



# Lorain County Solid Waste District

## Plan Update

### Executive Summary

2024 — 2033



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



**District Office:**  
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**Our Mission**

To Implement the Lorain County Solid Waste Management Plan by Educating & Encouraging Recycling Efforts, Waste Reduction, & Litter Prevention in Lorain County.

**Commissioners**

David J. Moore	Jeff Riddell	Michelle Hung
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**Policy Committee 2023**

Jack Bradley <i>Municipal Corporations, City of Lorain</i>	David J. Moore <i>Commissioner</i>	Patrick Hastings <i>Public Representative</i>
Mark Adams <i>Health Commissioner</i>	David Urig <i>Township Representative</i>	William Oliver <i>Public Representative</i>
	Barbara Kantola <i>Industry Representative</i>	

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To obtain the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District Adopted Plan Update visit:  
<https://loraincountyohio.gov/solidwaste>

# Solid Waste Planning

## 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 These issues combined with Ohio's outdated and incomplete solid waste regulations caused Ohio's General Assembly to pass House Bill (H.B.) 592. H.B. 592 dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program and established a comprehensive solid waste planning process.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 capacity at landfills to dispose of its waste; and to reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills.



## Lorain County Facts

Lorain County is the ninth most populous county in Ohio. The county has a total land area of 492.6 square miles. It is the fourth-largest county in Ohio by total area. According to the Ohio Development Services Agency's Ohio County Profiles, there are 131,211 housing units in Lorain County. Approximately 91.7% of housing units are occupied (72.3% by owners and 27.7% by renters) and 8.3% of housing units are vacant.

Lorain County consists of the following notable communities:

- Lorain is the largest city. In 2019, it had a population of 63,855 people which comprised approximately 20 percent of the county's population.
- Elyria had a population of 53,757 in 2019.
- North Ridgeville had a population of 34,392 in 2019.
- There are nine cities ranging in population from 5,808 to 63,855 people.
- There are six villages ranging in population from 175 people to 5,707 people.
- There are eighteen townships ranging in population from 632 people to 7,490 people.



# Plan Update Reference Year 2019

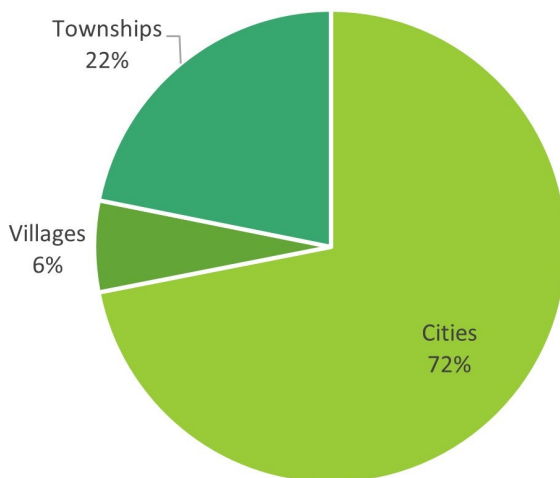
## Population

After adding the population of Vermilion city that was partially located in another county (Erie County SWMD), the District had a total adjusted population of 314,419 people in 2019. The table below presents the adjusted population, the largest city, and the population of the largest city in the SWMD during the 2019 reference year:

**Population of Lorain County SWMD in 2019**

County		Largest Political Jurisdiction		
Name	Population	Community Name	Population	Percent of County Population
Lorain	314,419	City of Lorain	63,855	20%

**Lorain County Population Distribution in the 2019 Reference Year**



## Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Sectors

### *Commercial and Institutional*

- Approximately 9,175 commercial businesses and institutions are in the County.
- The top employers include health care, education, and retail trade.
- Host to Oberlin College.

### *Industrial*

- Approximately 470 industries are in Lorain County.
- About 86% of the industries have an average employment of 10 or more individuals.
- Only a small percent of industries (7%) have a staff of greater than 100 employees.



