



Cuyahoga County Solid Waste POLICY COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. Nathan Kelly, Cuyahoga County Deputy Chief of Staff, Development

Ms. Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Council

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PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Virginia Aveni, Public Representative

Ms. Christina Vernon, Cleveland Clinic, Business Representative



INTRODUCTION

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is pleased to present this summary of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2013-2028). This Plan Update outlines the strategies that the District will use to safely manage solid waste produced in Cuyahoga County and to meet Ohio's goals for waste reduction and recycling.

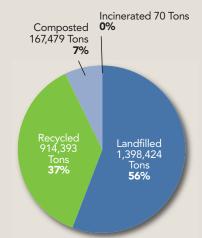
In this plan summary you will read how Cuyahoga County's waste is currently managed and how it will be managed in the future in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way. You will learn how Cuyahoga County surpasses Ohio's recycling goals today and how we will continue to divert more materials from landfills so they can be reclaimed and used again.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Plan Update was prepared by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee and a myriad of stakeholders that provided input into the development of a solid waste management plan that meets the varied needs of county residents, local government and the business community.

The complete Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2013–2028) is available on the District's web site www.cuyahogaswd.org. The Plan is also available on CD. Please contact the District at (216) 443-3749.

Solid Waste Management Methods

All Sectors of Cuyahoga County Combined





BACKGROUND

Back in the early 1980s, Ohio had a garbage problem. Open, unregulated dumps threatened ground water and public health. Recycling was minimal and an influx of waste from the east coast was being dumped in Ohio. In addition, there was no process for planning for our future waste disposal needs and no local control over the siting of solid waste facilities.

In 1988, Ohio legislators responded to this garbage problem by adopting the Ohio Solid Waste Disposal Act, also called H. B. 592. This law set in motion a statewide regulatory and planning process to manage solid waste in an environmentally protective manner and to use our natural resources efficiently by reducing waste and increasing recycling.



Out of this law, 52 solid waste management districts were formed in Ohio, and comprised of single counties or groups of counties. Each District was required to convene a Solid Waste Policy Committee and prepare a comprehensive solid waste management plan. Each district plan needed to meet statewide planning objectives and recycling goals set by the Ohio EPA in the State Solid Waste Plan. In developing these statewide requirements, the Ohio EPA strived to make landfilling the last resort rather than the primary method for managing waste.

WHAT IS THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan is updated every five years by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee according to a format prescribed by Ohio EPA. The Plan describes Cuyahoga County's progress in achieving Ohio's recycling mandates and details how our remaining waste will be managed over a 15 year planning period. The plan also addresses how "special wastes" that are restricted from landfill disposal will be managed. The staff of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is responsible for implementing the plan using a funding mechanism contained in the plan. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan (2013–2028) updates the plan that was ratified by communities in 2006.



WHAT'S IN THE PLAN?

- An inventory of existing solid waste generation and disposal practices in Cuyahoga County's residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
- An inventory of recycling practices in Cuyahoga County demonstrating that Cuyahoga County will achieve Ohio's recycling mandates which require us to recycle 25% of our residential and commercial waste generated and 66% of our industrial waste.
- A disposal capacity analysis demonstrating that there is sufficient waste transfer and landfill capacity to meet Cuyahoga County's needs through 2028.
- A summary of the District's strategies to encourage recycling, manage materials banned from landfills, safely dispose of household hazardous waste, and promote cost-effective solid waste and recycling services in the county.
- A plan implementation budget demonstrating how the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will fund the implementation of the Solid Waste Plan with its proposed programs and services.

HOW IS THE PLAN RATIFIED?

State law requires the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan to go through a local ratification process whereby a number of local governmental bodies vote on the plan. Ratification occurs when city and village councils and township trustees representing 60% of Cuyahoga County's population, including the largest city (Cleveland) vote to approve the plan. In addition, the Cuyahoga County Council must vote to approve the plan. Once all the approvals are obtained, the plan is deemed ratified by Ohio EPA and then implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. If local governments do not ratify the Plan, the Director of the Ohio EPA is required by state statute to prepare a plan for Cuyahoga County and order the Solid Waste District to implement Ohio EPA's plan.





OUR WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Most people give little thought to their trash and recyclables once they hit the curb or the dumpster. Yet once this happens, a complex waste management system kicks in to ensure that the materials "go away" virtually unnoticed. The process of collecting, transporting, and managing our waste involves thousands of employees working in both the public and private sectors and dozens of facilities used to recycle, compost or dispose of our waste. County-wide, we generate over 2.5 million tons of waste materials that must be managed.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR TRASH?

