://www.loraincountysheriff.com) and under "Divisions" select the "Environmental Crimes Unit," or call:

**Deputy William Curtis: (440) 329-3743**

**Deputy Greg Onderko: (440) 329-3759**



# Business and Industrial Recycling

## Business Recycling

Business recycling encompasses the activities of retail establishments, business offices, and non-profit organizations. The two materials recycled most by commercial facilities are cardboard and wood pallets.

## Industrial Recycling

Industrial recycling refers primarily to the recycling of scrap material, such as metals and plastics, resulting from a manufacturing process. It also covers the reuse of materials incidental to the process, including cardboard, pallets, and packaging materials. Lorain County industries recycled 97,556 tons (approximately 1.95 million pounds) in 2014!

## Business Roundtable

The Business Roundtable is a program that brings people together in engaging, educational discussions about innovative recycling processes and applications for the business community, as well as other solid waste topics. Participation from all types of businesses and industries is encouraged. Businesses are also welcome to share recycling success stories and discuss their recycling efforts with the group. If you would like to get involved, contact the District at **1-800-449-5463**.

## Free Waste Assessments

The District continues to provide free waste assessments to local businesses and organizations. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing or business operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling.

Strategic plans are provided to businesses and industries that participate in a District waste assessment. These plans outline specific goals and objectives and include a realistic schedule for businesses and industries to implement strategies and recommendations identified throughout the assessment process. If your workplace would like more information about a free waste assessment, call the District at **1-800-449-5463**.

## Recycling at Work

Businesses and organizations interested in recycling paper can use the Paper Retriever program, which promotes recycling through the placement of bins and collection of materials for free. Non-profits and schools that host a Paper Retriever bin are paid for the material they collect.

**More than 2,500 tons of paper was recycled in approximately 170 Paper Retriever boxes throughout Lorain County during 2014!**

Recycling programs are available through Republic Waste Services for businesses that wish to recycle multiple materials. The District works with businesses to provide recycling containers by request.

## 5 Major Benefits of Business Recycling

### 1. Cost Savings

*Save money on trash disposal fees. Some recyclable materials actually generate revenue!*

### 2. Corporate Social Responsibility

*Build loyalty with customers by showing that your company is doing its part to minimize its impact on the planet.*

### 3. Employee Satisfaction

*Workplaces that take part in environmentally friendly programs like recycling report higher morale and lower employee turnover rates.*

### 4. Environmental Benefits

*Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, supplies raw materials, prevents water pollution, and saves energy!*

### 5. Job Creation

*Recycling boosts our economy by creating or sustaining jobs in collection, processing, manufacturing, and reselling. Recycling supports 10 times as many jobs per 10,000 tons of waste than traditional waste disposal.*

# Education and Awareness

The District is committed to promoting the reduction, reusing, and recycling of solid waste through educational programs and outreach efforts.

## Adult Education

Adult groups and organizations interested in learning more about topics related to solid waste reduction or management are encouraged to request a presentation. In 2014, approximately 70 residents attended the District's civic presentations.

## Collection Center Tours

Adults and students are invited to request a tour to visit the Lorain County Collection Center on Abbe Road in Elyria to view how the facility operates and learn about proper household hazardous waste disposal. Approximately 75 residents which included several boy scout and girl scout troops and their parents toured the facility in 2014.

## Lending Library

The District provides a free online lending library to help educators teach students about reducing, reusing, and recycling. Books, DVDs, and VHS tapes on a variety of recycling-oriented topics are available. Additional tools for educators like activities and worksheets are also available online. For more information, to schedule a presentation for your classroom or adult group, or request a tour of the Collection Center, contact Brandi Schnell, Community Outreach Coordinator, at: **(440) 328-2249**, or [bschnell@loraincounty.us](mailto:bschnell@loraincounty.us).

## Student Presentations

Approximately 4,400 students participated in the District's 169 presentations given during 2014. Presentations focused on the three R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle!), renewable and non-renewable resources, litter prevention, and District programs.



## Paperless Newsletters

In September of 2014, the District began an electronic newsletter for students and educators. "Turning Trash-to-Treasure" provides information on upcoming contests, events, and updates from the District.

## Student Contests

**Calendar Contest:** The District hosts an annual calendar contest. Participants design drawings around the three R's or litter prevention. Winners had their artwork featured in the District's 2015 calendar. **NEW "3 R's" Photo/Caption Contest:** Lorain County students K-12 were asked to submit a photo and caption that encourages



others to follow the "3Rs." The 4 winners received a \$25.00 gift card, certificate, and poster of their winning photo. **Recycling Pledge Drive:** The District held a pledge drive throughout Lorain County Schools for America Recycles Day. Approximately 2,368 signed pledges to recycle more were entered into a drawing to win a pizza party. Congratulations to the winning class from Liberty Elementary School in North Ridgeville!



