Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is Proud to be a Department of the Lorain County Commissioners.
Dear Lorain County Resident:

The past year of 2015 once again resulted in a number of steps forward for solid waste management in Lorain County. The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District (District) continued to explore new programs which allow greater recycling, and tweaked existing operations to improve our local environmental sustainability. Year after year I am reminded that the success in reducing and recycling waste in our county would not be possible without the support and participation from our political subdivisions, residents, and elected officials, and once again we are genuinely grateful.

One of the District’s highlights during 2015 involved initiating a recycling collection program for county-owned buildings and county agencies within those buildings. Planning for this program began in the spring of 2015 with a waste assessment of 20 county-owned buildings, followed by a survey of county agencies to determine their recycling needs. Collection of recyclables will be provided by Republic Services at no charge as a condition of a host community agreement negotiated by the District. Recyclables are currently being collected in several buildings, with service to all 20 buildings expected by the end of 2016.

Another new venture during 2015 was mobile paper shredding services. The District secured a grant from Ohio EPA which allowed the purchase of a truck designed to provide these services. The truck was purchased in 2016 and has begun operating at Collection Center events. Not only does this project result in greater paper recycling, but also provides shredding services for small generators of paper at no charge.

Towards the end of last year, the Ohio EPA approved the District’s solid waste management plan update which will guide our activities during the next ten years. Considerable time and resources were devoted towards this effort, resulting in several new programs which will be implemented in coming years.

Please take the time to look through this report and see all the programs our District has to offer. We hope to see you at our Collection Center or at activities for other programs we offer to the residents, communities, businesses, and institutions in Lorain County. We hope you share in our vision to reduce waste to create a healthier environment and stronger economy.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Bailey
District Director
GIVE US A CALL...
We can answer any of your questions about:

- How to dispose or recycle any type of solid waste
- How to dispose of household hazardous materials
- Solid waste district events or programs
- Materials and products that are made with recycled content
- Scheduling a presentation for your school or group

Toll-free: 1-800-449-5463
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Last year, we assisted 4,219 residents with questions about recycling and waste management on our hotline!

...OR VISIT US ON THE WEB!
Visit us at: www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste. To serve you better, the website offers easy access to information related to solid waste management and recycling. Our website includes:

- Local solid waste news and events
- Reports and publications
- Hours and materials accepted at the Collection Center
- Educational services and materials, including a “Kids Corner”
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Recycling tips for your home and office
- And much more!

We're on Facebook!
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District is on Facebook! Our page (facebook.com/LCSolidWaste) is regularly updated with upcoming events, photos, videos, links, articles, and tips on waste reduction. “Like” us to stay connected and get important up-to-date information about local solid waste and recycling issues!

Information About Your Community
Each political subdivision has different rules concerning curbside pickup of large items, such as appliances, furniture, large tree limbs, etc. Your local service department or township fiscal officer is your best source for community-specific information.

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There is no such thing as “away.” When we throw anything away it must go somewhere.

-Annie Leonard
Creator of The Story of Stuff
Lorain County residents have more than doubled the annual tons of materials collected from curbside recycling and drop-off programs from 2006 through 2015. The significant increase in recycling is impressive, but there is still plenty of opportunity to improve. Currently, approximately 27% of residential and commercial waste is recycled in Lorain County, but the EPA estimates that at least 75% of trash sent to landfills is recyclable.

**2006-2015 LORAIN COUNTY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tons</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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**WHAT INFLUENCES LORAIN COUNTY’S RECYCLING RATES?**

- **Individual participation** in the District’s recycling programs, from residents like you, determine the success of material recovery rates in Lorain County.

- **Recycling infrastructure**, or the basic programs and facilities available to residents to collect recyclable material.

  *Curbside and drop-off recycling programs and material collection facilities, such as the Lorain County Collection Center, are essential to supporting increased recycling rates.*

- **The economy** influences the amount of consumer purchases and directly correlates to waste generation and recycling rates.

- **Education and awareness** about why recycling is important for the environment and the economy, as well as being informed about local recycling opportunities, contributes to higher recycling participation rates.

**Did your community increase its recycling totals this year?**

Check the next page to find out!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lorain County Community</th>
<th>2011 Tons</th>
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<td><strong>Total Tons</strong></td>
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<td><strong>20,055</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,546</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,169</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recycling saves money, creates jobs, and conserves natural resources and energy for future generations.

Thank you for recycling!
The District's permanent Collection Center is located at 540 S. Abbe Rd. in Elyria, Ohio.