# Waste Generation

The District calculated the total amount of solid waste generated for the residential/commercial and industrial sectors by adding tons landfilled and tons recycled.

## Solid Waste Generated in the 2019 Reference Year

Type of Waste	Tons Generated	Percentage
Residential/Commercial	348,990	63%
Industrial	156,075	28%
Excluded	47,800	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>552,866</b>	<b>100%</b>

Reduction and recycling data was obtained by surveying communities, recycling service providers, collection and processing centers, commercial and industrial businesses, owners and operators of composting facilities, and other entities that recycle. The District obtained disposal data from Ohio EPA.



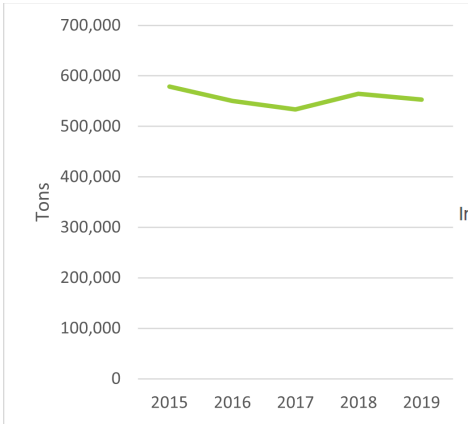
## Reference Year (2019) Residential/Commercial Material Recycled

Material	Tons
Appliances/ "White Goods"	5.0
Household Hazardous Waste	217.7
Used Motor Oil	200.0
Electronics	268.5
Scrap Tires	3,057.1
Dry Cell Batteries	0.2
Lead-Acid Batteries	25.7
Food	1,643.4
Glass	572.0
Ferrous Metals	5,002.8
Non-Ferrous Metals	1,891.2
Corrugated Cardboard	12,724.7
All Other Paper	14,348.1
Plastics	4,559.9
Textiles	813.4
Wood	2,339.8
Commingled Recyclables	2,269.1
Yard Waste	24,328.5
Other (Aggregated)	641.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,908.1</b>

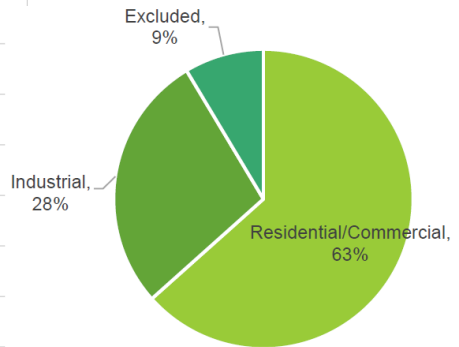


## Waste Generation (cont.)

**Historical Solid Waste Generated from 2015 to 2019**

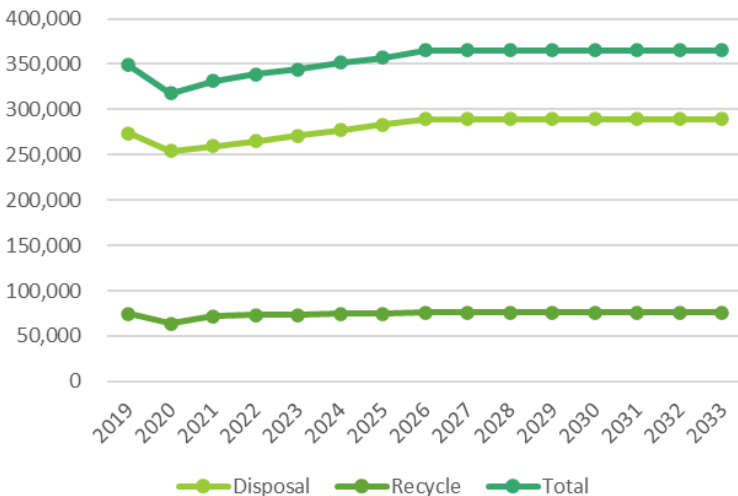


**Waste Type as Percentage of Total Waste Generated in 2019**



The District analyzed historic quantities of waste generated to project future waste generation. The Policy Committee used the projections to make decisions on how best to manage waste and to ensure future access to adequate waste management capacity, including recycling infrastructure and disposal facilities.

