

2014 Annual Report

& Residential Recycling Report





"Thanks for all your hard work helping our City reduce waste and cost."
 – Nick Bauccho, city of Bedford Heights

"Thank you for selecting us for a recycling container grant. We are thrilled to have your support as we begin our recycling project."
 – Ohio Guidestone

"Thank you for your... to the success of..."

Dear Friends,

2014 was designated by Sustainable Cleveland 2019 as **The Year of Zero Waste**. Now while some may wonder if a community can become zero waste, it is an important goal. Striving for zero waste helps us adopt a mindset of conservation that leads to new behaviors, technologies and policies that focus on managing resources instead of managing waste.

Here in Cuyahoga County we are working our way towards zero. We now recycle and compost 51% of our overall waste. Helping us get there are 271 local recycling businesses that process the metal, paper, plastic, cardboard, and other recyclables we collect for recycling. These businesses employ 4,723 people and produce annual revenues exceeding \$991 million.

More recycling capacity is being added every year by companies like Quasar Energy who is converting food waste into energy in Collinwood; Vadxx Energy, who is converting plastic waste into energy in Akron; and Kimble, Republic, and Waste Management, who invested millions into advanced sortation technology to process our residential recyclables.

Recycling is not without its challenges, though. Today's low oil prices are reducing the value and demand for recovered plastic. Glass collected through curbside recycling is expensive to clean and damages equipment. Export markets are constricting and being more selective about what they accept.

To help ensure long term recycling success, those of us on the "collection" side must deliver more material with less contamination to the material recovery facilities that process our recyclables. These facilities tell us that our recyclables contain up to 25% of things that should not be there. Things like bowling balls, garden hoses, cords, toys and food.

We must also be willing to ride out market downturns and keep recycling even when the short term economics are not optimal. And we must be open to advanced technologies that may give us new ways of converting waste into resources. According to the Global Footprint Network, humanity needs the equivalent of 1.5 planets to provide the resources we use today. Striving for zero waste will put us on a more sustainable path.

"Ton of Trash" Display at EarthFest 2014



The District created this Ton of Trash display for EarthFest 2014 to demonstrate how much trash a person produces in a year. The display, mounted on a 40-yard dumpster, was one of many exhibits

designed around the theme of zero waste. The event itself produced only seven bags of trash among thousands of attendees.

Masters of Recycling



The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District graduated its first class of Master Recyclers last December. Each graduate completed eight weeks of lectures and tours featuring sustainable materials management and provided 20 hours of volunteer service. The Master Recyclers intend to continue their personal learning about recycling and share their knowledge with others. Congratulations to Sharon Bair, Christy Bartley, Karen Braun, Lenore Collins, Veronica Dickerson, Heather Dougherty, Jennifer Dreher, Heidi Paul, Julie Richer, Erica Robinson, Janine Robb, Katharyne Starinsky, and Karen Thailing.

Dumpers Beware



The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Environmental Crimes Task Force is on the case to stop illegal dumping. Over the last 12 months the task force investigated 202 cases of illegal dumping which resulted in 33 arrests, 234 felony charges, 66 convictions, and the cleanup of 95 dump sites. Attention by the media has spurred residents to action delivering photos and reports of dumping activity. The Task Force is comprised of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County law enforcement, prosecutors, regulators and public health personnel.



assistance with recycling. The District's programs are essential for our recycling efforts." – Jeff Pokorny, city of University Heights

"I attended your composting program. Thanks for having it. It was super informative and exactly what we needed to get started." – Kara Frair

Education

Students reached through classroom presentations	4,111
Students participating in district contests	1,205
Master Recyclers trained	20
Adults attending backyard composting seminars	517
Adults reached through presentations	701

Teaching children and adults is the job of Education Specialist Kathleen Rocco. A popular program of Kathleen's is her backyard composting workshop held in twelve cities last year.



Outreach

Recycling hotline and web inquiries	2,997
Web site hits	247,629
Educational materials distributed	14,306
E-newsletters distributed	117,345
Residents reached through events & booths	4,209

Executive Director Diane Bickett and Business Administrator Maria Ortiz working the booth at EarthFest 2014.



Recycling Collections

Household hazardous waste	465,580 lbs.
Scrap tires	19,016 tires
Computers and electronics	726,520 lbs.
Litter	10,086 bags
Shredding events	6,020 lbs.
Campaign signs	3,000 lbs.
Holiday lights	1,500 lbs.

Cristie Snyder coordinates the District's county-wide household hazardous waste program and special waste collections in cooperation with the 59 communities in the county.



Business Recycling Assistance

Workplace recycling seminar attendees	114
Businesses served	165
Waste audits conducted	44

Business Recycling Specialist Doreen Schreiber teaching local businesses how to save money through her waste reduction seminar.



Financial

Funding for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District comes from a fee of \$1.50 that is levied on each ton of solid waste that is generated in Cuyahoga County and taken to a landfill for disposal. No fee is levied on waste that is recycled or composted.

2014 Revenue \$2,103,127

Generation fees	\$1,902,854
Grants	\$139,373
Recycling sales	\$60,900

2014 Expenses \$1,911,257

Personnel	\$518,451
Recycling collections	\$399,517
Operating	\$260,659
Health department funding	\$255,000
Recycling grants	\$153,334
Litter collection	\$93,320
County indirect costs	\$66,808
Education programs	\$60,245
Solid waste planning	\$52,123
Environmental crimes task force	\$51,800

District Staff

Diane Bickett *Executive Director*
 Jessica Fenos *Planner*
 Maria Ortiz *Business Administrator*
 Kathleen Rocco *Education Specialist*
 Doreen Schreiber *Business Recycling Specialist*
 Cristie Snyder *Programs & Communications Officer*



4750 East 131 Street
 Garfield Heights, OH 44105
 (216) 443-3749 www.cuyahogaswd.org



2014 Residential Recycling Report

The 2014 Residential Recycling Report has a new look! This year we chose to use a chart to show the percentage of each community's waste stream that is recycled and the percentage that is composted. The key below explains what each category represents. The Solid Waste District publishes this report annually to allow residents and public officials to see how they are doing and to meet Ohio EPA reporting requirements. Data is provided to the District directly from the communities. Corresponding numbers can be obtained from the District.

Thank you for your recycling efforts.

Key

% Recycled

The percentage of a community's total residential waste stream that is collected for recycling through curbside, drop-off and special waste recycling programs. Recyclables include paper, cardboard, plastic, cans, glass, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, and household hazardous wastes and scrap tires.

% Composted

The percentage of a community's total residential waste stream that is diverted from landfilling by chipping, mulching and composting programs. Yard waste/organics include leaves, grass, brush and wood waste.

Please Note

All percentages are rounded.