**RESIDENTS:**
Use of the center is free to residents of Lorain County. Residents may drop-off:

- Household hazardous waste (HHW)
- Electronic waste
- Fluorescent lamps & ballasts
- Scrap tires
- Microwaves
- Books (hardback/paperback)
- Cardboard and paper
- Mixed residential recycling (aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers #1-7)

**BUSINESSES:**
Businesses with facilities in Lorain County may use the e-scrap, books, cardboard, and fluorescent lamp & ballast recycling programs for free!

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**
Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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The Collection Center has allowed us to house many special programs under one roof, making them more convenient & accessible to residents! The following programs are operated at the center:

**Fluorescent Bulb & Ballast Program**
Fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and their ballasts, as well as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are accepted.

**Ink Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling**
Due to a disruption in the collection process, only 530 ink/toner cartridges and cell phones were recycled in 2015, a significant decrease compared to 2014. However, the program is now back in full operation and all of these items are accepted at the Collection Center.

**Electronics Recycling Program**
Electronics devices accepted are carefully handled by both the Collection Center and the contractor that recycles them, to ensure that all data storage components are “wiped” clean or destroyed by shredding.

Electronic equipment accepted at the Collection Center includes: computers, monitors, printers, TVs (under 27”), cell phones, (including batteries, chargers and cables), copiers, fax machines, home stereos and selected other home electronics. Microwave ovens are also accepted.

**Book Recycling**
The District collects “end of life” books, which are books that either contain outdated information or are in poor condition. Soft cover and hard cover books, reference manuals, and phonebooks are accepted.

Phonebooks can also be recycled at more than 100 Paper Retriever bins in Lorain County- just look for the green and yellow bins!
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District received a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that allowed the District to expand its existing tire collection program to include agricultural tires. Lorain County residents who own or operate agricultural equipment were able to recycle scrap farm tires for free during the Farm Tire Collection event. In 2015, approximately 1,400 agricultural tires totaling nearly 58 tons were collected for recycling during the successful 5-hour event!

Nearly 7,698,000 used tires were discarded in Ohio in 2015, equating to 14.4 million passenger tire equivalents. If improperly disposed, scrap tires pose a serious risk to human and environmental health. Used and discarded tires retain water and become a breeding ground for disease-carrying pests like mosquitos and rats. Scrap tires are also a fire hazard because of their ability to retain heat. Once scrap tires ignite, the flames are often difficult to extinguish.

The Lorain County SWMD provides scrap tire recycling opportunities to residents in an effort to keep Lorain County a beautiful, safe, and healthy place to live. More than 688,000 pounds of scrap tires were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2015.

WHERE CAN I PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MY SCRAP TIRES?

- Lorain County Collection Center, 540 S. Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio
- Lorain City Garage, 114 E. 35th Street, Lorain, Ohio, 7AM-3PM (M-F)
- Grafton Township Hall, 17109 Avon Belden Road, Grafton, Ohio, 8AM-4PM (M-F)

DID YOU KNOW?

Proper tire maintenance can extend the life of your tires! To reduce the overall number of tires you will purchase and dispose, follow these tips:

- Use correct tire inflation pressure. Check once a month and before long trips.
- Inspect tires regularly for signs of uneven wear patterns. This can be a sign of misalignment or improper balance!
- Never exceed your vehicle’s load limits. Check the tire placard in your vehicle’s owner manual.
- Be a smart driver! Obeying speed limits, avoiding fast stops and starts, and avoiding potholes will prolong the life of your tires.

FARM TIRE COLLECTION

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District received a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that allowed the District to expand its existing tire collection program to include agricultural tires. Lorain County residents who own or operate agricultural equipment were able to recycle scrap farm tires for free during the Farm Tire Collection event. In 2015, approximately 1,400 agricultural tires totaling nearly 58 tons were collected for recycling during the successful 5-hour event!
The District’s Recycling Revolving Loan program provides financial assistance to our county’s businesses, organizations, and non-profits that utilize recycled materials either in their building materials or in their manufacturing process.

Supporting the use of recycled materials is important to ensuring the success of recycling programs. Using recycled materials is known as **closing the loop**. When recycled materials are in demand, a stable market is created, causing the cost of the recycled materials to be competitive or lower than their counterparts made with virgin materials.

The use of recycled materials also reduces the need to extract or harvest virgin raw materials and natural resources, thereby saving energy and reducing air and water pollution.