**Projected Residential/Commercial Waste Generation: 2019-2033**



# Waste Management

The District must have access to facilities that can manage waste and recyclables generated throughout the planning period. Required facilities may include: landfills, transfer facilities, compost facilities, and facilities to process recyclable materials.

The solid waste generated within Lorain County is managed through four major categories: recycling, composting, processing at transfer facilities, and landfilling. These methods of waste management are anticipated to continue handling the District's solid waste throughout the planning period.

## Methods for Managing Waste (First Six Years of the Planning Period)

Year	Generate <sup>1</sup>	Recycle <sup>2</sup>	Compost <sup>3</sup>	Transfer <sup>4</sup>	Landfill <sup>5</sup>
2024	592,050	122,081	36,410	35,195	433,558
2025	599,903	121,597	36,523	35,863	441,783
2026	609,388	122,614	36,630	36,542	450,145
2027	609,388	122,614	36,630	36,542	450,145
2028	609,388	122,614	36,630	36,542	450,145
2029	609,388	122,614	36,630	36,542	450,145

<sup>1</sup> "Generate" represents the total of the other four columns.

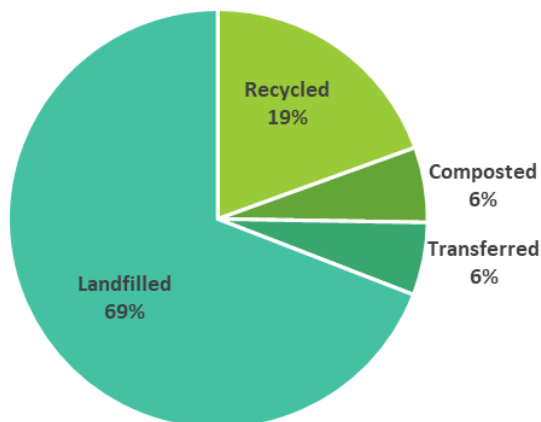
<sup>2</sup> "Recycle" is the total amount reduced and recycled minus composting.

<sup>3</sup> "Compost" is the amount of yard waste sent to a compost facility.

<sup>4</sup> "Transfer" is the amount sent to transfer stations prior to delivery to a landfill.

<sup>5</sup> "Landfill" plus the "Transferred" amount equals the total disposal.

## Estimated 2024 Percent of Generation Managed by Each Method





## Waste Management (cont.)

### Siting Strategy

The District Siting Strategy for solid waste facilities ensures that proposals to construct a new solid waste facility within the District or modify an existing in-District solid waste facility are in compliance with the Plan. The District Board of Directors (Board of County Commissioners) shall not approve the general plans and specifications for any proposed solid waste facility or modification of an existing in-District solid waste facility where the modification, construction, and operation of the proposed solid waste facility, as determined by the Board, would have adverse effects for the implementation of the Plan, utilization of current facilities, and community quality of life.



### Designation

Ohio law gives each SWMD the ability to control where waste generated from within the SWMD can be taken. Such control is generally referred to as flow control. In Ohio, SWMDs establish flow control by designating facilities. SWMDs can designate any type of solid waste facility, including recycling, transfer, and landfill facilities.

**Facilities Currently Designated**

Facility Name	Location		Facility Type
	County	State	
In-District			
Lorain County Landfill	Lorain	OH	Landfill
Out-of-District			
None			
Out-of-State			
None			

# Waste Reduction and Recycling

A SWMD must have programs and services to achieve reduction and recycling goals established in the state solid waste management plan. The SWMD may directly provide some programs and services or may rely on other sources. The District Policy Committee and Commissioners did a value analysis of all programming and provided budget for the most cost effective and impactful strategies to achieve the District's goals as outlined in the District Conclusions section.

