



**Cuyahoga County**  
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

FILE NO. 701-2025

MAY 28 '25 PM 12:47

May 23, 2025

CITY COUNCIL

Patricia Britt  
Clerk of Council, City of Cleveland  
601 Lakeside Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114

CLEVELAND

Re: **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED - Ratification of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update**

Dear Patricia:

Enclosed, please find the *Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's 2026-2040 Solid Waste Management Plan Executive Summary*. We have also enclosed copies of a sample resolution and a one-page fact sheet that can be shared with each Council member.

You are receiving these documents because your council must now vote on this state-mandated Plan Update as part of a county-wide ratification process that is taking place now.

The development of the solid waste plan is a requirement of Ohio law. Every solid waste management district in Ohio must periodically revise and update their solid waste management plan and submit it to each political subdivision to be ratified. Ratification occurs when communities representing 60% of a district's population vote to approve the plan, including its largest city.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update was prepared by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District in conjunction with its Solid Waste Policy Committee. It was submitted to Ohio EPA for review on August 23, 2024, and revised to incorporate Ohio EPA comments. The District held a public comment period from February 13, 2025, to March 14, 2025, and a public hearing on March 18, 2025. No comments were received during this period. On April 10, 2025, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee passed a resolution adopting the Plan Update and it is now being sent to each city, village and township within Cuyahoga County for approval.

Your council must vote to approve or disapprove the Plan Update by ordinance or resolution during the 90-day ratification period which takes place through August 10, 2025. Because this timeframe cannot be extended, we appreciate your immediate attention and assistance.

1. Please distribute the enclosed sample resolution and fact sheet to your council members for their review.
2. Please share the *Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's 2026-2040 Solid Waste Management Plan Executive Summary* with Council. The Plan, in its entirety (329 pages), is also available on the District's website at [CuyahogaRecycles.org](https://www.cuyahogarecycles.org).
3. Schedule the hearing of the resolution/ordinance as soon as possible since action must be taken by August 10, 2025. A sample resolution is enclosed for your convenience.
4. Mail a copy of the adopted resolution/or ordinance to Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, 4750 E. 131st Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105



Printed on chlorine free,  
100% recycled paper.

4750 East 131 Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105 216.443.3749 [CuyahogaRecycles.org](https://www.cuyahogarecycles.org)



**Cuyahoga County**  
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

I look forward to hearing from you no later than August 10, 2025. Please note that resolutions enacted after August 10, 2025, cannot be counted towards ratification.

If you have any questions, please call me at (216) 443-3714 or email me at [ebiggins-ramer@cuyahogacounty.gov](mailto:ebiggins-ramer@cuyahogacounty.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer  
Executive Director

Enclosures

- *Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's 2026-2040 Solid Waste Management Plan Executive Summary*
- Copies of sample resolution adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan Update
- Copies of Plan fact sheet

Resolution/Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of city, village, township) is located within the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District (District); and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee prepared and adopted a final draft of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update in accordance with *Ohio Revised Code Sections 3734.53 3734.54 and 3734.55*; and

**WHEREAS**, the District provided a copy of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2026-2040) for ratification to each of the legislative authorities of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of city, village, township) must decide whether it approves of said Solid Waste Management Plan Update no later than August 10, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the \_\_\_\_\_ (council or trustees) of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of city, village, township) that:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (name of city, village, township) (approves) (disapproves) the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

The Clerk is hereby directed to send the District a copy of this resolution/ordinance to the attention of Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District, 4750 East 131 Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105.

2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this \_\_\_\_\_ (council or trustees) concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution/ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this \_\_\_\_\_ (council or trustees) and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including *Sections 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code*.

Approved/Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Appropriate Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **RATIFICATION OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (2026 – 2040)**

**A Fact Sheet for Community Officials – DEADLINE TO RATIFY IS August 10, 2025**

The development of the solid waste plan is a requirement of Ohio law. Every solid waste management district in Ohio must periodically update their solid waste management plan and submit it to each political subdivision to be ratified. Ratification occurs when city/village councils and township trustees representing 60% of a district's population, including its largest city and the legislative authority of the county, vote to approve the plan. If a district's plan is not ratified, the Ohio EPA will prepare the plan and order it to be implemented. **This fact sheet provides general information about Cuyahoga County's solid waste plan which is now out for ratification.**

### **The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan was first ratified by communities in 1994 and four times since. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District (the District) and its Solid Waste Policy Committee are now seeking local approval for the fifth Plan Update. **The ratification process takes place from May 10, 2025 through August 10, 2025.** This Plan Update complies with an Ohio EPA format and contains 6 chapters and 23 appendices. It describes the waste management methods to be used in the upcoming planning period and details how the ten waste reduction and recycling goals established in the State Solid Waste Management Plan will be achieved. It also describes how the Plan will be implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

### **What's the best way to review the Plan Update?**

The plan chapters provide an executive summary of the plan. The District recommends reading the chapters for an overview of the plan and if additional information is desired, referring to the appendices for more detail. **Please find enclosed the 2026-2040 Plan Update summary presentation for your review. Your council clerk will soon receive a Plan Update Summary booklet.** The complete Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2026 – 2040) is also available on the District's website at [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org) and at the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's office.

### **Who prepared the Plan Update?**

The Plan Update was prepared by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee. Various stakeholders were also consulted through the 18-month process. **The Policy Committee consists of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission members and two public members.**

### **Who implements the Plan Update and how is it funded?**

The District is responsible for implementing the Plan Update which contains programs and services that support waste reduction and recycling. The District employs seven staff and is funded by a "generation fee". This fee of \$2.00 is levied on each ton of waste produced in Cuyahoga County and landfilled in Ohio. Cuyahoga County's current \$2.00 per ton fee was increased by \$0.50 per ton in 2023, only the second increase since 1994, and remains one of the lowest in Ohio. **Under this Plan Update, the generation fee remains at the current level through 2040. For comparison, the average fee statewide is \$4.74 per ton.**

### **Programs and services offered through the Plan**

**All the existing programs and services offered by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will continue with the ratification of this Plan Update while some new programs will be initiated.** See program summary list below.

