

**STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC PARKS,
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Liming
Sheely
Bowen**

ORDINANCE NO. 21-2025

**AN ORDINANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF THE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GEUGA-TRUMBULL SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District (the District), by its Policy Committee, has adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan for the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3734.55(B), the Board of County Commissioners and the legislative authority of each municipal corporation or township under the jurisdiction of the District, must approve or disapprove the Plan by ordinance or resolution;

WHEREAS, the Village of Lordstown in Trumbull County, Ohio has reviewed the Plan and considered it a duly called meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Plan furthers the public interest; and

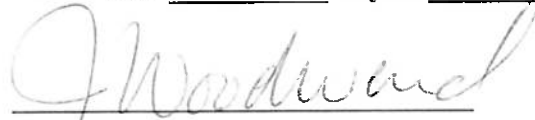
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, adopted by the Solid Waste Policy Committee on April 2nd 2025, is hereby approved;

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a copy of this Ordinance of Approval shall promptly be delivered, or caused to be delivered, to the Solid Waste Policy Committee of the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District.

Motion made by Sheeley seconded by Bowen

Upon call of the roll following vote resulted: 6 yeas 0 nays

Passed this 5 **day of** May, **2025**



Mayor



President of Council



Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District

April 11, 2025

Dear Local Officials,

I am pleased to announce that the Geauga-Trumbull Joint Solid Waste Management District Solid Waste Policy Committee is in the final stages of updating our Solid Waste Management Plan as mandated by the State of Ohio (ORC §3734.56) covering a planning period of fifteen years. In May 2023, the Solid Waste Management District (District) began work on the plan by evaluating all programs provided by the District and offering insights to best meet the solid waste and recycling needs of Geauga and Trumbull Counties while ensuring compliance with the state goals required by the Ohio EPA.

HISTORY:

In August 2024, the District completed a draft of the plan, which was submitted to the Ohio EPA. A non-binding advisory opinion was received from the Ohio EPA in September 2024. After addressing Ohio EPA's comments, the District held a 30-day public comment period, followed by a public hearing on March 12th, 2025. Now we are at the point in the process where we will be seeking ratification from our political subdivisions. For this plan update, we are required to obtain a 60% approval rate (based on population figures) from the townships, villages, and cities within our district as well as approval from each Board of County Commissioners.

RATIFICATION:

The 90-day ratification period for this plan will begin on the date you receive the ratification materials through 90 days thereafter. For the District to receive ratification status required by the State of Ohio, 60% of the political subdivisions must review the plan and pass a resolution or ordinance declaring said approval. For your convenience, sample resolutions and ordinances are included in this packet. Please note, failure to act during the 90-day ratification period will result in an automatic "no" vote from your jurisdiction, which could prevent plan ratification. (Should the District fail to receive an approved plan, the Ohio EPA may write and impose a state-issued plan for the District, thus removing any local control or input into programs required of communities within the District.)

To provide funding to implement the required programs outlined in this plan, the District is authorized to assess fees. The current rate is \$5.50 per ton at designated facilities. With the approval of this plan update, that rate is anticipated to increase to \$7.50 in 2027 to support new programming and the rising costs of existing programs. This will be the first fee increase since 2007. (These fees are NOT taxes levied against local residents directly or provided by county funding, but instead are remitted by landfills and transfer stations in support of required recycling and waste reduction programming.)

As mentioned above, in order for the District to receive an approved plan, we need the help of our political subdivisions. During the 90-day ratification period (approximately May through July 2025), we are asking that your local officials assist us by doing the following:

- Review the enclosed Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Within 90 days of receipt of this package, please pass a resolution or ordinance granting the approval of your township/village/city. If you would like me to attend a meeting to discuss the Plan and ratification process, please let me know.
- Forward a copy of that resolution or ordinance to the Solid Waste Management District for inclusion in the plan. You can scan and email jenn@startrecycling.com, or mail to our District Office at: Geauga-Trumbull SWMD, 5138 Enterprise Dr., Warren, OH 44481

Obtaining an approved plan will allow our District to maintain compliance with state laws and continue offering the local programs and services Geauga-Trumbull residents and businesses have come to appreciate and expect.