**State Goal #1:** Access to recycling opportunities to 80% of its residential population.

**State Goal #2:** Reduce & recycle at least 25% for residential/commercial.

Even though the District has chosen to demonstrate compliance with Goal 1 of the State Plan, the District will strive to achieve Goal 2 as well, which states that the District will recycle or reduce at least 25% of the solid waste generated by the residential/commercial sector. The District Policy Committee has set a higher goal of 35% to match up with Region 5 US EPA goals.

## District Conclusions and Priorities: Strategic Analysis (New Programs)

Program Category	New Program / Action Name (continued programs in Plan Update)
<b>Residential Recycling Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Curbside Recycling</b>	<i>New Program:</i> Provide educational toolkit to communities to decrease contamination and assist with zero waste plans for communities.
<b>Drop-Off Recycling</b>	<i>New Program:</i> Identify concentrations of multi-family housing units to assess where is the greatest need for additional infrastructure
<b>Residential, Commercial/Institutional, Industrial Programs &amp; Restricted/Hard to Recycle Materials</b>	
<b>Restricted &amp; Difficult-to-Manage Wastes, Special Collection Events</b>	<i>New Program:</i> Yard Waste Contracting Consortiums
	<i>New Program:</i> Target High Volume Food Waste Generators
	<i>New Program:</i> Facilitate Food Rescue Program
<b>Education/Outreach</b>	
<b>Education/Outreach</b>	<i>Priority Program:</i> Hands on learning and education
	<i>Priority Program:</i> Increase the schools recycling rates by five percent
	<i>Priority Program:</i> Increase social media presence and develop short videos
	<i>Priority Program:</i> Outreach to reduce contamination
	<i>Priority Program:</i> Expand organic processing in the County
	<i>New Program:</i> Enhanced Website with Business Menu Options
	<i>New Program:</i> Expanded Promotion for Sustainability Center and Collection Center Tours

# Waste Reduction and Recycling (cont.)

## Residential Recycling Infrastructure

### Curbside Recycling Programs

The District's recycling infrastructure relies on curbside recycling programs for residential recycling. All 34 political jurisdictions in the County have curbside recycling, achieving county-wide curbside access. Twenty-eight communities have non-subscription curbside recycling and six with subscription curbside recycling.

### Consortium for Waste Services

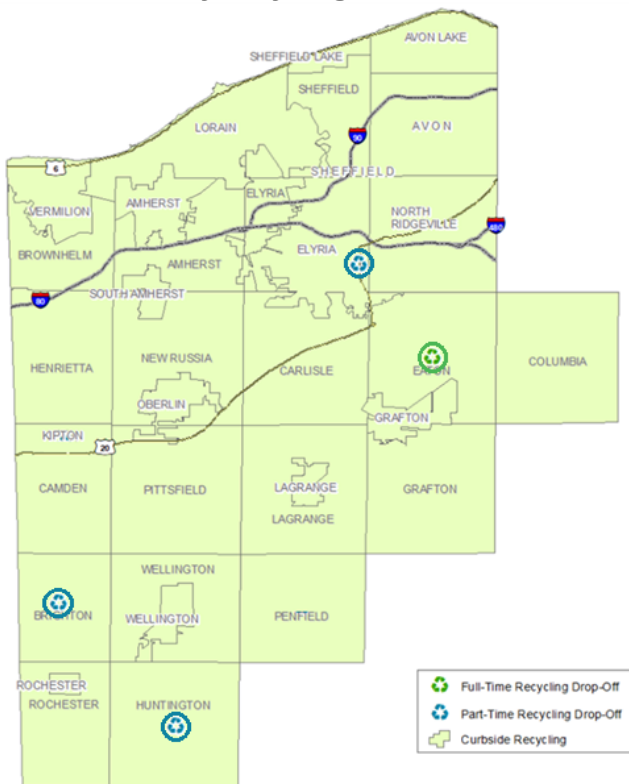
An important aspect in achieving countywide curbside is the Consortium for Waste Services. Twelve political jurisdictions have joined the consortium which provided savings in contracted services and expanded service offerings.