## Organics Education Programs

The District continued the compost education program. In 2014, the District provided funding to the OSU Agricultural Extension Office to conduct presentations for students and adults on composting and gardening related topics. During Pride Week, the Agricultural Educator organized two workshops for residents on composting and vegetable gardening.

Here are some easy tips to help keep yard waste out of the landfill:

- Mulch your grass clippings as you mow. Leaving the clippings on the lawn provides a great source of nutrients for a healthy lawn.
- Consider a backyard compost kit. A composting specialist at the Lorain County Office of the OSU Agricultural Extension Service is employed part-time by the District, to promote better methods of managing organic materials. They can give you technical assistance in preparing backyard compost. Call the OSU Agricultural Extension Office at **440-326-5851** for more details.
- Participate in the yard waste collection program offered by your community.

## Local Composting Facilities

Yard waste comprised **37%** of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2014. Leaves, grass clippings and brush are materials that do not belong in our landfills. Some Lorain County communities have leaf and grass clipping collection programs. In Lorain County, we have 14 registered Class IV compost facilities. Organic waste generated in Lorain County was managed at these 14 facilities, as well as at 6 registered compost facilities (Classes II-IV) in surrounding counties. Approximately 32,000 tons of yard waste and more than 1,700 tons of food waste generated in Lorain County was composted in 2014.

## Improving Our Ability to *Locally* Manage Food Waste

Currently, there are no registered facilities located in Lorain County that can accept food waste for composting. The District is working with Barnes Nursery, Ohio EPA, and other private and public entities to identify suitable sites for a potential compost site that can process food waste. This project will continue through 2015.



## Home Composting

We encourage you, as residents of Lorain County, to learn the benefits of composting first hand by creating your own compost bin or pile. Compost makes soil loose and dark, helps retain water, fertilizes, and makes plants and gardens grow better. Yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps may be placed in compost.

For questions, please contact the OSU Extension-Lorain County Office:

**440-326-5851**

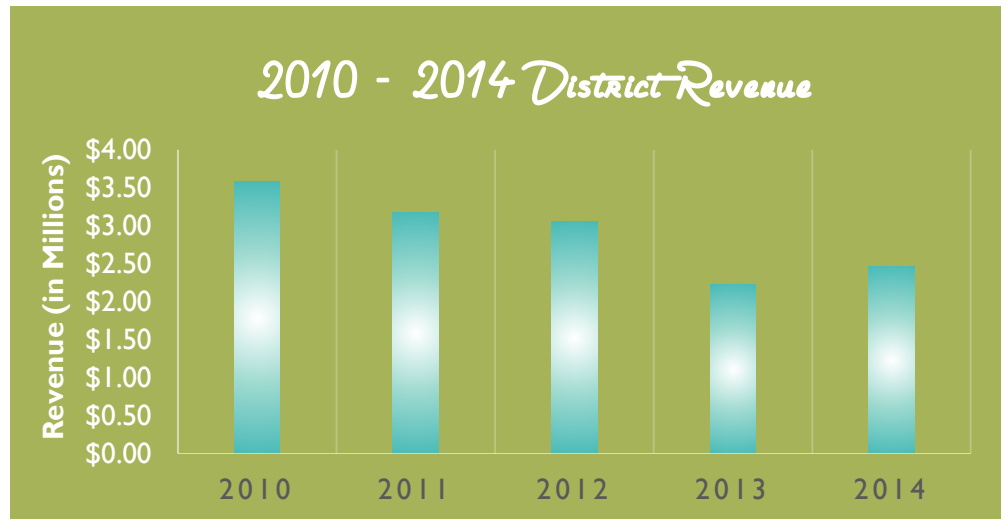


# Fiscal Transparency

## Revenue

The District earns revenue through a \$2.00 “tipping fee,” which is a charge levied on each ton of waste delivered at waste processing facilities (landfills and transfer stations) in Lorain County. Unlike many districts in Ohio, Lorain County’s tipping fee is the same for in-district and out-of-district waste.