PLAN PACKET:

Included in this Plan Packet (all available on flash drive) are the following items:

- 1) **Full copy of the Solid Waste Management Plan (on flash drive only)** – The Plan is an almost 300 page document detailing how solid waste generated in the District is disposed of, all of our programs, and our proposed budget for the next 5-15 years.
- 2) **Summary of the Plan** – Because the entire Solid Waste Management Plan is very comprehensive, the Summary provides a brief overview.
- 3) **Sample resolutions/ordinances for your use in approving the plan** – An editable Microsoft Word version of a sample ordinance is available on the flash drive provided. Enter your community's specific information into the ordinance for adoption.
- 4) **2024 District Programs Summary** - This is an overview of our largest program activities and their results from 2024. This provides more information about where our funding is spent and the amount of materials collected for recycling and/or proper disposal.
- 5) **Ratification Fact Sheet** - This includes answers to common questions about the Plan update process.

On behalf of the Geauga-Trumbull Joint Solid Waste Management District, I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in obtaining an approved solid waste plan for our district. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of our department at (330) 675-2673. If you would like me to attend one of your meetings to explain the Plan and ratification process in more detail, please let me know. I would be happy to attend. If you choose to approve the Plan, please forward a copy of your passed resolution/ordinance via email or mail.

I look forward to hearing from you soon as we continue to offer recycling and waste reduction opportunities to the residents and businesses of Geauga and Trumbull Counties,

Sincerely,



Jennifer Jones

Director, Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District

jenn@startrecycling.com

(330) 675-7967



Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District

RATIFICATION OF THE GEAUGA-TRUMBULL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (2026 – 2040)

A Fact Sheet for Community Officials – DEADLINE TO RATIFY IS 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF INFORMATION PACKET

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 in each county 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 Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District's solid waste plan which is now out for ratification.

The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management Plan

The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management Plan was first ratified by communities in 1994 and three times since. The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District (the District) and its Solid Waste Policy Committee are now seeking local approval for the fourth Plan Update. The ratification process takes place from approximately May 1, 2025 through July 30, 2025. This Plan Update complies with an Ohio EPA format and contains 6 chapters and 21 appendices. It describes the waste management methods to be used in the upcoming planning period and details how the nine 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 Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District.

What does each county, township, city, or village administration need to do?

Once you have received this Plan packet, you have 90 days from the date you received the packet to officially either approve or disapprove the Plan. Included in the packet is a sample resolution or ordinance for you to use as a template. Once you have passed a resolution or ordinance, please send the signed document to us either by scanning and emailing or mailing it to our office in Warren. Failure to act during the 90-day ratification period will result in an automatic "no" vote from your jurisdiction, which could prevent plan ratification. (Should the District fail to receive an approved plan, the Ohio EPA may write and impose a state-issued plan for the District, removing any local control or input into programs offered to communities within the 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. See your council clerk or fiscal officer for an electronic copy. The complete Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2026 – 2040) is also available on the District's web site – www.GottaGoGreen.org and at the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District's office in Warren, OH.

Who prepared the Plan Update?

The Plan Update was prepared by the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District in conjunction with the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Policy Committee. Various stakeholders were also consulted through the 18-month process. The Policy Committee consists of 15 members representing government entities, businesses, health departments, and the general public from both Geauga and Trumbull Counties.

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 four staff and is funded by a contract fee. This fee of \$5.50 is levied on each ton of waste produced in Geauga and Trumbull Counties and landfilled. The contract fee is approved by communities each time it ratifies the plan. Geauga-Trumbull's current fee of \$5.50 per ton is one of the lowest in Ohio and has not been increased since 2007. Under this Plan Update, the contract fee will remain at the current level until 2027, then it will increase to \$7.50 per ton.

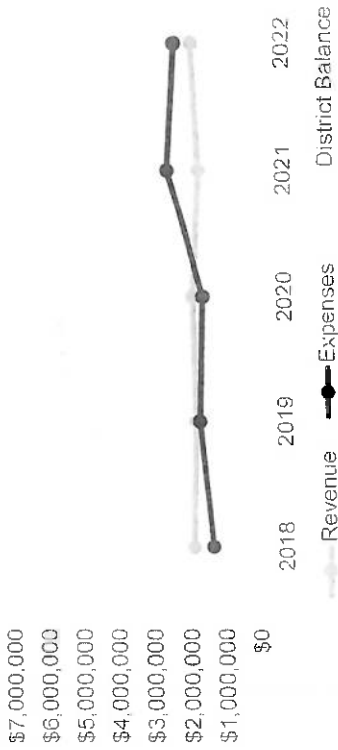
Programs and services offered through the Plan

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

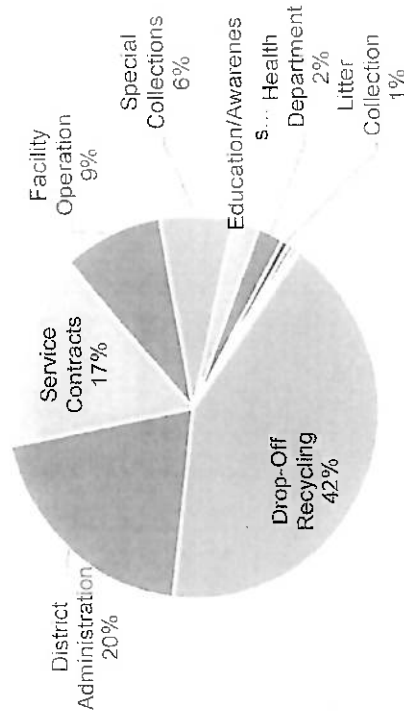
<p>Education Services GottaGoGreen.org Speakers/presenters Residential recycling outreach - postcards Children's education Compost bin sales Social Media posts</p>	<p>Community Services & Programs Community drop-off recycling sites Two special waste collection facilities for electronics, appliances, chemicals and foam Community Recycling and Environmental Grants Scrap Tire Community Grants Litter Collection Program Health Department Funding Document Destruction (Paper Shred) events</p>	<p>Expanded or New Programs Establish food waste drop-off sites Expand school recycling programs Potential curbside recycling programs Expanded litter collection program through Keep America Beautiful</p>
--	---	---

Financials

Operating Balance

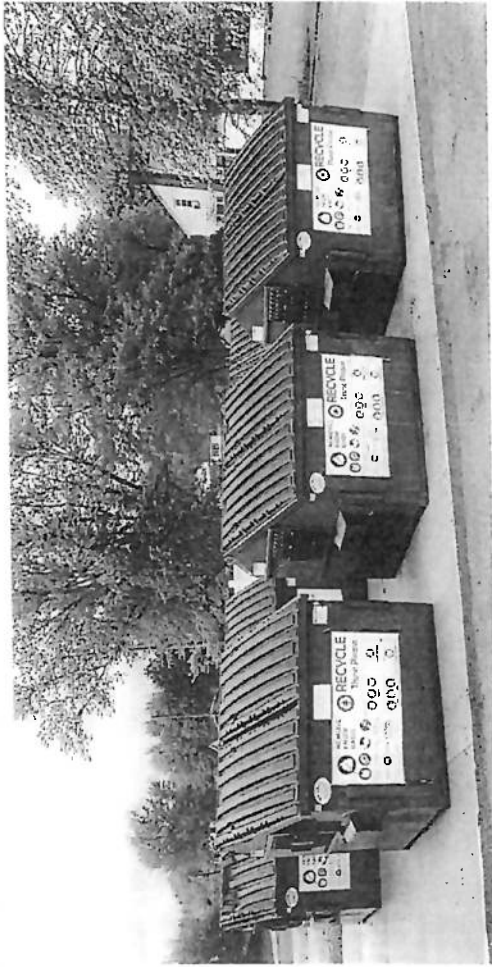


Expenses 2022



Nearly 90% of the District's revenue is received from its contract fees at designated facilities. Designation contracts with landfills and transfer stations remit a \$5.50 per ton contract fee to the District when waste from the District is received. On average about \$1.9 million is received annually. Due to rising service costs and inflation, revenues are not projected to sustain expenses in the long term. The District's annual operating expenses are around \$2.2 million. The largest non-administrative cost is the support of the drop-off recycling containers throughout the two counties as well as the operation of the two Collection Centers.

