

Lorain County

Solid Waste Management District

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

COMPOST



Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is Proud to be a Department of the Lorain County Commissioners.



A Letter from the Director

Dear Lorain County Resident:

The past year of 2015 once again resulted in a number of steps forward for solid waste management in Lorain County. The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District (District) continued to explore new programs which allow greater recycling, and tweaked existing operations to improve our local environmental sustainability. Year after year I am reminded that 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 2015 involved initiating a recycling collection program for county-owned buildings and county agencies within those buildings. Planning for this program began in the spring of 2015 with a waste assessment of 20 county-owned buildings, followed by a survey of county agencies to determine their recycling needs. Collection of recyclables will be provided by Republic Services at no charge as a condition of a host community agreement negotiated by the District. Recyclables are currently being collected in several buildings, with service to all 20 buildings expected by the end of 2016.

Another new venture during 2015 was mobile paper shredding services. The District secured a grant from Ohio EPA which allowed the purchase of a truck designed to provide these services. The truck was purchased in 2016 and has begun operating at Collection Center events. Not only does this project result in greater paper recycling, but also provides shredding services for small generators of paper at no charge.

Towards the end of last year, the Ohio EPA approved the District's solid waste management plan update which will guide our activities during the next ten years. Considerable time and resources were devoted towards this effort, resulting in several new programs which will be implemented in coming years.

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



A proud member of the Lorain County Growth Partnership

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. 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) 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 political subdivision 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.



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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*

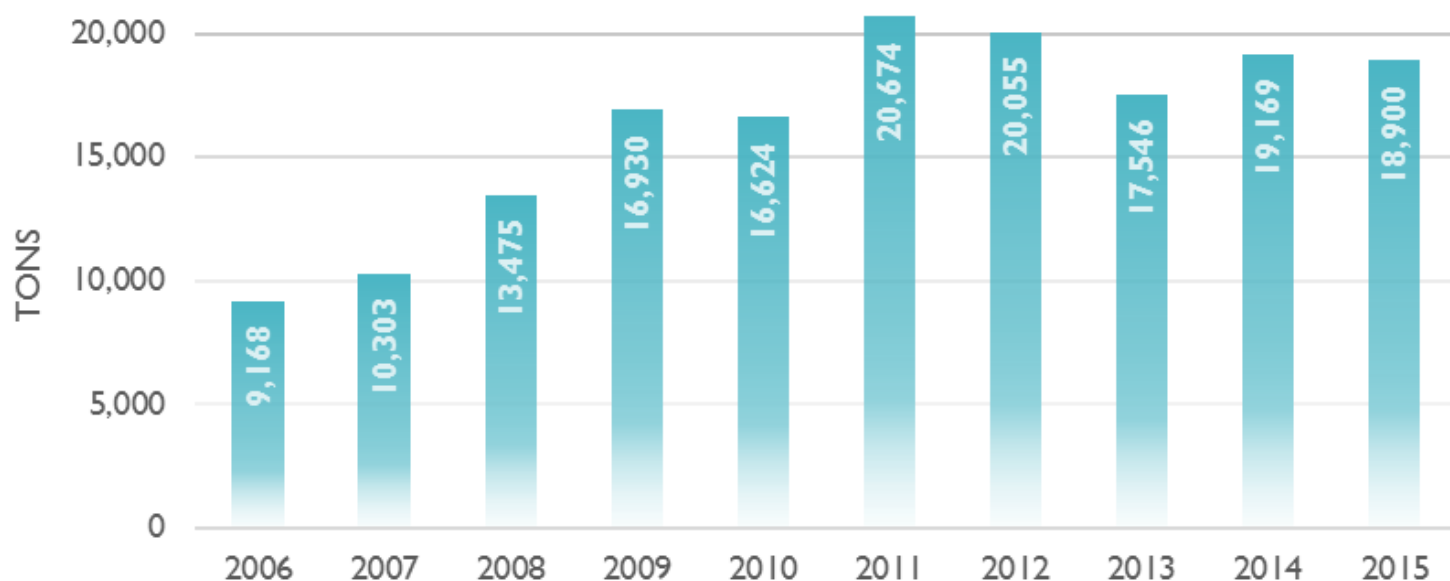
Community Recycling

A DECADE IN REVIEW



Lorain County residents have more than doubled the annual tons of materials collected from curbside recycling and drop-off programs from 2006 through 2015. The significant increase in recycling is impressive, but there is still plenty of opportunity to improve. Currently, approximately 27% of residential and commercial waste is recycled in Lorain County, but the EPA estimates that **at least 75% of trash sent to landfills is recyclable**.