Education Services	Community Services & Programs	Expanded or New Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CuyahogaRecycles.org</li> <li>• Speakers / presenters</li> <li>• Residential recycling outreach</li> <li>• Children's education</li> <li>• Business recycling assistance</li> <li>• Recycling program assistance</li> <li>• Compost seminars</li> <li>• Compost bin sales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household Hazardous Waste Program</li> <li>• Scrap Tire Round-Up</li> <li>• Litter Collection Program</li> <li>• Special Waste Collections</li> <li>• Program analysis and contracting services</li> <li>• Environmental Crimes Task Force</li> <li>• Health Department Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants for communities</li> <li>• Promote food waste, fiber, glass, yard waste drop-off super sites</li> <li>• Waste Reduction Grant for schools and universities</li> <li>• Volume-based fee support</li> <li>• Scrap tire education and enforcement</li> <li>• Expanded litter collection program</li> </ul>





**Cuyahoga County**  
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

# **2026-2040** **Solid Waste** **Management Plan** Executive Summary



## Cuyahoga County SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

4750 East 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105  
(216) 443-3749 [CuyahogaRecycles.org](https://CuyahogaRecycles.org)

**W**e are the public agency helping the people of Cuyahoga County to reduce, reuse and recycle at home, at work and in our communities.

We provide residents, communities and organizations with information, expertise and programs that support sustainable materials management and reduce the environmental impact of waste.

### Board of Directors

**Michael Dever**, *Director, Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works*

**Valerie Katz**, *Deputy Administrator for Cuyahoga Green Energy (for Cuyahoga County Executive 2023-2024)*

**Melanie Knowles**, *Director, Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability (for Cuyahoga County Executive 2025-Present)*

**Sunny Simon**, *Cuyahoga County Councilmember*

### Cuyahoga County Policy Committee Members

#### Member Name & Area of Representation

**Matthew Burke**, *Mayor, City of Garfield Heights*

**Yvonne Conwell**, *Cuyahoga County Council District 7*

**Michael Dever**, *Director, Cuyahoga County Public Works*

**Marka Fields for Mayor Justin Bibb**, *Assistant Director, Cleveland City Planning Commission*

**Marie Gallo**, *Mayor, City of Parma Heights*

**Nicole Daily Jones**, *Mayor, City of North Olmsted*

**Gregory Kurtz**, *Mayor, City of Independence*

**Edward Orcutt**, *Mayor, City of Brook Park*

**Sunny Simon**, *Cuyahoga County Council District 11*

**Tim Weber**, *MetroHealth*

**David Weiss**, *Mayor, City of Shaker Heights*

**Georgine Welo**, *Mayor, City of South Euclid*

**Michelle Wilhelm**

#### Policy Committee Position

Chagrin / Southeast Region Representative

County Representative

County Representative

Cleveland Region Representative

South Central Region Representative

West Shore Region Representative

Cuyahoga Region Representative

Southwest Region Representative

County Representative

Private Sector Representative

Heights Region Representative

Hillcrest Region Representative

Citizen Representative



Scan QR Code to view the entire Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan or visit

[cuyahogarecycles.org/solid\\_waste\\_management\\_plan/](https://cuyahogarecycles.org/solid_waste_management_plan/)





# 2026-2040 Solid Waste Management Plan Executive Summary



## Table of Contents

Brief Introduction to Solid Waste Planning in Ohio . . . . .	4
District Profile: Residential, Commercial and Industrial . . . . .	4
Top Employers by Workforce in Commercial and Institutional Sectors. . .	5
Cuyahoga County Industrial Statistics . . . . .	5
Solid Waste Generated in the 2022 Reference Year . . . . .	5
Waste Generation and Recycling . . . . .	5
Residential / Commercial Material Reduced / Recycled in 2022 . . . . .	6
Industrial Material Reduced / Recycled in 2022. . . . .	7
Projected Total of Reduction 2026-2040 . . . . .	7
Waste Management. . . . .	7
2022 Total Waste Generation . . . . .	8
Ohio's Solid Waste Facilities . . . . .	9
Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities, Programs and Services. . .	9
2026 Plan Update Areas of Focus and Programming . . . . .	9
Residential Reduction and Recycling Programs . . . . .	10
Full-Time Recycling Drop-off Locations. . . . .	10
Commercial / Institutional Sector Reduction and Recycling Programs . .	11
Industrial Sector Reduction and Recycling Programs. . . . .	11
Restricted & Difficult to Manage Wastes & Special Collection Events . .	12
Organics – Yard Waste and Food Waste Services . . . . .	13
Education / Outreach Services . . . . .	13
Grants, Economic Incentives, Market Development Offerings. . . . .	14
Enforcement and Clean Up Activities. . . . .	14
Budget . . . . .	14
Plan Budget Summary . . . . .	15



## Brief Introduction to Solid Waste Planning in Ohio

In 1988, Ohio faced a combination of solid waste management problems, including rapidly declining disposal capacity at existing landfills, increasing quantities of waste being generated and disposed, environmental problems at many existing solid waste disposal facilities, and increasing quantities of waste being imported into Ohio from other states. These issues combined with Ohio's outdated and incomplete solid waste regulations caused Ohio's General Assembly to pass House Bill (H.B.) 592. H.B. 592 dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program and established a comprehensive solid waste planning process.

There are three overriding purposes of this planning process: to reduce the amount of waste Ohioans generate and dispose of; to ensure that Ohio has adequate, protective capacity at landfills to dispose of its waste; and to reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills.

As a result of H.B. 592, each of the 88 counties in Ohio must be a member of a solid waste management district (SWMD). A SWMD is governed by two bodies. The first is the board of directors. The second is a policy committee. The policy committee is responsible for developing a solid waste management plan for the SWMD. The board of directors is responsible for implementing the policy committee's solid waste management plan (Plan).

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Board of Directors and Policy Committee are uniquely structured. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee consists of the 11-member Cuyahoga County Planning Commission plus two public representatives. This structure differs from that specified in Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.54 due to a waiver granted by Ohio EPA that provides more municipal input into the solid waste planning process.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Board of Directors differs from other districts that are governed by county commissioners. When Cuyahoga County became a charter county in 2011, its county commissioner governance structure was replaced with that of a county executive and county council. As a result, the Solid Waste District Board was changed.

In its solid waste management plan, the policy committee must, among other things, demonstrate that the SWMD will have access to sufficient landfill capacity for the first 8 years of the planning period to manage all of the SWMD's solid wastes that will be disposed. The solid waste management plan must also show how the SWMD will meet the waste reduction and recycling goals established in Ohio's state solid waste management plan and present a budget for implementing the solid waste management plan.

## District Profile: Residential, Commercial and Industrial

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District ("District") is a single-county district established on August 29, 1988, by the Board of Commissioners of Cuyahoga County. The District includes all incorporated and unincorporated territory in Cuyahoga County and a small portion of neighboring Geauga County (Village of Hunting Valley). Cuyahoga County encompasses 458.3 square miles.

The population of Cuyahoga County in the Plan reference year of 2022 was 1,236,174 (after adjusting upwards to include the 133 residents in the Geauga County portion of Hunting Valley). In 2022, Cuyahoga County ranked 2nd in terms of population out of Ohio's 88 total counties.

Cuyahoga County is divided into 59 communities – 38 municipalities, 19 villages and 2 townships. The largest (by population) is the City of Cleveland, which accounts for 29% of the SWMD's population. The cities of Parma, Lakewood, Euclid and Strongsville are the next populous communities within the District. There are 616,424 housing units county-wide.



**Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Communities**

Source: CuyahogaGIS, January 2, 2025

58.2% are owner occupied, 41.8% are renter occupied and 10.6% are vacant according to the Ohio Development Services Agency.

*Continued on next page*



District Profile: Residential, Commercial and Industrial, Continued

According to the United States Census Bureau between the years 2020 and 2022, population for Cuyahoga County declined by 2.3%. The District is projected to continue that population trend, reflecting a 9.8% decline over the 2026-2040 planning period, or an average of 0.7% per year (7,775 persons). Population affects waste generation rates but factors of population growth such as household income, people per household, and economic activity also contribute.

Top Employers by Workforce Commercial and Institutional Sectors

There are approximately 32,427 commercial businesses and institutions in Cuyahoga County. The top employers include the health care, insurance and financial industries, along with universities and the public sector.

There are approximately 4,078 industrial businesses operating in Cuyahoga County.

Company Name	Employees
Cleveland Clinic	44,665
University Hospitals	24,636
Minute Men Companies	21,802
U.S. Office of Personnel Management	15,342
Progressive Corporation	12,849
Walmart	12,400
Giant Eagle	9,806
State of Ohio	7,734
Cuyahoga County	7,336
City of Cleveland	7,244

Source: Crain's List | 100 Largest Northeast Ohio Employers, 2022

Cuyahoga County Industrial Statistics

Type of Business	Number of Businesses
Utilities	79
Manufacturing: Food and Apparel	632
Manufacturing: Wood, Paper, Printing, Chemical, and Plastics	880
Manufacturing: Metal, electronics, Transportation, Furniture, and Misc.	2,487

Source: U.S. Business Database. Rep. Reference USA. Web. 29 Feb. 24 and Ohio Department of Development Cuyahoga County Profile, 2023 Edition

Solid Waste Generated in the 2022 Reference Year



Waste Generation and Recycling

Understanding waste generation is an important first step in making solid waste management decisions. The District calculated waste generation for two sectors: Residential / Commercial and Industrial. How much waste each sector generated was calculated by combining the quantities of solid waste disposed in landfills with the quantities of materials that were recycled or composted. The District obtained recycling data by surveying communities, commercial and industrial businesses and recycling and composting facilities. The District obtained disposal data from Ohio EPA.

Historic quantities of waste generated were analyzed to project future waste generation. The District then used the projections to make decisions on how best to manage Cuyahoga County's waste and ensure there will be adequate waste management capacity through landfills, compost facilities and recycling facilities.

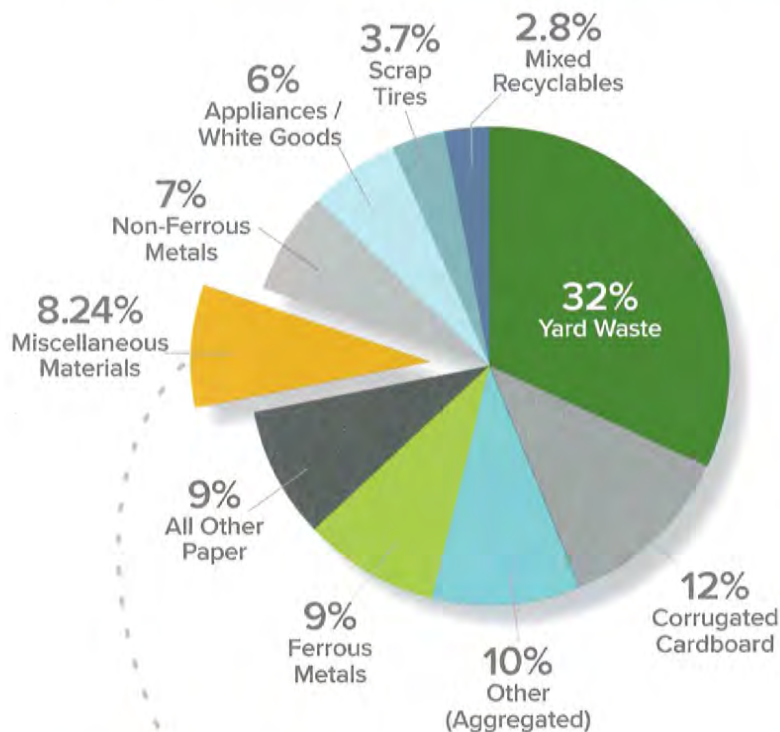
In 2022, Cuyahoga County generated 2,467,527 total tons of material. Each resident in the District generates around 7.1 pounds per day, which is slightly less than that of Ohio's statewide average. Most of the waste generated by the industrial sector, 62.7%, is diverted with the primary material recycled being ferrous metal from the manufacturing sector.



## Residential / Commercial Material Reduced / Recycled within the 2022 Reference Year



24.43%



2.5%	Wood
1.7%	Plastics
0.9%	Food
0.2%	Textiles
.05%	Electronics
.05%	Household Hazardous Waste
.03%	Used Motor Oil
.01%	Lead-Acid Batteries

### Material

Appliances / "White Goods"	22,907
Household Hazardous Waste	187
Used Motor Oil	103
Electronics	200
Scrap Tires	14,529
Dry Cell Batteries	0
Lead-Acid Batteries	28
Food	3,447
Glass	11,025
Ferrous Metals	36,277
Non-Ferrous Metals	27,908
Corrugated Cardboard	48,352
All Other Paper	33,546
Plastics	6,768
Textiles	692
Wood	9,888
Rubber	0
Commingled Recyclables (Mixed)	11,094
Yard Waste	126,198
Other (Aggregated)	37,890
<b>Total</b>	<b>391,041</b>

Tons Reduced / Recycled

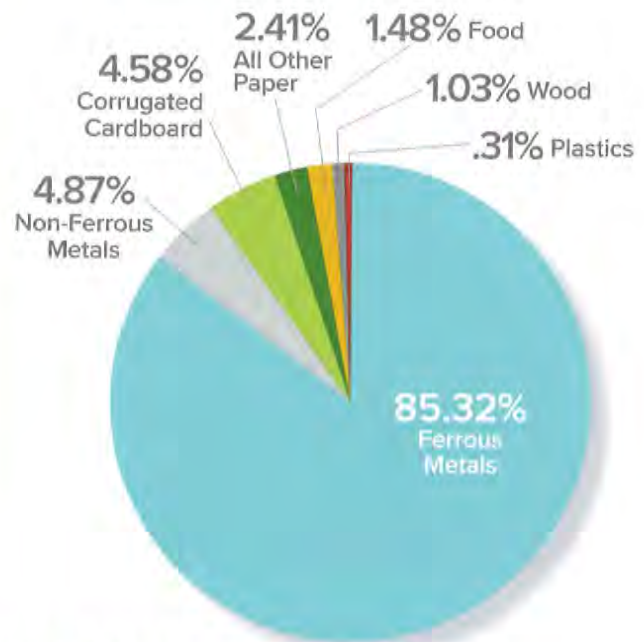


## Industrial Waste Reduced / Recycled within the 2022 Reference Year

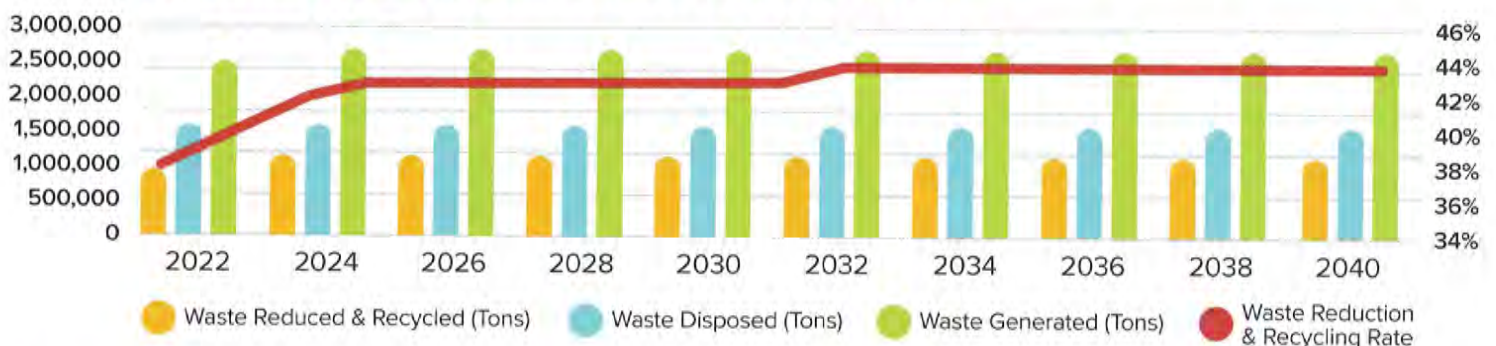


62.73%

Material	Tons Reduced / Recycled
Food	8,016
Glass	6
Ferrous Metals	463,489
Non-Ferrous Metals	26,437
Corrugated Cardboard	24,904
All Other Paper	13,111
Plastics	1,657
Textiles	1
Wood	5,614
<b>Total</b>	<b>543,235</b>



## Projected Total of Reduction: 2026 to 2040



## Waste Management

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District must ensure that the number and capacity of facilities is adequate to manage all the District's solid waste estimated to be generated during the planning period – approximately 2.7 million tons per year. This waste can be managed by various facilities including landfills, transfer facilities, compost facilities and recycling facilities. Facilities can be located within and outside the District.

Cuyahoga County benefits from an ample solid waste management infrastructure that provides many opportunities to manage waste cost-effectively and efficiently including many opportunities to recycle and compost. In 2022, Cuyahoga County generated 2,486,256 total tons of solid waste. Of this amount,

over a third (38%) was diverted from landfills through recycling and composting.

Recycling processing facilities refer to facilities that receive and process recyclables such as scrap metal, cans, paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, electronics, organics and more. These facilities typically sort and bale recyclable materials for shipment to various companies that recycle them into new products. In 2022, 59 processors handled recyclable materials from Cuyahoga County's residential, commercial and industrial generators.

Among the processing facilities are Material Recovery Facilities, known as MRF's, that process commingled recyclables collected through community curbside and

*Continued on next page*



## Waste Management, Continued

drop-off recycling programs. These privately owned and operated facilities contracted with District communities to process cans, cartons, glass, paper, cardboard, and specific plastics collected from residents.



Composting facilities are used to manage organic waste such as leaves and brush from municipalities, tree trimmings and grass from landscapers and food waste from homes, restaurants, and institutions. Approximately

6% of Cuyahoga County's waste was managed through composting in the reference year, by 23 Ohio EPA registered compost facilities.

Composting is the most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial way to manage organic waste because it eliminates landfill disposal fees and produces a soil amendment that benefits gardens and landscapes. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Organic waste disposed in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Especially promising is the opportunity to compost food waste as the local infrastructure to collect and compost this material expands.

Solid waste transfer facilities are used to consolidate trash before being trucked to distant landfills for disposal. Transfer stations are an important part of the solid waste management infrastructure in Cuyahoga County because there is only one landfill close enough to direct haul waste – the Lorain County Landfill in Oberlin. The other landfills are located at least 80 miles from Cleveland. As a result, approximately 68% of Cuyahoga County's waste is taken to one of 17 transfer station before being taken to a landfill.

Landfills are the last stop for any waste that is not diverted through waste reduction, recycling and composting. While Cuyahoga County's communities and businesses are effective at recycling, landfills still manage approximately one half of all its waste – nearly 1.5 million tons annually.

All this waste is exported to other counties in Ohio for disposal because no operating solid waste landfills remain in Cuyahoga County. In 2022, waste was exported to 18 landfills located in 14 other Ohio counties for disposal. (includes one out-of-state).

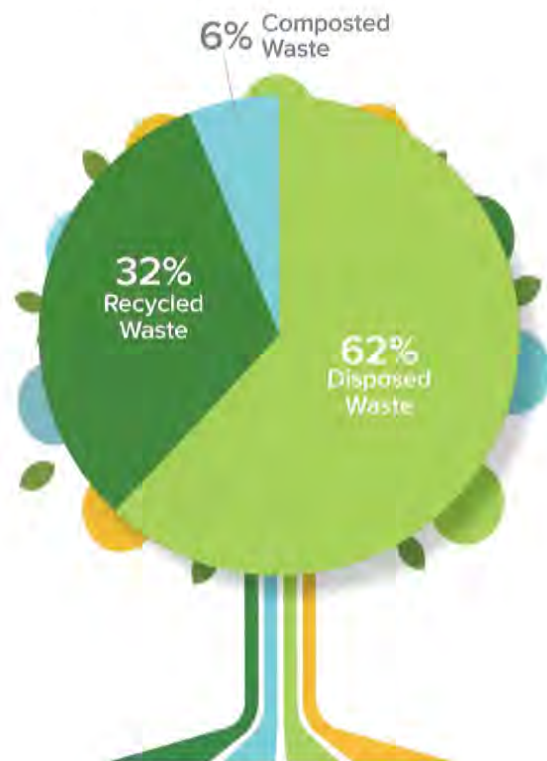
Since the District has concluded that ample landfill disposal capacity exists, it has not developed a siting strategy for the construction of a new landfill within Cuyahoga County. Furthermore, the undeveloped land needed to develop a new landfill no longer exists within Cuyahoga County.

While no new landfills are expected to be constructed within Cuyahoga County, there is the potential for other solid waste facilities to be proposed or existing solid waste facilities to be modified. The Board of Directors of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District is authorized by Revised Code section 343.01(G)(2) to adopt a rule requiring the submission of general plans and specifications to the Board for a determination by the Board that any proposed new solid waste facility or major existing facility modification complies with the District Plan.

The District supports an open market for the collection, transport and disposal of solid waste. The District is not designating any facilities in this Plan Update and is therefore identifying all Ohio licensed and permitted solid waste landfill, and transfer, and resource recovery facilities or recycling activities as well as permitted out-of-state landfill, transfer, and resource recovery facilities or recycling activities to receive solid waste generated within the District.

## 2022 Total Waste Generation

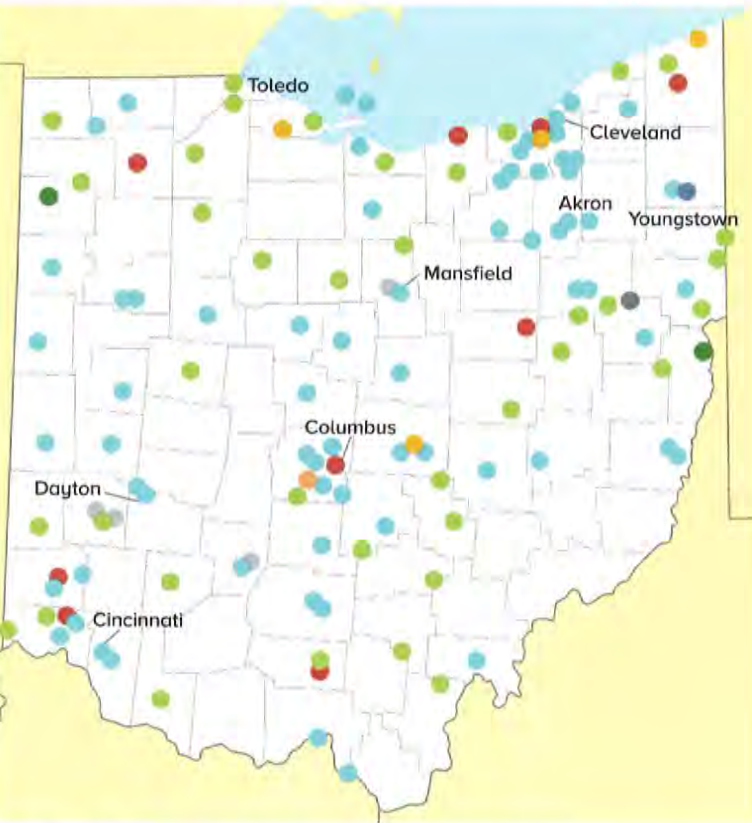
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District





## Ohio's Solid Waste Facilities

The data in this map is from the Ohio EPA's license and registration system, current as of 5/5/2025.



### Map Key

- Industrial Solid Waste Landfill
- Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
- Residual Solid Waste Landfill / Class 3
- Solid Waste Transfer Facility
- Scrap Tire Collection
- Scrap Tire Monofill Landfill
- Scrap Tire Recovery / Class 1
- Scrap Tire Recovery / Class 2
- Solid & Infectious Waste Incinerator

## Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities, Programs and Services

Solid waste management districts must provide programs and services to achieve the waste reduction and recycling goals established in the state solid waste management plan and ensure that there are programs and services available to meet local needs. Before deciding upon the programs and services to offer within this Plan Update, the District performed a strategic analysis of all its existing programs and services, operations and finances and an analysis of existing waste management and recycling infrastructure and recovery rates. This review consisted of a series of 13 analyses and provided a holistic understanding of the District.



## 2026 Plan Update Areas of Focus and Programming

Business Education, Technical Assistance & Program Development

Cuyahoga Recycling Economic Impact Education

Education Campaign after a Community Switches to a New Hauler / MRF Shed

Expand Research on Hard-to-Manage / Recycle Materials (Food Waste, Glass, Textiles)

Facilitate Environmental Crimes Task Force

Grant Funding

Health Department Code Enforcement Funding

Litter Collection & Tire Collection Programming

Promote Drop-offs for Some Hard-to-Manage / Recycle Materials

Promote the Ohio Materials Marketplace (aka Rheaply)

Promote Use of Share Tables as a Low-cost Way to Reduce Food Waste in Cafeterias

Recycle Right & New Recyclable Materials Outreach Campaign

Recycling Education Toolkit

Regional Harmonization through Electronic & Printed Collateral

Restructuring the District's Grant Program

Scheduled Public Official Facility Tours & Education

Textile Recycling Analysis

Technical Assistance / Education for Communities for Programming & Contracts

Website – [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org)

Year Round Household Hazardous Waste Program

### Priority Programs



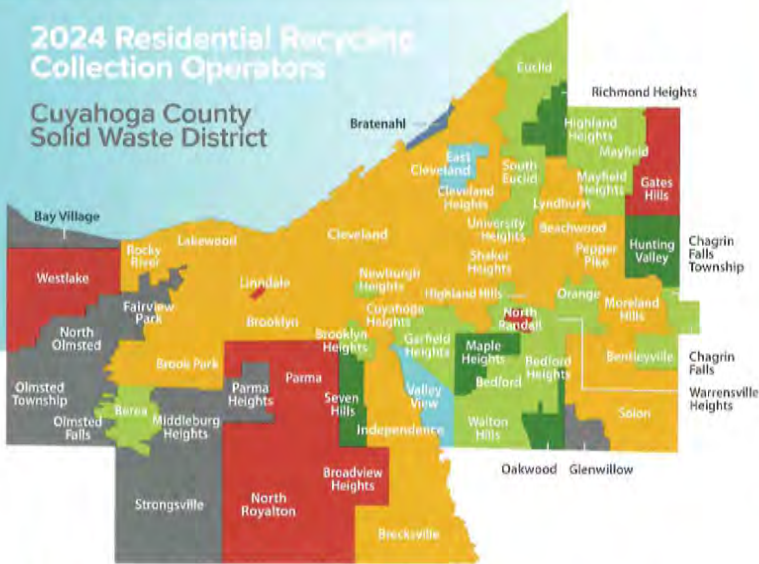


## Residential Reduction and Recycling Programs

**Curbside Recycling:** The District's curbside recycling infrastructure is mature and will continue to be offered by communities during the planning period. All curbside programs collect cans, glass, paper, cardboard and plastic bottles and jugs. Recycling haulers are expanding the materials they collect curbside and this expansion of acceptable materials is anticipated to grow.

### 2024 Residential Recycling Collection Operators

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District



#### Primary Operator

- None (Drop-off Only)
- Dumpster Bandit
- Kimble
- Municipal
- Republic
- Rumpke
- Waste Management

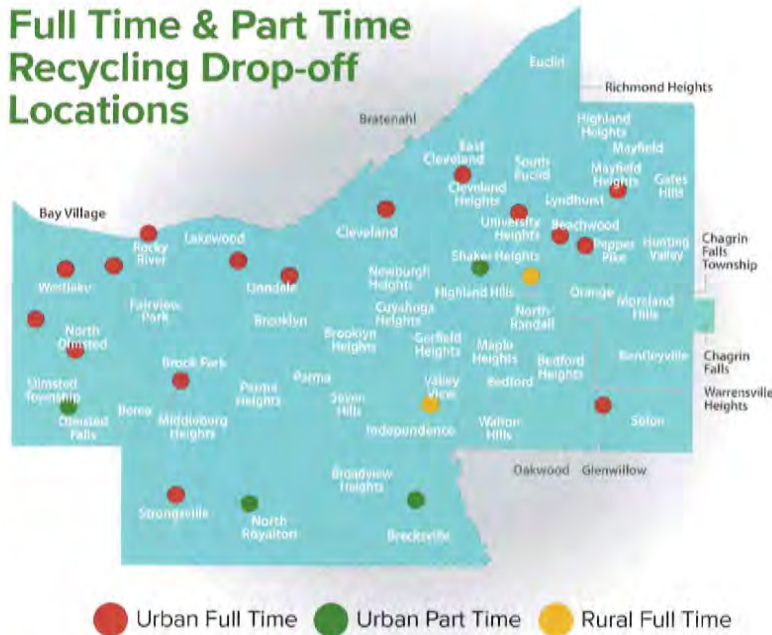
**Curbside Recycling Technical Assistance and Contracting Services:** The District will continue to provide communities with technical assistance to help with contracting for solid waste and recycling services and to implement best practices for collection.

**Municipal Contracting Consortiums:** The District will continue to manage two municipal contracting consortiums – solid waste transfer and disposal consortium (8 members) and recycling processing consortium (9 members). These consortiums have helped the participating cities, who collect their own waste and recyclables, obtain favorable and competitive pricing for solid waste services.

#### Special Assistance for Low Performing Communities:

The District will provide special assistance to communities with curbside recycling rates lower than the national average of 300 pounds per household per year.

## Full Time & Part Time Recycling Drop-off Locations



**Recycling Drop-offs:** Drop-off recycling opportunities will continue to be offered by many communities during the planning period. Currently, multi-material drop-offs are offered by 18 communities and accept cans, glass, plastic containers, mixed paper and cardboard. In addition, limited-material drop-offs are offered by 23 communities and typically accept cans, paper and cardboard.

**Multi-Family Recycling:** The District will continue to offer technical assistance to property owners and managers to establish recycling in apartment buildings – identifying recycling opportunities; potential cost savings; assisting with program implementation; troubleshooting; and tenant education.





## Commercial / Institutional Sector Reduction and Recycling Programs

There were approximately 32,428 commercial / institutional establishments in Cuyahoga County during the reference year. The District provides direct assistance to businesses through information on its website, technical assistance, presentations, and waste audits. The District also works with trade associations, commercial businesses, industrial parks, large retail complexes, etc. to renegotiate contracts for solid waste and recycling services. Through this support, businesses have reduced basic waste management contract costs, which increase the financial attractiveness of recycling.



### Technical Assistance, Presentations and Zero Waste Planning Services:

The District will provide technical assistance, waste audits, and presentations for commercial businesses, institutions, schools and manufacturing facilities to facilitate waste reduction and

recycling program implementation, improvements and employee education. The District will also assist with crafting contracts for recycling services and developing zero waste plans.

### Recycling Sense for Your Business Workshops:

The District will host periodic workshops for business and industry to focus on program implementation, contracting for recycling services and employee education.

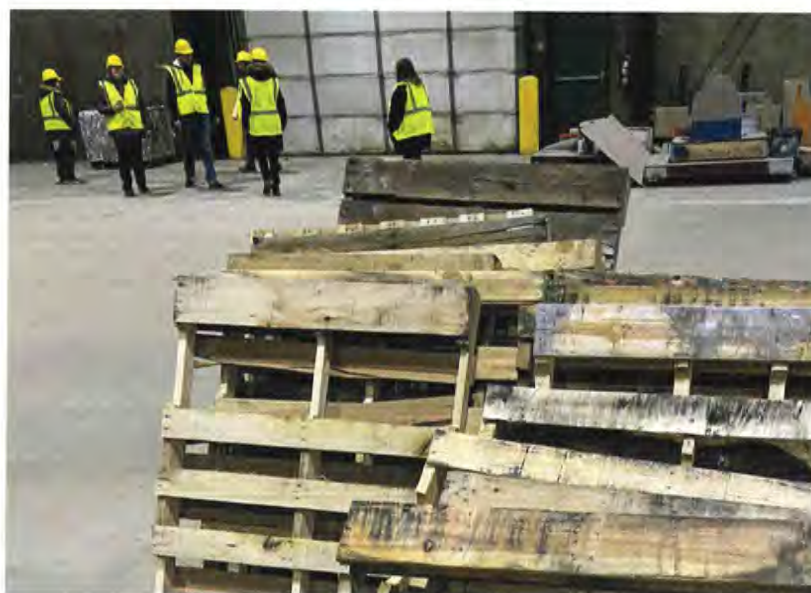
### Targeted Assistance for High Waste Generators:

The District will target companies with the greatest opportunity to recycle such as large companies, institutions or public venues or high fiber generators such as retail establishments.

**Contracting Assistance:** The District will help commercial businesses, institutions, schools and manufacturing facilities procure solid waste collection and recycling services and will review existing solid waste contracts to identify opportunities for savings that could be used to help pay for recycling services.

### Collaborations with Local Economic Development

**Partners:** The District will work with local economic development directors and commercial trade associations to promote waste reduction, recycling and District services.



## Industrial Sector Reduction and Recycling Programs

Approximately 4,078 industrial businesses operated in Cuyahoga County during the reference year. A robust infrastructure of companies that recycle materials is available to District businesses. This infrastructure includes companies that recycle traditional commodities such as paper and business-specific materials like barrels and drums.



**Waste Audits:** The District will continue to offer waste assessments for manufacturing facilities to identify opportunities for waste reduction, recycling and education.

### Promote The Ohio Materials

**Marketplace (aka Rheaply):** The District will work with Ohio EPA to promote the exchange of used materials through The Ohio Materials Marketplace (aka Rheaply). The District will promote the marketplace on its website and distribute information to its businesses and manufacturers.

**Target Small Industries:** Smaller industries are more likely not to have an existing waste reduction program in place and may be more in need of the District's assistance. The District will focus on aiding them initiate green teams, develop waste stream recommendations and educate employees.



## Restricted and Difficult-to-Manage Wastes and Special Collection Events

Some components of the solid waste stream are either restricted from landfill disposal or are not appropriate for landfilling because they are either readily recyclable or contain hazardous materials. These materials include scrap tires, household hazardous waste (HHW), electronic waste, lead-acid batteries, household batteries and pharmaceuticals. The District operates in partnership with its 59 communities to conduct local HHW, e-waste and scrap tire collections. This is efficient and cost effective for the District and more convenient for residents.



### Year-Round HHW Collection Program:

The District will continue to operate its year-round HHW collection program at its Special Waste Convenience Center that allows communities to dispose of the HHW they collect from their residents. The District will pay for all costs associated with HHW management once it is delivered by the communities. This program manages approximately 325,000 pounds of HHW annually and is the District's signature service.

### Education to Promote HHW Reuse, Reduction and Green Alternatives:

The District will work to educate residents about ways to minimize the creation of HHW through using social media and community outreach. The campaign will focus on green cleaning and buying to reduce waste and save money.

### Obtain HHW Participation Data:

The District may work with communities to survey participants to better understand how and why they use the HHW program and to educate residents about HHW reuse and reduction.

### Evaluate Feasibility of Offering a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) and Universal Waste Program:

The District may conduct a market assessment to determine the regulatory and operational aspects of developing a CESQG and / or Universal Waste Collection program for small businesses.

### Proper Scrap Tire Disposal and Education:

The District will promote the proper management of scrap tires and illegal dumping laws.

**Scrap Tire Round Up:** The District will continue to conduct its annual Scrap Tire Round-Up, while it works to educate the public on proper scrap tire management.

**Scrap Tire Dumping Enforcement:** The District will 1) continue to facilitate the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Environmental Crimes Task Force to investigate and prosecute illegal dumping cases and other environmental crimes, and 2) continue to contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to inspect licensed solid waste facilities, inspect tire generators, and respond to nuisance complaints.



### Computers / E-Waste and Computer Round-Up Events:

The District will continue to promote local Computer Round-Ups held by communities as well as other e-waste recycling opportunities offered by local e-waste recyclers and retail stores.

### Pharmaceutical Collections:

The District will promote existing pharmaceutical collections offered by the Cuyahoga County Sheriff and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

**Battery Recycling:** The District will continue to promote proper disposal of all batteries using retail drop-offs.

### Convenient Center Hard-to-Recycle Material Drop-Off:

The District will continue to provide a public drop-off at its Special Waste Convenience Center. Items currently accepted include election signs, cell phones, CD / DVD cases, VHS and cassette tapes and cases, computer equipment,

holiday lights, mixed paper / cardboard, PakTech rings, and small electronics.

**Television Round-Up Program:** Seasonally, the Solid Waste District conducts a free collection event for residents to recycle televisions. Registration for this event is required.







## Organics – Yard Waste and Food Waste Services

Composting and organic-management technologies (anaerobic digesters, in-vessel technologies, etc.) are available options to manage yard trimmings and food waste. These management methods can be small, medium, or large scale.

**Evaluate Municipal Yard Waste Contracting:** The District will continue to evaluate interest in establishing municipal yard waste collection programs, contracts and consortiums to help communities manage leaves and brush and obtain stable programming and pricing.

**Evaluate Municipal Food Waste Contracting:** The District will continue to work with communities and haulers to encourage food waste collection and diversion programming.

### Compost Bin Sales and Composting Workshops:

The District will continue to offer backyard composting bins and food waste digesters for sale to the public at its office and through composting seminars.

## Education / Outreach Services

The District will continue to work within the region regarding solid waste issues, disposal and recycling impacts as the largest contributor to the regional waste shed. The District will continue to strengthen relationships, build resources, and to broadly share information to provide access to opportunities for diversion, recycling and composting.

**Website – CuyahogaRecycles.org:** The District's will continue to utilize its interactive website as a key means of providing recycling information to the public. CuyahogaRecycles.org is a comprehensive resource for residents, businesses, communities, educators, elected

officials and the general public. The website lists specific recycling information for each community in Cuyahoga County. Residents can select their community from a drop-down menu to load a page that includes information about their curbside program, drop-off locations, materials accepted, and special waste collections. The "What Do I Do With" (WDIDW) search engine helps people learn how to recycle or dispose over 100 items. It also provides information about the District's programs and services; numerous resources for educators; recycling awareness toolkit; and other valuable information.

**Comprehensive Resource Guides:** The District will continue to offer various ways that residents can find recycling locations and reuse opportunities in Cuyahoga County:

- "What Do I Do With" (WDIDW) search feature on CuyahogaRecycles.org, inclusive of a geo-locator feature
- Pass It On: A Resource-Full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff
- Business Recycling Directory (now hosted within WDIDW web pages on CuyahogaRecycles.org)

**Speakers and Presenters:** The District will continue to conduct recycling presentations for all audiences through its Education Specialist, Business Recycling Specialist and other District staff:

- Youth presentations – classroom, library, camp, scouts and other group activities and lessons
- Adult presentations – public officials, trade and civic groups, clubs, colleges, community events
- Backyard composting seminars
- Business recycling seminars – and presentations, staff "lunch and learns"



**Outreach – Residential Recycling:** The District will continue to reach its 1.2 million residents to help them understand how to recycle more and how to "recycle right". The District's "Recycle Right" campaign established the foundation for the District's expanded outreach efforts utilizing marketing, media relations and advertising, e-newsletter, printed materials, presentations, and the recycling hotline to teach people how to properly recycle, increase participation, and reduce contamination.

**Outreach – Children's Education Program:** The District will continue to have an Education Specialist available for student programs, including classroom presentations and activities, contests, summer camp and scout programs.

**Outreach – Schools:** The District will reach out to schools about starting a recycling program and will offer waste audits and assistance with implementing a recycling or composting program. Schools can also apply for the District's Recycling Container Grant to purchase recycling containers.

*Continued on next page*



## Education / Outreach Services, Continued

**Outreach – Commercial / Institutional Sector:** The District will continue to have a Business Recycling Specialist dedicated to providing waste reduction and recycling assistance to the commercial and institutional (business) sectors. Presentations, workshops, and educational materials will also be offered.

**Outreach – Communities:** The District will continue to offer its Annual Report, Residential Recycling Report, Trash Talk Lunch seminars, Trash Heap newsletter and arrange solid waste facility tours.

## Grants, Economic Incentives, Market Development Offerings

**Revamp 3 Existing Grant Programs:** The District intends to revamp its three existing grant programs – Community Recycling Awareness Grant, Waste Reduction, Recycling Container, and Composting Equipment Grant, and Special Project Grant. It will be adjusting funding levels; establishing new maximum individual grant awards; grant cycle timing; allowable funding categories and activities as approved by the District.

### Create New Waste Reduction Grant for Schools and Universities:

The District will create a new grant program – Waste Reduction Grant for Schools and Universities. It will establish the funding level; establish maximum individual grant award; grant cycle timing; and allowable funding categories.

### Ohio EPA Market Development Support and Administration:

The District will assist local recyclers and end markets by applying for grant funding through the Ohio EPA Market Development Grant to expand local processing capacity and markets for materials. It will assist with the development of the application; the application process; administering the grant upon award; and tracking progress.

### Recycling and Sustainable Business Assistance:

The District will continue to work with local recycling and reuse companies to develop local markets, expand local recycling infrastructure and increase local manufacture of recycled products.

## Enforcement and Clean-Up Activities

**Health Department Funding:** The District will continue to provide annual support to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to inspect solid waste facilities; inspect tire generators; respond to nuisance complaints; and participate on the Environmental Crimes Task Force.

**Facilitate Environmental Crimes Task Force:** The District will continue to facilitate the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Environmental Crimes Task Force which



investigates and prosecutes open dumping and other environmental crimes cases. Partners include the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Sheriff, Cleveland Police and Law departments and Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

**Litter Collection Program:** The District will expand its litter collection program provided through Court Community Services. The District will increase its support for litter crews to clean up roadways and public areas throughout Cuyahoga County. This program serves all communities and provides over 98,000-man hours of services annually.

## Budget

Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.53(B) requires solid waste management plans to present a budget describing the sources and uses of the funds over the planning period

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is self-funded through its “generation fee”. The District will continue to use this funding mechanism throughout the planning period. The fee is levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Cuyahoga County and disposed of in a landfill in Ohio. The District’s generation fee is \$2.00 per ton and is among the lowest in the State of Ohio where the average generation fee is \$4.75 per ton. Since its inception, the District has strived to impose the lowest fee possible while still funding all plan elements.

The District conducted an analysis and determined that total revenue (generation fees and other minor revenue) will equal approximately \$2.6 million annually during the planning period, declining slightly year over year, while expenses are projected to be approximately \$2.7 million annually, resulting in a slight fund balance decline. Maintaining the generation fee at the current \$2.00 per ton level would require an annual drawdown of the District’s fund balance to make up the difference between revenues and expenditures – on average, approximately \$100,000. This is projected to draw the balance down to \$3 million by the end of the planning period in year 2040.





The District strives to operate efficiently in order to keep its fee low for waste generators. This adopted Plan Update provides a responsible, conservative and flexible financial strategy with no increase in District fee for our residents and businesses.

## Plan Budget Summary

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Annual	Balance
2017			<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$3,217,651
2018	\$2,197,431	\$1,977,831	\$219,600	\$3,437,251
2019	\$3,332,865	\$3,796,519	- \$463,654	\$2,973,597
2020	\$2,153,329	\$2,276,994	- \$123,665	\$2,849,932
2021	\$2,183,944	\$1,985,711	\$198,234	\$3,048,166
2022	\$2,135,220	\$1,943,346	\$191,874	\$3,240,040
2023	\$2,972,094	\$2,140,981	\$831,113	\$4,071,153
2024	\$2,767,545	\$2,466,430	\$301,114	\$4,372,267
2025	\$2,690,024	\$2,476,024	\$214,001	\$4,586,268
2026	\$2,685,605	\$2,705,175	- \$19,570	\$4,566,698
2027	\$2,681,242	\$2,678,186	\$3,056	\$4,569,754
2028	\$2,676,935	\$2,729,405	- \$52,470	\$4,517,284
2029	\$2,672,684	\$2,842,728	- \$170,044	\$4,347,240
2030	\$2,668,490	\$2,801,821	- \$133,331	\$4,213,908
2031	\$2,660,966	\$2,808,386	- \$147,420	\$4,066,488
2032	\$2,653,499	\$2,830,923	- \$177,424	\$3,889,064
2033	\$2,653,499	\$2,830,923	- \$177,424	\$3,711,639
2034	\$2,653,499	\$2,830,923	- \$177,424	\$3,534,215
2035	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,461,420
2036	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,388,625
2037	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,315,830
2038	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,243,035
2039	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,170,240
2040	\$2,653,499	\$2,726,294	- \$72,795	\$3,097,445



Scan QR Code to view the entire  
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste  
Management Plan or visit  
[cuyahogarecycles.org/solid\\_waste\\_management\\_plan/](http://cuyahogarecycles.org/solid_waste_management_plan/)



# Cuyahoga County

## SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

4750 East 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105  
(216) 443-3749 [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org)