

# Lucas County Solid Waste Management District 2024 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. Lucas 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 ten waste reduction strategies be implemented that will enable the District to meet the goals established in the 2020 State Plan.

### GOAL #1

Provide residents and commercial businesses with access to opportunities to recycle solid waste.

### GOAL #2

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

### GOAL #3

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

### GOAL #4

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

### GOAL #5

Incorporate a strategic initiative for the industrial sector into its solid waste management plan.

### GOAL #6

Provide strategies for managing scrap tires, yard waste, lead-acid batteries, household hazardous wastes and obsolete/end-of-life electronic devices.

### GOAL #7

Explore how to incorporate economic incentives into source reduction and recycling programs.

### GOAL #8

Use U.S. EPA's Waste Reduction Model (or equivalent) to evaluate the impact of recycling programs on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### GOAL #9

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

### GOAL #10

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

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.

## District Structure:

Lucas County Solid Waste Management District is a single-county District governed by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County. The Solid Waste Management 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.

**Analysis:**

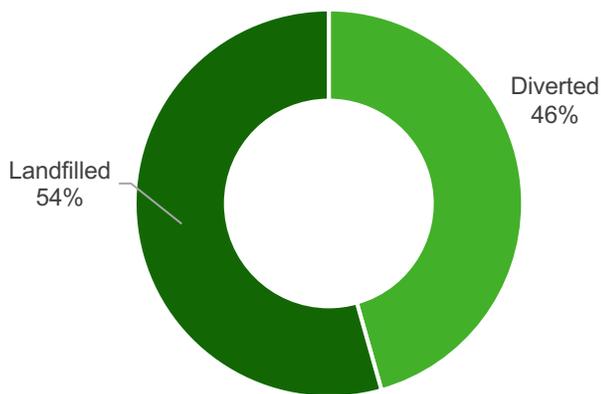
Household recycling collection is provided through curbside and/or drop-off collection. The District provides collection and processing to have available single-stream recycling drop-off containers. 90% of Lucas County households have access to recycling serviced at the curb and at community drop off locations.

A majority of the major cities and villages have curbside recycling either a subscription or non-subscription. The District notes that contamination



continues to be an issue and worsened with the effects of COVID-19 and many people working from home. Engaging community stakeholders and offering technical assistance and education on what the District accepts in their various curbside recycling programs continues to be a priority.

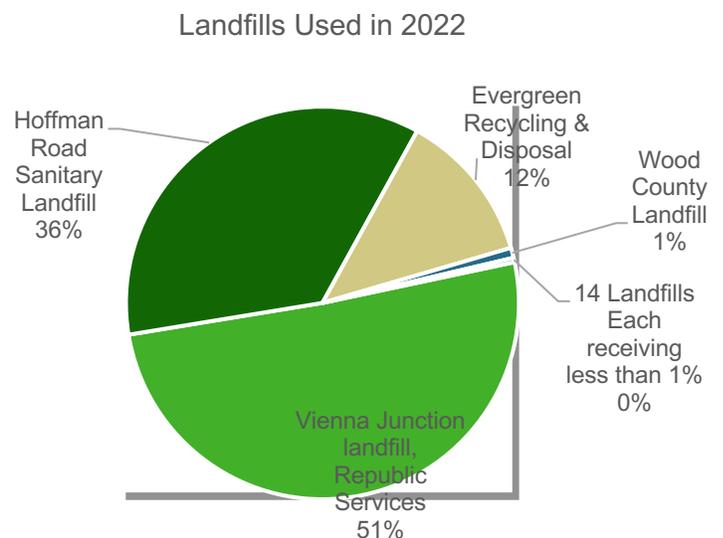
Overall recycling and composting activities in 2022, diverted 46% of all waste generated. The remaining 54% of the waste was landfilled.



While there are collection opportunities for single stream (curbside and drop-off) and source-

separated recyclables (scrap metal, plastic grocery bags, etc.) processing infrastructure relies on regional facilities. 11 Class IV compost and yard waste management facilities are located in the District.

Roughly 51% of the District’s landfilled waste is disposed of in the Vienna Junction Landfill located in Michigan. About 36% is disposed in the Hoffman Road Landfill located in the District and the remaining portion is disposed in other regional facilities. 21 private waste haulers operate in the District. Nine Ohio landfills and 10 out-of-state landfill received District waste in 2021. About 96% of the District’s landfilled waste is direct-hauled to a landfill and 4% was first transferred through a Transfer Facility before being landfilled.



**Planning:**

This plan update planning cycle covers the period from 2024 through 2039. Over these sixteen years, the District is expecting to see an increase in waste generation resultant of increases in recycling for the residential/commercial sector. The District's programs and services collectively represent a strategy for advancing waste reduction and recycling. To achieve these goals District plans to initiate the development of a Material Recovery Facility for processing single-stream recyclables.

As of June 2023, the District is developing plans and specifications for a MRF building located on a Brownfield redevelopment site. Along with the remedial design and the development of plans and specifications for the MRF, the District sought input for a potential public-private partnership receiving, processing, and marketing of recycling materials at the MRF. The Lucas County Commissioners approved a resolution in June 2023 with Closed Loop Partners. The exact details of what this public private partnership arrangement will be is not yet unfolded. Requests for information may be used to engage with interested parties in this process.

Lucas County is charged with raising awareness of waste reduction and recycling by promoting our many programs through media relations, website, digital marketing, and graphic design. The partnership with Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful performs education and outreach activities which includes classroom presentations, tours, speaking engagements, and other special collections such as yard signs, pumpkins, etc.

The District will continue the following programming:

- *Curbside Recycling*
- *Drop-off Recycling program*
- *Yard Waste Management*
- *Household Hazardous Waste Management Program*
- *Lead-Acid Battery Management*
- *Electronics Collection*
- *Scrap Tire Management*
- *Appliances Management*
- *Pharmaceuticals Management*
- *School Recycling Collection*
- *Curbside Recycling Technical Assistance*
- *Business Recycling Assistance*
- *Recycling Processing Facility*
- *Matzinger Road Facility*
- *Waste Assessments/Audits Litter and Community Clean-Up Program*
- *Market Development Grant Technical Assistance*
- *Special Event Container Loan Program*
- *Community Recycling Incentive Grant*
- *Data Collection Surveys*
- *Food Waste Management*
- *Education and outreach with Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful*

**Revenue and Investment:**

The District has one active, publicly available landfills within its boundaries to dispose of solid waste. The District's primary funding source is revenue derived from generation fees, designation fees or contract fees, and rates and charges. Designation provides all disposal facilities that desire to accept waste from Lucas

County the opportunity to do so provided they sign a contract with the SWMD, agree to provide accurate documentation of the waste going into their facility, and pay the same fee that all other facilities are contracted to pay. The District currently contracts with landfills throughout Ohio and Michigan. The District's designation fee is \$3.00 per ton for Ohio facilities and \$5.20 per ton for out-of-state facilities. Revenues are forecasted to increase and hold flat in 2026 from the installment of the new MRF including MRF tipping fees and MRF commodity revenue. The current funding structure will maintain the programs as outlined in the Plan Update through the planning period.