2006-2015 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	2011 Tons	2012 Tons	2013 Tons	2014 Tons	2015 Tons
Amherst (City)	1,483	1,077	1,292	1,073	1,177
Amherst Township	436	418	287	434	420
Avon (City)	2,481	2,316	1,687	1,837	1,765
Avon Lake (City)	1,020	934	901	1,338	1,699
Brighton Township	97	58	156	84	90
Brownhelm Township	80	63	43	117	103
Camden Township	62	62	17	57	65
Carlisle Township	715	528	373	579	635
Columbia Township	736	611	396	508	514
Eaton Township	379	306	170	411	423
Elyria (City)	2,878	3,665	3,609	3,423	2,809
Elyria Township	322	330	257	273	259
Grafton (Village)	271	254	174	283	375
Grafton Township	228	200	180	200	179
Henrietta Township	98	DNR	33	122	178
Huntington Township	60	51	51	65	62
Kipton (Village)	21	28	36	15	16
LaGrange (Village)	233	230	256	203	173
LaGrange Township	385	304	283	421	296
Lorain (City)	879	909	724	961	647
N. Ridgeville (City)	2,433	3,161	2,414	2,587	2,376
New Russia Township	195	191	102	248	236
Oberlin (City)	775	833	806	446	842
Penfield Township	404	83	164	136	149
Pittsfield Township	148	144	89	107	95
Rochester (Village)	3	3	2	15	17
Rochester Township	35	33	83	23	31
S. Amherst (Village)	220	234	255	213	248
Sheffield (Village)	229	336	288	300	284
Sheffield Lake (City)	913	785	675	812	744
Sheffield Township	569	317	397	226	229
Vermilion (City)	1,376	1,225	970	1,027	1,187
Wellington (Village)	427	283	273	503	451
Wellington Township	83	83	103	125	126
Total Tons	20,674	20,055	17,546	19,169	18,900

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!

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2015 COLLECTION CENTER STATS

Scrap Tires.....	688,660 pounds
E-Waste.....	538,930 pounds
Latex Paint.....	220,809 pounds
HHW.....	203,254 pounds
Bulbs and Ballasts.....	99,421 pounds
Cardboard.....	70,960 pounds
Mixed Recyclables.....	64,000 pounds
Scrap Metal.....	35,998 pounds
Rechargeable Batteries.....	22,381 pounds
Books and Paper.....	21,378 pounds
Used Motor Oil & Antifreeze....	20,440 pounds
Used Cooking Oil.....	2,525 pounds
Ink Cartridges & Cell Phones.....	1,064 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

Due to a disruption in the collection process, only 530 ink/toner cartridges and cell phones were recycled in 2015, a significant decrease compared to 2014. However, the program is now back in full operation and all of these items are accepted at the Collection Center.

Electronics Recycling Program

Electronics devices accepted are carefully handled by both the Collection Center and the contractor that recycles them, to ensure that all data storage components are "wiped" clean or destroyed by shredding.

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. Microwave ovens are also accepted.

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

Nearly 7,698,000 used tires were discarded in Ohio in 2015, equating to 14.4 million passenger tire equivalents. 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 SWMD provides scrap tire recycling opportunities to residents in an effort to keep Lorain County a beautiful, safe, and healthy place to live. More than 688,000 pounds of scrap tires were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2015.

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 2015, approximately 1,400 agricultural tires totaling nearly 58 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 2015, the District made \$375,000 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 awarded three grants during 2015 totaling more than \$11,400 to a Lorain County non-profit organization and institutions to purchase products and equipment made from recycled materials.

RECYCLING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

The District's Recycling Revolving Loan program provides financial assistance to our county's 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 four "C.A.B." trailers stocked with all of the essentials needed for 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!

In 2015, the District once again used the trailers to partner with the Second Harvest Food Bank by hosting food donation collection days at the Collection Center in April and November. As a result of the two events, 2,820 pounds of food was donated to the food bank!



