

BUTLER COUNTY RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE DISTRICT



2018 PLAN UPDATE SUMMARY

Background:

As a result of House Bill 592, each Ohio county is required to establish or join other counties to form a solid waste management district. There are 52 solid waste districts in Ohio. Butler County Solid Waste Management District was established in 1989 and is in compliance with regulations and goals set by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). Ohio EPA requires that nine waste reduction strategies be implemented that will enable the District to meet following the goals:

Goal #1

Ensure adequate infrastructure for residents and businesses to recycle solid waste.

Goal #2

Reduce/recycle at least 25 percent of the waste generated by the residential/commercial sector and 66 percent of waste generated by the industrial sector.

Goal #3

Provide a web site, resource guide, inventory of available infrastructure, and a speaker or presenter.

Goal #4

Provide education, outreach, and technical assistance regarding reduction, recycling composting, reuse and other alternative waste management methods to target audiences.

Goal #5

Provide strategies for scrap tires, lead-acid batteries, household hazardous wastes, yard waste, and electronic devices.

Goal #6

Explore economic incentives for source reduction and recycling programs.

Goal #7

Evaluate the impact of recycling programs on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal #8

Option of providing programs to develop markets for recyclable materials and recycled-content materials.

Goal #9

Report annually to Ohio EPA regarding implementation of the District's solid waste management plan.

Per Ohio law, each Solid Waste District develops a long term (15 year) solid waste management plan. The Plan must: demonstrate access to at least 10 years of landfill capacity for all solid waste generated within the county; demonstrate strategies to meet waste reduction and recycling goals established by Ohio EPA; and, provide a budget for financing and implementing the Plan.

Structure:

Butler County is a single county solid waste management District governed by the Board of County Commissioners and the policy committee. Day to day District operation is the responsibility of Solid Waste District staff. District staff are under the general supervision of Butler County Water and Sewer Department and the Butler County Commissioners.

Butler County's integrated solid waste management plan relies heavily on neighboring counties for landfill, transfer facility, and recycling processing infrastructure. The Solid Waste District operates in an open market system - customers have a choice of waste hauler in a competitive marketplace.

Analysis:

Using 2014 as the baseline reference year, the methods of managing waste and volumes of waste were analyzed. Total waste generated in Butler County was 678,445 tons (CY 2014), a per person generation of 9.90 pounds per person per day. Of this, approximately 65 percent is generated from the residential/commercial sector, 15 percent from the industrial sector, and 20 percent is exempt. Recycling activity captured 14 percent of all waste generated, composting accounts for 1 percent and 85 percent of waste is disposed.

Recycling activities of commercial and industrial sector businesses were managed by private service providers. Businesses contract with service providers for collection and recycling services. Residential recycling is collected and processed by private service providers. All six municipal political jurisdictions and one township procure one contractor, to provide trash and recycling collection services for single-family households. The remaining political jurisdictions operate with individual contracts or private subscriptions, a system where residents contract directly with the hauler of their choice. Curbside subscription recycling is available in 6 townships. The District provides 20+ community recycling drop-off locations throughout the County.

The District provides residential programs for hard to dispose materials. Services include long term household hazardous waste drop off service. Special collection events are offered annually for scrap tires. Freon-appliance collection is available “on-demand” several months of the year.

There were 9 registered Class IV compost and yard waste management facilities accepting District materials in 2014. Four of those facilities are located in Butler County however the facilities primarily serve municipal yard and leaf management purposes, and are not accessible to the general public. Yard waste facilities reported composting 13,445 tons of yard and food waste.

Three private waste haulers operate in the District and direct-hauled or transferred waste to seven Ohio landfills and eight out-of-state landfills. About 9 percent of the District’s landfilled waste was first transferred through one of four transfer facilities before being landfilled.

Planning:

From 2000 to 2015, Butler County’s population grew by 13.2 percent, the second highest growth rate in the region behind Warren County, and much higher than the 2.3 percent for the state as a whole. In 2015, Butler was the seventh most populous county in Ohio. The County is unique because the population is almost equally distributed between municipalities and townships. Of the (13) unincorporated townships, (3) are rapidly growing and urban.

The Solid Waste Management Plan covers the period from 2018 through 2032. Over these fifteen years, the District is expecting to see an increase in recycling and composting and a decrease in waste disposal resulting in an overall decrease in waste generation. The residential/commercial waste reduction rate is projected to increase to 17 percent (a 3 percent increase). Waste will continue to be managed through recycling, composting and disposal.

To achieve the goals of the state plan and meet local needs, the SWMD must ensure that a variety of stakeholders have access to reduction and recycling programs. These stakeholders include residents, businesses, institutions, schools, and community leaders. The following programs and services collectively represent the SWMD’s strategy for advancing waste reduction and recycling. The District will continue to provide:

- *Drop-off Recycling program*
- *Commercial/Industrial Technical Assistance*
- *Southwest Ohio P2 Internship Program*
- *County Office Recycling Program*
- *Multi-Family Housing Cooperative*
- *Special Event Recycling*
- *HHW semi-permanent drop-off (also accepts used oil and lead-acid batteries)*
- *Annual scrap tire collection event*
- *Curbside Freon Appliance collection (“on-demand” several months of the year)*
- *Food Waste Management Program*
- *Business and Institutional Grant Program*
- *Roadside Litter Collection*
- *Disaster Debris Management*
- *Data collection (every other year surveys with emphasis on capturing largest generators)*
- *Outreach, Education, Awareness, and Technical Assistance*

In addition to above services, residents can expect an expansion of services to include electronics as well as emphasis on community stakeholder outreach to foster additional subscription curbside recycling participation. These new programs include:

- *Electronics Program (television and computer drop-off)*
- *Township Trustee Outreach (educate on availability of recycling to achieve best recycling rate)*
- *Resident Outreach (to most populated areas of the county)*

Revenue and Investment:

The District's primary funding source is revenue derived from a solid waste generation fee. Generation fees are collected on each ton of solid waste that is generated within the levying District and accepted at either a transfer facility or landfill located in Ohio. Revenues are forecasted to remain static based on lack of growth in revenues over the past 4 years. At the current \$0.82 per ton generation fee the District is spending out of its reserve funds. As such, this Plan ratifies a fee increase of \$0.18 per ton. The \$1 per ton generation fee is expected to result in approximately \$80,000 in additional annual revenue to ensure programming planned in this Plan Update will be implemented. The budget set forth in the Plan Update reduces the reserve funds to maintain a 12-month operating budget. Priorities are to keep the generation fee at the minimum level needed. Collection of the increased generation fee will go into effect January 1, 2020.

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