Locally, the Recycling Revolving Loan program:
- Promotes recycling business opportunities
- Provides additional markets for recycled materials
- Retains and creates recycling-related jobs
- Increases the manufacturing capacity for recyclable materials in Lorain County

The Community Incentive Grant Program helps communities by providing funding annually to improve or maintain curbside recycling programs. Communities are encouraged to use the grant to increase participation rates through education and awareness programs, social marketing campaigns, and improved opportunities for multi-family housing complexes and other appropriately targeted activities or equipment purchases. In 2015, the District made $375,000 in grant funding available to Lorain County cities, townships, and villages.

**How does my community earn grant funding?**

Each year, community administrators report the total tons of recycling from curbside and drop-off programs to the District. The amount awarded to each community is based on the total tons collected by curbside and drop-off recycling programs. Communities that recycle the most are awarded more grant dollars.

The District awarded three grants during 2015 totaling more than $11,400 to a Lorain County non-profit organization and institutions to purchase products and equipment made from recycled materials.

**How can I "Close the Loop"?**

Look for the 🌿 logo on packaging or products. Used alone, the logo means a product or package is both recyclable and made of recycled material.

If the logo is used next to a percentage, the percentage indicates how much of the total product is made from post-consumer recycled materials.

Common products made with post-consumer recycled content materials include:
- Paper products: office paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, cardboard boxes
- Clothing made from recycled cotton or plastic soda bottles
- Building and construction materials
- Automobiles: re-refined motor oil, mud flaps, retreaded tires, used parts
- Gardening supplies: hoses, fencing, mulch, and compost
The District has four “C.A.B.” trailers stocked with all of the essentials needed for litter clean-up and/or beautification activities. Supplies include a lawn mower, leaf blower, trimmer, assorted rakes, shovels, pruners, gardening tools, safety vests, gloves, safety cones, garbage bags, and more. Communities and organizations can request to borrow one of the four C.A.B. trailers for FREE!

In 2015, the District once again used the trailers to partner with the Second Harvest Food Bank by hosting food donation collection days at the Collection Center in April and November. As a result of the two events, 2,820 pounds of food was donated to the food bank!

To request a C.A.B. trailer, please contact Tiffany Barker, Marketing Coordinator, at 440-328-2368!

PRIDE DAYS

Each year, Lorain County residents have the opportunity to take part in Pride Day, a county-wide litter collection and beautification event promoted and sponsored by the District. The District celebrates Pride Day as part of Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Clean Up, the nation’s largest annual community improvement program.

We would like to thank the more than 2,000 residents from 21 communities who volunteered their time to make Lorain County a beautiful and safe place we are proud to call “home”!

If you want to be part of your community’s Pride Day activities, call 1-800-449-5463!

RECYCLING SCHOLARSHIP

This is a new program funded by the District to create an endowment for the Lorain County Community College Foundation for scholarships. DoppstadtUS, a Lorain County-based company that engineers and manufactures recycling and processing equipment, has assisted in creating this program, and will contribute towards the funding through 2018. In order to be considered for an award, students must write an essay on a topic related to recycling, litter/litter prevention, or sustainability. The first scholarship was awarded in 2015.
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office established the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) in 2009. The ECU was created to protect Lorain County residents and the environment. The ECU responds to complaints about litter, open dumping, and other environmental crimes reported by the general public, local businesses, cities, townships, and county governments, as well as other law enforcement agencies. The ECU also provides the public with information and resources on how to properly dispose of different types of waste. The ECU aims to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lorain County through education and enforcement.

**Crimes against the environment affect everyone.** Littering attracts more litter and decreases property values. Open dumping attracts disease-carrying pests. Abandoned tires are a fire hazard. Illegal trash burning can contaminate the air and groundwater with dangerous toxins.

To report littering, dumping or other environmental crimes contact the Environmental Crimes Unit by visiting [www.loraincountysheriff.com](http://www.loraincountysheriff.com) and under “Divisions” select the “Environmental Crimes Unit,” or call:

**Deputy William Curtis:** (440) 329-3743

**Deputy Michael Lopez:** (440) 329-3759

### In 2015, the ECU investigated:
- 4 fire code violations related to solid waste
- 32 Littering cases
- 1 case involving illegal transportation of scrap tires
- 3 Open burning cases
- 3 cases involving littering in a dumpster
- Cases resulting in criminal charges against 37 individuals

### Saving Tax Dollars and Neighborhoods

The Environmental Crimes Unit aims to save Lorain County residents tax money and improve neighborhoods. Areas affected by illegal dumping and litter can be expensive to clean up. The ECU saves residents’ tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on costly cleanups. Once areas affected by illegal dumping are cleaned and offenders are off the streets, crime goes down, property values improve, and families start moving back into previously blighted areas.
Business and Industrial Recycling

Business Recycling

Business recycling encompasses the activities of retail establishments, business offices, and non-profit organizations. Cardboard and wood pallets are the two most commonly recycled materials by commercial facilities.