To support new programming and the rising costs of existing programs, the District is proposing to increase the contract fee by \$2.00 per ton in 2027. Importantly, this is NOT a fee paid directly by households, instead, the contract fee is collected at the first point of disposal by the designated facilities, including landfills, transfer stations, incinerators, and material recovery facilities, and remitted back to the District. Based on the District's estimations, the average household could see an additional cost of \$0.40 per month. The District is committed to keeping costs low for its residents. The proposed fee increase will be the first increase since 2007.



Priority Programming and Focuses

The District's priorities in this plan remain similar to years past. Namely, providing adequate services for residents who wish to recycle. Priority programs include curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, education & awareness, and operating both collection facilities. New focus areas stemming from analyses and conclusions in the plan center around data collection and growing relationships with commercial businesses. The flow of waste and recycling is pivotal for the District to understand gaps in the current system. The District plans to make concerted efforts during this plan to improve data collection and tracking from haulers, municipalities, and district-operated programs.

A growing demand identified is food waste diversion from landfills. Food waste comprises up to 30% of waste sent to landfills across the nation. During this plan, the District's outreach priority is geared towards education & awareness of food diversion, as well as exploring methods the District can further support food waste diversion.

Next Steps:

Geauga-Trumbull's Solid Waste Plan Update is scheduled for ratification in Summer 2025. The Plan must be approved by elected officials representing at least a combined 60% of political subdivisions, including the District's largest cities, Warren and Chardon.

Each political jurisdiction in the District will be asked to approve the solid waste plan. The process requires each community to:

- Review the Plan draft.
- Act on the plan during its window of approval - 90 days from receipt of Plan draft from the District,
- Submit a copy of their resolution or legislation to the District.

Failure to act on the Plan is considered a negative vote by the Ohio EPA.

A complete copy of the Plan Update may be viewed at <https://www.geaugatrumbull.com/>