### Recycling Drop-Offs

There are 4 drop-off sites within the District which allow for additional recycling options. These drop-offs help multi-family housing have access to recycling too. Due to the non-subscription credits given to some of the programs, not all drop-offs receive access credit.



## Lorain County Recycling Access Locations



## Waste Reduction and Recycling (cont.)

### Residential, Commercial/Institutional, & Industrial Programs

#### Waste Audits

The District provides free waste auditing services to businesses and industries and has created a waste assessment toolkit to allow self-conducting waste audits.

#### Business Recycling Roundtable

The District will use results from the waste audit program to encourage businesses to establish recycling programs aimed at diverting target materials from the landfill.



### Restricted/Hard to Recycle Materials

#### Lorain County Collection Center

The Center collects difficult to recycle materials including Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), which consists of paint, motor oil, antifreeze, and other material requiring special treatment. The Center also recycles shredded paper, electronics, scrap tires, and fluorescent lamps and ballasts.

#### Plan Update Allocated Funds for Materials Management Assistance

Funding has been provided during the planning period to continue the current level of operations at the Lorain County Collection Center. The District will also provide agricultural tire collection events based on the availability of Ohio EPA grant funding.

#### Yard Waste Management

In 2019, 13 out of 32 political subdivisions in the District operated or contracted for yard waste and/or leaf collection programs.



# Waste Reduction and Recycling (cont.)

## Education & Awareness Outreach

### Residential & School Recycling Education and Awareness Programs

The District provides a website and information phoneline for residents to find appropriate information on the many program opportunities. The District also has targeted social media featuring District programs and activities for Lorain County residents.

The District publishes a District Annual Report every year and includes data from each community on recycling and descriptions of District programs and activities.



### Comprehensive Resource List

The District's website serves as a resource guide for the County. The website includes locations and guidelines for proper disposal and recycling of materials.

### Social Media

The District uses Facebook to help promote recycling infrastructure and collection events to its residents.

### Recycling Participation and Recovery

The District will establish a methodology to identify best collection practices by measuring recycling participation and recovery in communities that have volume billing for trash.

### Plan to Identify Residential Recycling Program Participants

The District will also establish a plan to identify residential recycling program participants that have significant amounts of non-recyclables in their recycling containers and develop an effective targeted outreach program to improve recovery percentages.





# Waste Reduction and Recycling (cont.)

## Community Clean-Up Programming

The District provides a wide variety of additional programs and services to assist communities, civic groups, and residents in keeping their neighborhoods clean and beautiful, ensuring that recycling programs are successful and effective. These include the following:



- **Clean and Beautiful Trailer-** The District lends volunteer groups a trailer containing the tools/supplies needed for litter collection and beautification activities for free. Community groups or organizations are able to borrow the trailer to complete clean-ups, community gardens or other beautification projects at no cost.



- **Lorain County Beautiful Day-** The District hosts and promotes the Annual Lorain County Beautiful Day, a county-wide litter collection and beautification event to coordinate community volunteer litter and trash collection along roads and on public land. Each participating community is involved in the recruitment and scheduling of volunteers for the day's activities.

- **Keep Lorain County Beautiful Advisory Board-** A volunteer board appointed by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners. Keep Lorain County Beautiful encourages educating the public, increasing individual responsibility, public-private partnership, and engaging volunteers to take action in local community projects.

## Waste Reduction Programs

The District also provides a wide variety of a programs and services that are designed to meet waste reduction goals.