Industrial Recycling

Industrial recycling refers primarily to the recycling of scrap material, such as metals and plastics, resulting from a manufacturing process. It also covers the reuse of materials incidental to the process, including cardboard, pallets, and packaging materials. Lorain County industries recycled nearly 88,000 tons (approximately 175 million pounds) in 2015!

Business Roundtable

The Business Roundtable is a program that brings people together in engaging, educational discussions about innovative recycling processes and applications for the business community, as well as other solid waste topics. Participation from all types of businesses and industries is encouraged. Businesses are also welcome to share recycling success stories and discuss their recycling efforts with the group. If you would like to get involved, contact the District at 1-800-449-5463.

Free Waste Assessments

The District continues to provide free waste assessments to local businesses and organizations. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing or business operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling.

Strategic plans are provided to businesses and industries that participate in a District waste assessment. These plans outline specific goals and objectives and include a realistic schedule for businesses and industries to implement strategies and recommendations identified throughout the assessment process. If your workplace would like more information about a free waste assessment, call the District at 1-800-449-5463.

Top 5 Benefits of Business Recycling

1. Cost Savings
   Save money on trash disposal fees. Some recyclable materials actually generate revenue!

2. Corporate Social Responsibility
   Build loyalty with customers by showing that your company is doing its part to minimize its impact on the planet.

3. Employee Satisfaction
   Workplaces that take part in environmentally friendly programs like recycling report higher morale and lower employee turnover rates.

4. Environmental Benefits
   Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, supplies raw materials, prevents water pollution, and saves energy!

5. Job Creation
   Recycling boosts our economy by creating or sustaining jobs in collection, processing, manufacturing, and reselling. Recycling supports 10 times as many jobs per 10,000 tons of waste than traditional waste disposal.
The District is committed to promoting the reduction, reusing, and recycling of solid waste through educational programs and outreach efforts.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

Adult groups and organizations interested in learning more about topics related to solid waste reduction or management are encouraged to request a presentation. Several presentations during 2015 included both adults and their children.

**COLLECTION CENTER TOURS**

Adults and students are invited to request a tour to visit the Lorain County Collection Center on Abbe Road in Elyria to view how the facility operates and learn about proper household hazardous waste disposal. Approximately 25 residents were included in two tours of the Collection Center in 2015.

**LENDING LIBRARY**

The District provides a free online lending library to help educators teach students about reducing, reusing, and recycling. Books, DVDs, and VHS tapes on a variety of recycling-oriented topics are available. Additional tools for educators like activities and worksheets are also available online.

For more information, to schedule a presentation for your classroom or adult group, or request a tour of the Collection Center, contact Brandi Schnell, Community Outreach Coordinator, at: (440) 328-2249, or bschnell@loraincounty.us.

**STUDENT CONTESTS**

Calendar Contest:
The District hosted its annual calendar contest. Students designed drawings using the three R’s or a litter prevention theme. Thirteen winners were selected.

“3 R’s” Photo/Caption Contest:
Lorain County students K-12 were asked to submit a photo and caption that encourages others to follow the "3Rs." The 4 winners received a $25.00 gift card, certificate, and poster of their winning photo.

Recycling Pledge Drive:
The District held a pledge drive throughout Lorain County Schools for America Recycles Day with 62 teachers and classrooms participating. Approximately 1,400 students signed pledges to recycle more were entered into a drawing to win a pizza party. Congratulations to the winning class from Larkmoor Elementary School in the City of Lorain!

**PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS**

The District’s electronic newsletter for students and educators, "Turning Trash-to-Treasure," provides information on upcoming contests, events, and updates from the District.
Yard waste comprised 23% of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2015. Leaves, grass clippings and brush are materials that do not belong in our landfills. Some Lorain County communities have leaf and grass clipping collection programs. In Lorain County during 2015, we had 13 registered Class IV (yard waste only) compost facilities. Organic waste generated in Lorain County was managed at these 13 facilities, as well as at 3 registered compost facilities (Classes II-IV) in surrounding counties. Approximately 14,200 tons of yard waste and more than 1,200 tons of food waste generated in Lorain County was composted in 2015.