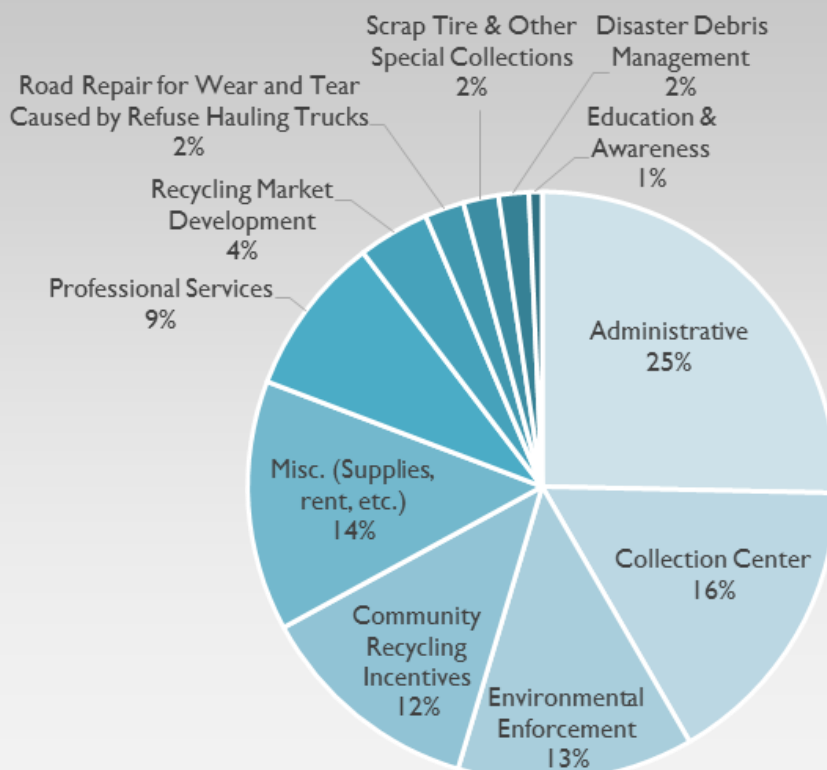
Revenue generated from tipping fees must be used by solid waste districts for specific purposes defined by Ohio law. The District uses revenue mainly to operate programs, implement the Solid Waste Management Plan, and manage facilities. In 2014, the District received approximately \$2.47 million dollars.



## Expenditures

Total District expenses were \$2.32 million in 2014. The figure below presents a detailed description of how revenue was allocated.

### *2014 District Expenditures*



## Zero Waste Initiatives



District Director Keith Bailey (left) and Commissioner Ted Kalo (right) present the City of Oberlin with a grant from Ohio EPA to finance new refuse vehicles.

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District identified zero waste initiatives as a priority in 2012. The same year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a report on residential waste generation, identifying that Americans recycle and compost an average of 34.5% of the waste they generate. So, why focus on zero waste? Is zero waste a realistic concept? One simple sentence embodies why we have embraced this goal and committed to working with our local communities achieve it:

***If you aren't for zero waste, how much are you for?***

During 2013, the City of Oberlin was chosen as a pilot community for a zero waste planning project. The District and the City of Oberlin collaborated to develop a Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) for Oberlin. The ZWP establishes a goal of 90% reduction by 2050 or sooner.

The goal for this project was to create a community-level zero waste plan that was achievable, using a process that could be duplicated by other communities in Lorain County.

## Major Milestones

**December 2013:** District and City of Oberlin present Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) to City Council

**February 2014:** Fire destroyed Oberlin's waste and recycling collection vehicles.

**May 2014:** Oberlin becomes the first municipality in Ohio to formally adopt a Zero Waste Plan via resolution.

**October 2014:** The District, Ohio EPA, and Oberlin College provide financial assistance to the City of Oberlin to purchase new hybrid hydraulic refuse/recycling trucks, which reduce emissions, save fuel, and have lower maintenance costs than traditional trucks.

**November 2014:** City of Oberlin rolls out a new, improved, single-stream curbside recycling program.

**January 2015:** Residents achieve a **112% increase** in curbside recycling within two months of implementing the new program!

We look forward to the City of Oberlin's continued progress toward reaching their zero waste goals, and hope to work with more Lorain County communities on similar zero waste plans and programs.



New hybrid hydraulic trucks in action in Oberlin!

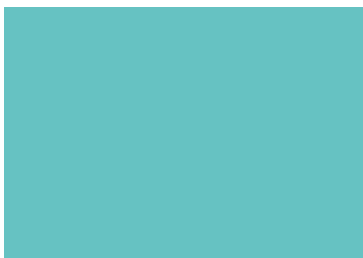
## Future Plans

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District will continue to set high standards for programming, services, and waste diversion results.

Over the past two years, we have been thoughtfully preparing our 2016—2025 Solid Waste Management Plan Update. In October of 2015, we will begin accepting comments from the public. During this time, we encourage Lorain County residents and businesses to share your thoughts and opinions with us. We value your ideas for programs and services that can help our County send less materials to landfills.

The Solid Waste District would like to thank all of the residents, communities, businesses, and institutions that have used our programs and shared our vision to reduce waste, support the economy, and create a healthier environment. With your support, we can make 2015 Lorain County's most successful year yet!





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