Waste Collection and Transfer

Private companies handle waste collection from 37 communities and all of our businesses and institutions. There are over 200 waste and recycling hauling companies that operate in Cuyahoga County. The largest haulers are Kimble, Republic Waste, Rumpke Waste, and Waste Management. In addition, 22 communities provide municipal waste collection and recycling services to their residents. Transporting this waste to distant landfills requires the use of transfer stations. Eleven transfer stations consolidate waste onto long-haul trucks before transport. Local governments own five of these facilities. Private companies own the rest.



Recycling

Recycling figures prominently into Cuyahoga County's waste management system. Today, we recycle 44% of our residential, commercial and industrial waste stream. That's over one million tons annually. Recycling is defined as any waste material that is diverted from landfill disposal through waste reduction, composting or recycling activities. Recycling rates, especially in our communities, have steadily increased since the Solid Waste District first began tracking this information in 1990. Today, all communities offer some type of recycling services to their residents,

from curbside and drop-off recycling to special waste recycling. Recycling has also become prevalent in Cuyahoga County's businesses, institutions, public venues, and manufacturing facilities. Recycling can flourish here with 58 curbside recycling programs, 619 drop-off recycling locations, 60 recycling facilities and 34 composting facilities serving Cuyahoga County waste generators.



Composting

Composting is used by communities and businesses as a cost-effective way to manage organic materials like leaves, wood waste and grass clippings. Currently, there are 34 Ohio EPA registered composting facilities turning Cuyahoga County's organic waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Annually, approximately 167,000 tons of organic waste is diverted from landfills through composting.

Landfilling

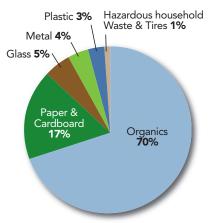
Today, landfills are a safe way to manage the waste that we cannot currently recycle or compost. Ohio EPA regulations require landfills to be engineered using best available technology. This includes using clay and synthetic liners, leachate collection systems and methane gas collection systems that protect the environment and public health. These large facilities are mostly operated by privately owned waste management companies and are located outside of Cuyahoga County. Cuyahoga County's waste is currently exported to 15 landfills located across Ohio.

Ohio solid waste law requires counties to reduce reliance on landfills by increasing recycling. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District tracks Cuyahoga County's progress in diverting waste from landfills. Over the past decade the amount of waste we send to landfills has decreased from over 2 million tons per year to approximately 1.3 million tons per year.

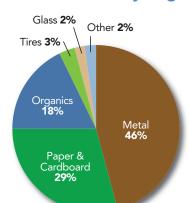
Incineration

Incineration is not currently used to manage municipal solid waste in Cuyahoga County with the exception of five documented residential and commercial facilities that still maintain a small incinerator to burn their own waste.

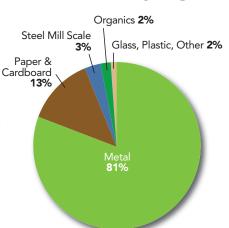
WHAT WE RECYCLE Residential Recycling



Commercial Recycling



Industrial Recycling





Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is the most populous and urbanized district in Ohio, with nearly 1.3 million residents and thousands of businesses and institutions generating approximately 2,551,482 million tons of waste each year. This amounts to about 11 pounds per person per day. The District projects that waste generation will slightly increase during the 15 year planning period as the economy improves, and more goods are consumed and more waste is produced.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE WASTE DISPOSAL NEEDS

While recycling and composting divert waste from landfills and conserve landfill space, Cuyahoga County relies heavily on landfills to dispose of the waste that remains. The District analyzed Cuyahoga County's future waste disposal needs and determined that there is ample

Landfills Receiving Cuyahoga County Solid Waste ASHTABULA FULTON GEAUGA DEFIANCE PAULDING MAHONING VAN WER COLUMBIANA ALLEN MARION AUGLAIZE LOGAN LICKING BELMONT MUSKINGUM PREBLE PICKAWAY HOCKING BUTLER CLINTON HAMILTON HIGHLAND

capacity in Ohio's existing landfills to dispose of Cuyahoga County's trash for the 15 year planning period and beyond. Most of our waste goes to four landfills located in Lorain, Richland, Stark and Wayne counties. The life expectancies for these landfills range from 22 to 74 years.

WASTE TO ENERGY

Technologies to convert waste to energy are proposed as an alternative to landfilling by many in the waste industry. While mass-burn technology has been used for decades to produce energy from waste, there are other technologies such as gasification and pyrolysis that may be used in the future if proven commercially feasible. Locally, the City of Cleveland is exploring the possibility of gasifying its waste and two new companies plan to construct facilities locally to convert plastic waste into oil and chemical products. If proven to be viable and cost effective these facilities will enable more waste recovery by creating a market for the residual waste we cannot currently recycle.