Food Bank Donations

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



2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cleaned up:

- 91 miles of roadway
- 2.5 miles of railroads
- 331 acres of parks
- 9 miles of nature trails
- 5 miles of waterways
- 20 playgrounds
- 3 graffiti sites abated

Collected:

- 60 illegally dumped scrap tires
- 1,171 pounds of electronics
- 7,518 pounds of paper
- 1,201 pounds of aluminum
- 1,052 pounds of plastic bottles
- 101 tons of litter removed
- 3,320 pounds of clothing
- 17,500 pounds of newspaper

Planted:

- 406 flats of flowers
- 54 trees and shrubs
- 135 gardens and green spaces

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 more than 2,000 residents from 21 communities who volunteered their time 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!

RECYCLING SCHOLARSHIP

This is a new program funded by the District to create an endowment for the Lorain County Community College Foundation for scholarships. DoppstadtUS, a Lorain County-based company that engineers and manufactures recycling and processing equipment, has assisted in creating this program, and will contribute towards the funding through 2018. In order to be considered for an award, students must write an essay on a topic related to recycling, litter/litter prevention, or sustainability. The first scholarship was awarded in 2015.



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 created 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 2015, THE ECU INVESTIGATED:

- 4 fire code violations related to solid waste
- 32 Littering cases
- 1 case involving illegal transportation of scrap tires
- 3 Open burning cases
- 3 cases involving littering in a dumpster
- **Cases resulting in criminal charges against 37 individuals**

SNAPSHOTS FROM 2015 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 and under "Divisions" select the "Environmental Crimes Unit," or call:

Deputy William Curtis: (440) 329-3743

Deputy Michael Lopez: (440) 329-3759

Business and Industrial Recycling

BUSINESS RECYCLING

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

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**.

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 nearly 88,000 tons (approximately 175 million pounds) in 2015!

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**.

TOP 5 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. Several presentations during 2015 included both adults and their children.

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 25 residents were included in two tours of the Collection Center in 2015.

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.

STUDENT CONTESTS



Calendar Contest:

The District hosted its annual calendar contest. Students designed drawings using the three R's or a litter prevention theme. Thirteen winners were selected.

"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 with 62 teachers and classrooms participating. Approximately 1,400 students signed pledges to recycle more were entered into a drawing to win a pizza party. Congratulations to the winning class from Larkmoor Elementary School in the City of Lorain!

PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS

The District's electronic newsletter for students and educators, "Turning Trash-to-Treasure," provides information on upcoming contests, events, and updates from the District.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



Approximately 3,500 students participated in the District's 126 presentations given during 2015. Presentations focused on the three R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle!), renewable and non-renewable resources, litter prevention, and District programs.

ORGANICS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District continued the compost education program. In 2015, the District provided funding to the OSU Agricultural Extension Office to conduct presentations for students and adults on composting and gardening related topics. The Agricultural Educator participates in regular radio broadcasts, is available at the Lorain County Fair, and provides presentations upon request to discuss composting.

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 **23%** of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2015. 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 during 2015, we had 13 registered Class IV (yard waste only) compost facilities. Organic waste generated in Lorain County was managed at these 13 facilities, as well as at 3 registered compost facilities (Classes II-IV) in surrounding counties. Approximately 14,200 tons of yard waste and more than 1,200 tons of food waste generated in Lorain County was composted in 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 are all appropriate materials for home composting.

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

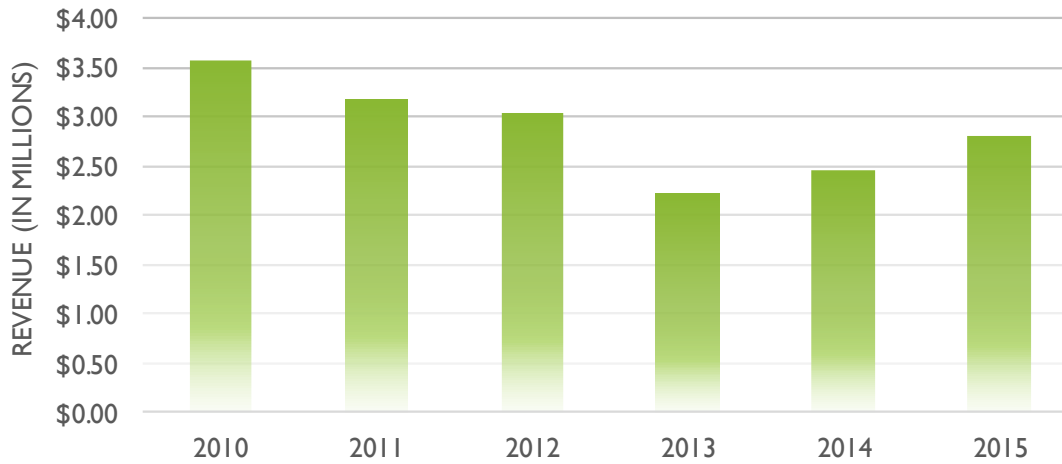
440-326-5851

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 continuing to work 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.