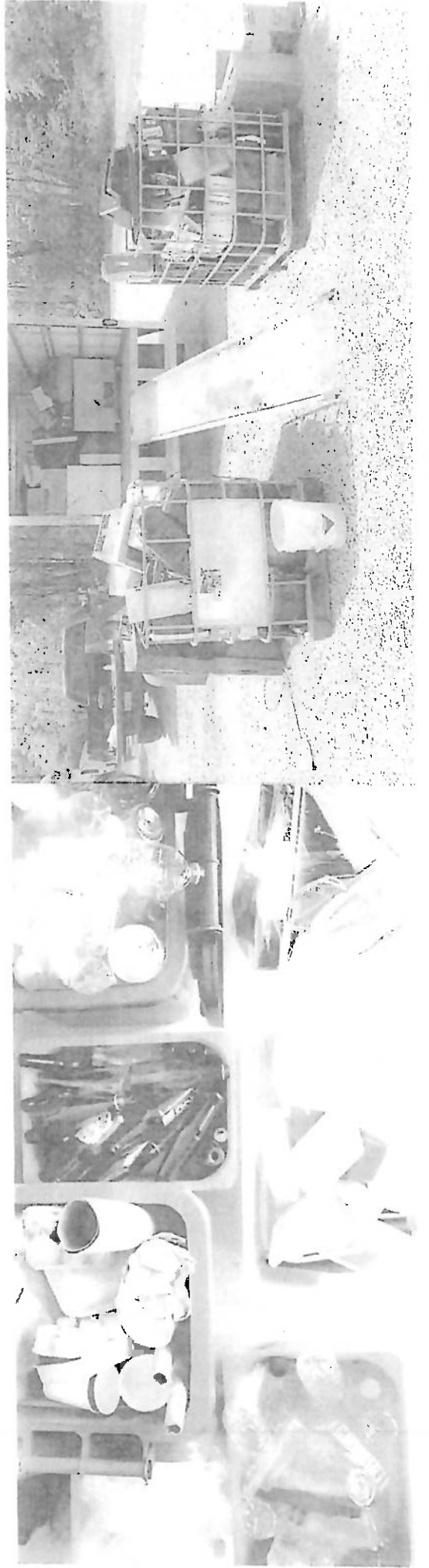
GOTTA GO GREEN

SOLID WASTE PLAN SUMMARY

JANUARY 2025

PLANNING PERIOD

2026-2040



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026 UPDATE

Geauga-Trumbull is a dual county Solid Waste Management District (District) governed by the Geauga and Trumbull County Board of County Commissioners. The Solid Waste Policy Committee oversees the Solid Waste Plan Development and the subsequent review and approval process with Ohio EPA. The Board of County Commissioners, and by delegation the District staff, are responsible for the plan's implementation. The District is required by Ohio state law to develop a solid waste management plan demonstrating access to at least 10 years of landfill capacity to manage all District solid wastes that will be disposed. The solid waste management plan must also show how the District will meet the waste reduction and recycling goals established in Ohio's state solid waste management plan and present a budget for implementing the plan.

The District's integrated solid waste management system relies heavily on neighboring districts for landfill and recycling processing infrastructure. The District operates in an open market system, which means customers have a choice of any waste hauler because the system is open to competition. Nine political jurisdictions procure non-subscription curbside recycling services. Each community can choose which hauler to contract with and this service is extended automatically to residents without any need to individually subscribe. The remaining political jurisdictions operate with individual contracts or private subscriptions, a system where residents contract directly with the hauler of their choice.

Sufficient landfill capacity is available to the District at landfills within a reasonable distance. The primary landfill used, Carbon Limestone, can continue operating at its current level for 37 years.

RE-CO's Big 5



1. Bottles

2. Cans

3. Jugs

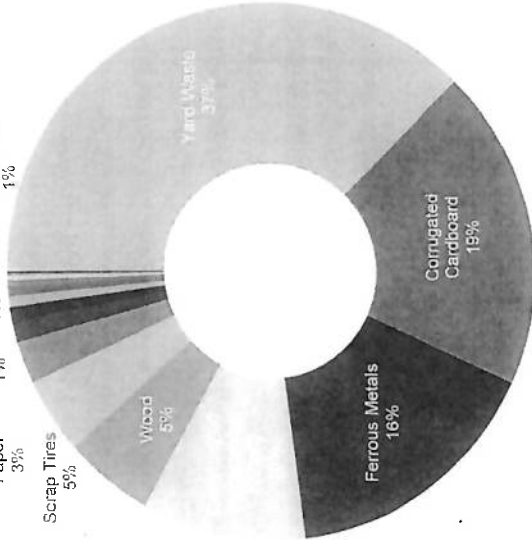
4. Jars

5. Cardboard/Paper

25%

Residential/Commercial
Diversion Rate

All Other
Paper
Scrap Tires
Non-Ferrous
Metals
Wood
Plastics
Food
Other (Aggregated)



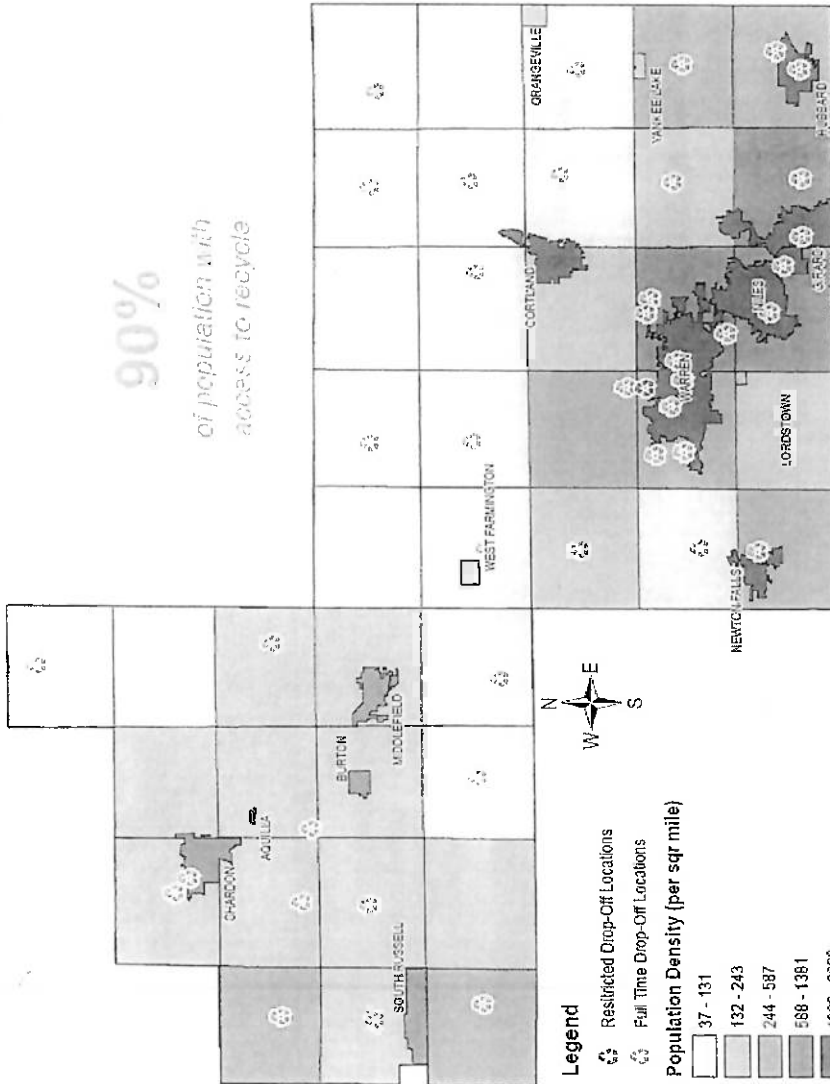
Residential/Commercial Diverted
Materials

~ 88,000

Tons Residential/Commercial
Waste Diverted

90%

of population with
access to recycle



- 9 non-subscription curbside recycling programs
- Subscription service available throughout the District
- 43 drop-off locations → 2,775 tons recycled
- HHW Collection → 77 tons recycled
- Appliance Collection → 53 tons recycled
- Scrap Tire Recycling → 4,040 tons recycled
- Electronics Recycling → 151 tons recycled
- Battery Collection → 3 tons recycled
- Yard Waste Management → 32,922 tons recycled



Each year, the District budgets funding to provide communities with the opportunity to receive financial support for solid waste related projects. Grants are dependent on available funding. All communities are eligible to apply for funding. The grants offered by the District include Scrap Tire Grants, Drop-off Improvement Grants (DIG), and Go-Green Grants. These grants are designed to provide financial support

Scrap Tire Grants
\$103,000 Awarded

- 53 Communities served
- 400 tons of tires collected

Go Green Grants
\$77,000 Awarded

- Electronics Collection
- Recycled Material Tables/Benches
- Waste Management Infrastructure

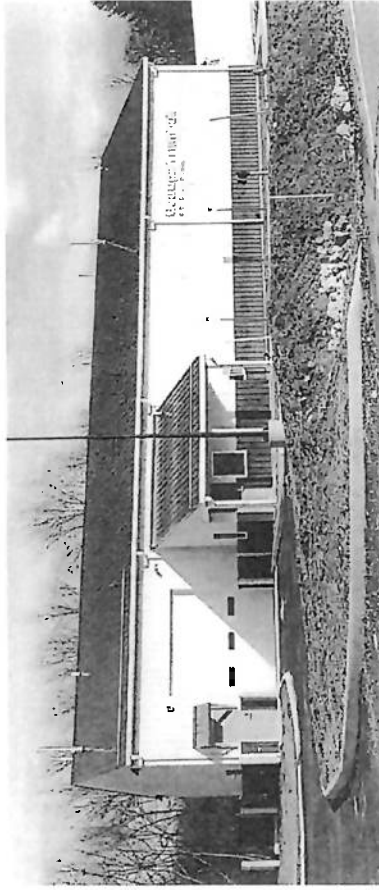
Drop-off Improvement Grants (DIGs)
\$177,000 Awarded

- Security Cameras
- Concrete Pads & Fencing
- Drainage Systems
- Lighting & Signage

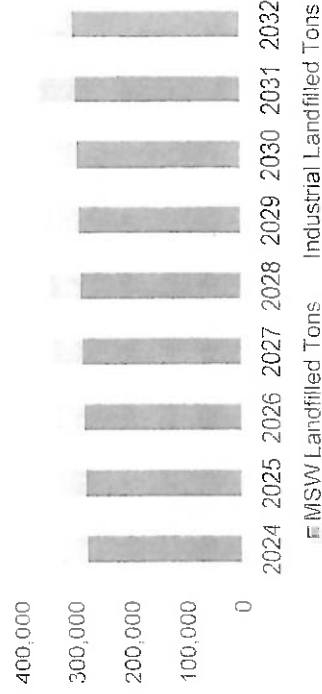
to communities to help keep the streets, waterways, forests, etc., clear of any hard-to-recycle materials such as tires, electronics, general litter, and more. Other uses include improving infrastructure or surveillance at drop-off recycling locations to prevent illegal dumping and littering. As of 2024, over 60% of drop-off locations are equipped with security cameras. These have already helped reduce illegal dumping and associated service costs.

Only a handful of Solid Waste Management Districts across the state of Ohio have access to a facility specifically used to collect and properly dispose of and/or recycle hard-to-manage materials. The District is proud to support one collection center in each county. The Geauga Collection Center (pictured) opened in June of 2022 and has been extremely well received by residents. Both facilities are open year-round and are equipped as drive-through facilities where staff will unload materials from residents' cars.

Residential and commercial sectors generate the majority of waste, accounting for 86% of landfilled waste. The District relies primarily on Republic's Carbon Limestone Landfill located in Mahoning County. In total, the District landfilled approximately 316,000 tons of waste in 2022.



MSW Waste Landfilled



District Programs Summary 2024

Collection Facilities: (2 FT employees)

	Geauga Facility	Trumbull Facility	District Total
E-waste (lbs.)	153,294	276,866	430,160 *59% TVs
Appliances (lbs.)	138,980	121,600	260,580
Household Hazardous Waste (lbs.)	125,611	98,793	224,404
Paper Shred days (lbs.)	12,798	11,313	24,111
Foam (lbs.)	5,250	3502	8,752

Participant traffic 2024 (# cars) – Trumbull facility 7,839, Geauga facility 8550 (31% increase over 2023)

Recycling Drop-off Sites:

43 Community Recycling Drop-off sites – 31 sites in Trumbull County, 12 sites in Geauga County

- Geauga County sites – 1787.75 tons of materials recycled (3,575,492 lbs.)
- Trumbull County sites – 2353.34 tons of materials recycled (4,706,688 lbs.)

New in 2024: School recycling sites

- Schools in Trumbull and Geauga Counties were invited to participate in our recycling program free of charge. The District provides a recycling dumpster (similar to the community drop-off sites) that is NOT open to the public, but is for school use only.
- 14 schools have enrolled in the program to date

Community Grants:

Drop-off Improvement Grants (DIG) – Up to \$15,000 to be used to improve drop-off recycling sites

- \$98,335 on 12 grants funding fencing, lighting, electrical upgrades, cameras, gates, concrete pads, signage, paving/asphalt

Go Green Grants – up to \$3,500 available to government, schools, and non-profits to be used on a variety of environmental projects

- \$64,840 on 25 grants funding electronics collections/community cleanup days, recycled plastic park benches, outdoor classroom, illegal dumpsite cleanups, HAZMAT gear, paper shred events

Scrap Tire Grants - \$150,000 divided between 54 communities based on population and other factors.

Communities host free tire collection events for their residents.

- Geauga collections = 87.16 tons, Trumbull collections = 243.76 tons

Great American Cleanup (Litter Cleanup program):

County	# cleanups	# volunteers	# hours	# lbs. litter	# miles road/shore	# parks/vacant lots/lakes
Geauga	11	598	2361	33,525	326.5	35
Trumbull	42	1793	5337	33,420	91.5	152
TOTAL	53	2,391	7,698	66,945	418	187

Biggest cleanup groups: (multiple cleanups, hundreds of volunteers)

Trumbull County – Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP)

Geauga County – N.O.A.H.

Solid Waste District Basics

- 1.) District funding comes from landfills and transfer stations, not county taxes.
 - Our District currently has contracts to collect a fee of \$5.50 for every TON of trash created in Geauga or Trumbull Counties and buried in a landfill.
 - There are NO landfills in either county (2 transfer stations in Trumbull). All our trash is shipped to adjacent counties (primarily Mahoning, Lake, Ashtabula, Stark)
 - District annual fee revenue ~ \$1.9 million
 - Funding can be used for programs in any District community (54 cities/townships/villages)
- 2.) We are REQUIRED by the Ohio EPA to provide either recycling access to 80% of our population OR recycle 25% of our residential/commercial waste. This is our primary mandate. The Ohio EPA has other requirements, but this is their pass/fail measurement.
 - Because of our geographic size and lack of curbside recycling options, 80% access with drop-off sites only would be astronomically expensive. We focus on achieving a 25% recycling rate.
 - The best way to increase recycling is to encourage communities to offer curbside recycling. 50-75% more residents would likely recycle if they have access to curbside recycling. A city/township/village would contract with one hauler and all single-family (and some small multi-family) residences would be automatically enrolled into recycling services (typically with trash service) with recycling carts/containers to be picked up at their curb.) For example, Republic Services in Cortland and WM in Chardon
- 3.) The District has 10 "allowable uses" to spend our funds. We can't buy a fire truck, but in addition to recycling programs, we can manage hazardous and special waste, fund some health district programs, community litter and illegal dumpsite cleanups, recycling market development, etc.
- 4.) Our 3 biggest program expenses are (totaling \$1.7 million annually):
 1. Drop-off site recycling = \$850,000
 2. Collection Facility operations (special waste/hazardous waste) = \$500,000+
 3. Community grants (Go Green, DIG, Scrap Tire) = \$350,000+
- 5.) Every 5 years, the Ohio EPA requires us to update our District Plan, which takes about 18 months.
 - The Plan is our playbook, spelling out our program priorities, how we will fund them, and where all our trash will go. Any major expenditures must be in the Plan.
 - Each Plan update requires that at least 60 percent of District communities approve the Plan.
 - The BOCC and largest city in each county MUST approve the new Plan.
 - We are currently nearing the end of a Plan Update cycle, with community approvals needed by the end of July.
- 6.) Board of Directors vs Policy Committee
 - The Board of Directors is made up of the 3 commissioners for each county (Gauga & Trumbull).
 - The Policy Committee is made up of 15 residents representing 7 aspects of our population (Commissioners, Health Districts, Townships, Largest city, General Public, Industrial/Commercial generators, and Regular Citizens).
 - The Policy Committee exists as an advisory council for the Board to help decide on programs and expenditures. The Board of Directors must approve all expenditures. The Policy Committee must write and approve the 5-year Plan. This is the "checks and balances" for the District.
 - Both the Board of Directors meeting and Policy Committee meetings are open to the public.