WASTE MINIMIZATION STRATEGIES

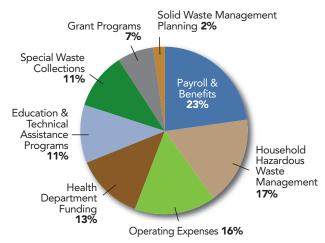
The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan identifies the programs and services to be offered by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to advance cost-effective and environmentally-sustainable solid waste management practices within the communities, businesses and institutions of Cuyahoga County. When updating the Plan, the District surveyed over 1,000 public officials, educators, businesses and residents to obtain feedback on its programs. Four separate electronic surveys were sent to stakeholders in April of 2011. The surveys responses were used to evaluate District services and determine which would be included in the Plan Update. The selected services are described on pages 10 and 11.

PLAN FUNDING

Funding to implement The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan comes from a Generation Fee. The Generation Fee is levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Cuyahoga County and landfilled in Ohio. The fee is collected by the receiving solid waste facility and remitted to the District. No fee is levied on waste that is recycled or composted.

The current Generation Fee is \$1.50 per ton and will not increase with this plan update. Cuyahoga County's fee is among the lowest of all Ohio's solid waste districts and amounts to approximately \$1.56 per resident per year. The District has worked to keep its fee low and the value high for its customers. In fact, since the District was formed in 1994, the fee has only increased once. That was in 2006 when communities ratified the most recent solid waste plan along with a modest \$0.50 per ton increase. The Generation Fee provides the District with approximately \$2 million in annual revenue and funds the programs and services described in this brochure.

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District Budget



Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following services will be offered by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District as part of the implementation of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan (2013–2028)

RECYCLING ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION

New District-Wide Education and Branding

The District will implement a countywide media campaign to increase recycling awareness and participation. In addition, a branding campaign will increase public awareness of the Solid Waste District and its services.

Grant Programs

The District will offer Community Recycling Awareness grants and Recycling Container grants to support and expand recycling.

Local Government Consulting Services

The District will offer free consulting services to Cuyahoga County communities. Services will include contracting assistance, recycling program assistance, collection cost analysis, automation feasibility analysis.

Children's Education

The District will provide an Education Specialist to educate children about recycling and the environment. Services will include classroom and camp activities, presentations, teacher workshops and curriculum materials.

General Public Education and Outreach

The District will provide recycling information to the public through its recycling hotline, web site, speakers, brochures, and e-newsletters.

Business Recycling Assistance

The District will provide a Business Recycling Specialist to help businesses and institutions implement recycling programs. Services will include waste audits, workshops, presentations, and contract assistance.

Yard Waste Management

The District will promote composting by offering seminars on backyard composting to the public and through compost bin sales.



SPECIAL WASTES

Household Hazardous Waste Management

The District will provide free disposal of household hazardous waste collected by all Cuyahoga County communities.

Special Waste Convenience Center

The District will provide a year-round collection center to receive household hazardous wastes, electronics and other hard to recycle materials collected by Cuyahoga County communities.

Electronics Recycling

The District will promote county-wide electronics recycling by conducting *Recycle Your Computer Month* events in partnership with Cuyahoga County communities.

Scrap Tire Recycling

The District will offer an annual Scrap Tire Round-Up to provide free collection of scrap tires from Cuyahoga County communities.

Litter Collection

The District will offer communities free litter collection services provided by Court Community Service.

Mercury Collection

The District will provide residents with free drop-off locations for items that contain mercury at participating fire departments.

Phone Book Recycling

The District will offer an annual phone book recycling drive in cooperation with The Cleveland Metroparks until 2016. The program is being phased out as the need for this service declines.

OTHER SERVICES

Recycling Market Development

The District will encourage economic development by promoting local recycling companies and applying for state grants for recycling business expansion.

Solid Waste Code Enforcement

The District will provide annual funding to the Cleveland Department of Public Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to inspect solid waste facilities for compliance with Ohio EPA regulations.

Contracting Consortiums

The District will continue to facilitate the development of municipal contracting consortiums for solid waste and recycling services among Cuyahoga County communities.





The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District is a public agency working to advance environmentally-sustainable and economical solid waste management practices within the communities, institutions and businesses of Cuyahoga County.

The District offers a wide variety of services designed to increase recycling opportunities, promote environmental awareness, and support local recycling-based businesses.

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Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District

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