- **Lorain County Be Green Scholarship-** The District funded a recycling themed scholarship that has been endowed and now provides an annual scholarship. The scholarship is open to all 12th grade public and private High School seniors in Lorain County who will be enrolling at Lorain County Community College as well as existing students of Lorain County Community College.
- **Zero Waste Planning-** The District offers technical assistance to businesses, schools, and industries to develop zero-waste strategies. The goal of these strategies is to reduce disposal costs and increase the volume of recovered materials.
- **Document Shredding-** The District provides residents on-site confidential document destruction service with their grant funded shredding truck at no charge.
- **Lorain County Sustainability Learning Center-** The District is intending to use Ohio EPA Grant funds and sponsorship donations to complete the display installation for a Sustainability Learning Center (SLC) that is housed in the existing Lorain County Collection Center Building on South Abbe Rd. in Elyria. The SLC will educate members of the community on the process and importance of recycling, composting, and waste reduction. The Center also offers a large meeting area for special events. The Center will be open for tours and educational presentations by District staff. The Center will have engaging, educational, interesting content for students and adults.

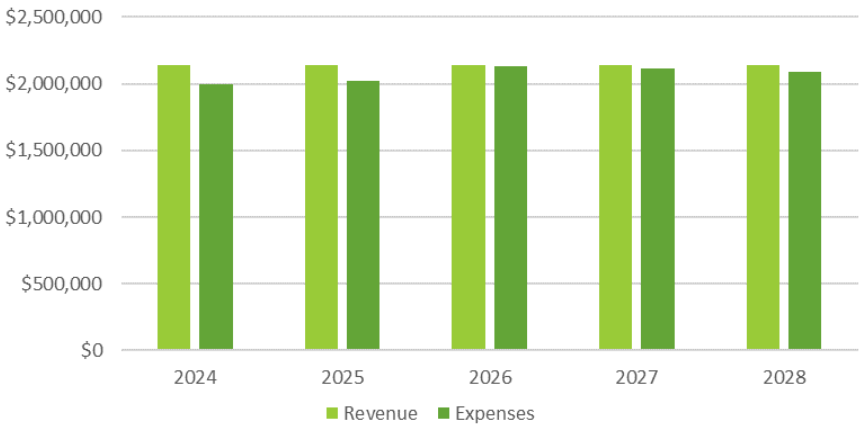




# Budget

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

## Projected Revenue and Expenses: First Five Years of Planning Period



Ultimately, the plan must demonstrate that the SWMD will have adequate money to implement the approved solid waste management plan. The Policy Committee and the Commissioners performed a thorough analysis of the District budget and investigated multiple financial options to ensure that the Solid Waste Plan Update provided financial stability over the entire planning period. During the analysis, the Policy Committee considered the need for a generation fee to provide the same level of funding for all existing programming. This fee would have resulted in higher monthly disposal costs for all Lorain County residents, businesses and industries.

However, the Policy Committee rejected the option of a Generation Fee. Instead, the planning budget was strategically revised based on carefully designed selection criteria that established a priority for only the most cost efficient and impactful programming. The budget was also aligned with conservative income projections. The Policy Committee and Commissioners are proud to say that future budgets now align with projected revenue resulting in a responsible and stable fund balance.

This adopted Plan Update provides a responsible, conservative and flexible financial strategy with no increase in District associated fees for our residents.

## Budget Summary

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Net Difference	Ending Balance
<b>Reference Year</b>				
2019	\$2,828,729	\$2,575,521	\$253,208	\$3,543,011
<b>Planning Period</b>				
2024	\$2,142,206	\$1,994,422	\$147,784	\$4,485,493
2025	\$2,142,206	\$2,023,335	\$118,871	\$4,604,364
2026	\$2,142,206	\$2,132,949	\$9,257	\$4,613,621
2027	\$2,142,206	\$2,112,949	\$29,257	\$4,642,878
2028	\$2,142,206	\$2,092,949	\$49,257	\$4,692,135
2029	\$2,142,206	\$2,092,949	\$49,257	\$4,741,393

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President



**Jeff Riddell**  
Vice President



**Michelle Hung**  
Member

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