We encourage you, as residents of Lorain County, to learn the benefits of composting first hand by creating your own compost bin or pile. Compost makes soil loose and dark, helps retain water, fertilizes, and makes plants and gardens grow better. Yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps are all appropriate materials for home composting.

For questions, please contact the OSU Extension-Lorain County Office:

440-326-5851

Here are some easy tips to help keep yard waste out of the landfill:

- Mulch your grass clippings as you mow. Leaving the clippings on the lawn provides a great source of nutrients for a healthy lawn.

- Consider a backyard compost kit. A composting specialist at the Lorain County Office of the OSU Agricultural Extension Service is employed part-time by the District, to promote better methods of managing organic materials. They can give you technical assistance in preparing backyard compost. Call the OSU Agricultural Extension Office at 440-326-5851 for more details.

- Participate in the yard waste collection program offered by your community.

Yard waste comprised 23% of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2015. Leaves, grass clippings and brush are materials that do not belong in our landfills. Some Lorain County communities have leaf and grass clipping collection programs. In Lorain County during 2015, we had 13 registered Class IV (yard waste only) compost facilities. Organic waste generated in Lorain County was managed at these 13 facilities, as well as at 3 registered compost facilities (Classes II-IV) in surrounding counties. Approximately 14,200 tons of yard waste and more than 1,200 tons of food waste generated in Lorain County was composted in 2015.

The District continued the compost education program. In 2015, the District provided funding to the OSU Agricultural Extension Office to conduct presentations for students and adults on composting and gardening related topics. The Agricultural Educator participates in regular radio broadcasts, is available at the Lorain County Fair, and provides presentations upon request to discuss composting.

The District is continuing to work with Barnes Nursery, Ohio EPA, and other private and public entities to identify suitable sites for a potential compost site that can process food waste.
The District earns revenue through a $2.00 disposal fee, which is a charge levied on each ton of waste delivered to the landfill in Lorain County. Unlike many districts in Ohio, Lorain County’s disposal fee is the same for in-district and out-of-district waste.

Revenue generated from disposal fees must be used by solid waste districts for specific purposes defined by Ohio law. The District, which also generates revenue from other sources including a contract with the Republic Services landfill and grants, uses these funds mainly to operate programs, implement the Solid Waste Management Plan, and manage facilities. In 2015, the District received approximately $2.81 million dollars.

Total District expenses were $2.27 million in 2015. The figure below presents a detailed description of how revenue was allocated.
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District identified zero waste initiatives as a priority in 2012. The same year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a report on residential waste generation, identifying that Americans recycle and compost an average of 34.5% of the waste they generate. So, why focus on zero waste? Is zero waste a realistic concept? One simple sentence embodies why we have embraced this goal and committed to working with our local communities to achieve it:

*If you aren’t for zero waste, how much are you for?*

During 2013, the City of Oberlin was chosen as a pilot community for a zero waste planning project. The District and the City of Oberlin collaborated to develop a Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) for Oberlin. The ZWP establishes a goal of 90% reduction by 2050 or sooner.

The goal for this project was to create a community-level zero waste plan that was achievable, using a process that could be duplicated by other communities in Lorain County.

**More Zero Waste Planning?**

Since the development of Oberlin’s plan, the District has resolved to continue devoting resources towards helping other communities and institutions achieve zero waste goals. In 2015, the District attended two meetings with community representatives to promote the benefits of adopting a zero waste plan and address questions or concerns related to implementing a zero waste plan. The District also met with the Lorain County Community College to discuss zero waste initiatives.

**Future Plans**

We believe that the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District has been one of the most successful solid waste districts in Ohio, with high standards for programming, services, and waste diversion results. The District will continue to strive for the same type of track record in coming years as we implement the new solid waste plan update.

Several new programs should enhance our ability to manage our waste more appropriately, including two grant programs designed to increase recycling at multi-family housing units, provide recycling within county agencies, and siting an organics management facility. While none of these new programs will be implemented without some difficulties, we believe the results will be worth the effort.

The Solid Waste District would like to thank all of the residents, communities, businesses, and institutions that have used our programs and shared our vision to reduce waste, support the economy, and create a healthier environment. With your support, we can make 2016 Lorain County’s most successful year yet!