REVENUE



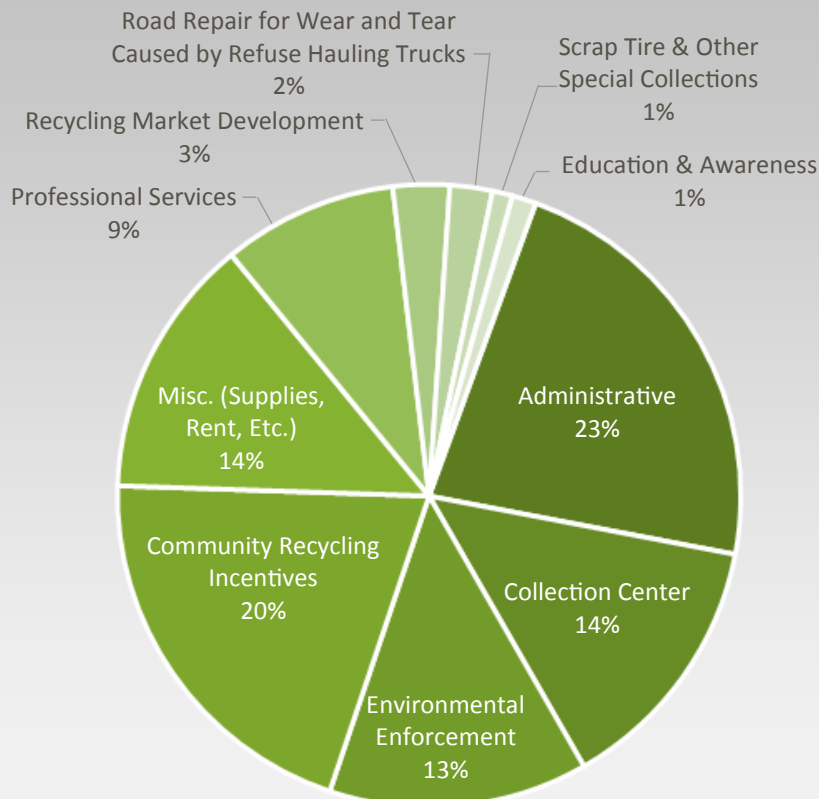
The District earns revenue through a \$2.00 disposal fee, which is a charge levied on each ton of waste delivered to the landfill in Lorain County. Unlike many districts in Ohio, Lorain County's disposal fee is the same for in-district and out-of-district waste.

Revenue generated from disposal fees must be used by

solid waste districts for specific purposes defined by Ohio law. The District, which also generates revenue from other sources including a contract with the Republic Services landfill and grants, uses these funds mainly to operate programs, implement the Solid Waste Management Plan, and manage facilities. In 2015, the District received approximately \$2.81 million dollars.

EXPENDITURES

Total District expenses were \$2.27 million in 2015. The figure below presents a detailed description of how revenue was allocated.





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.

MORE ZERO WASTE PLANNING?

Since the development of Oberlin's plan, the District has resolved to continue devoting resources towards helping other communities and institutions achieve zero waste goals. In 2015, the District attended two meetings with community representatives to promote the benefits of adopting a zero waste plan and address questions or concerns related to implementing a zero waste plan. The District also met with the Lorain County Community College to discuss zero waste initiatives.

FUTURE PLANS

We believe that the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District has been one of the most successful solid waste districts in Ohio, with high standards for programming, services, and waste diversion results. The District will continue to strive for the same type of track record in coming years as we implement the new solid waste plan update.

Several new programs should enhance our ability to manage our waste more appropriately, including two grant programs designed to increase recycling at multi-family housing units, provide recycling within county agencies, and siting an organics management facility. While none of these new programs will be implemented without some difficulties, we believe the results will be worth the effort.

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 2016 Lorain County's most successful year yet!



Shred Day, April 2015



LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

A Department of
The Lorain County Commissioners
226 Middle Avenue
Elyria, Ohio 44035-5510
1-800-449-5463 - phone
(440) 329-5777 - fax
www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste