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

Our goal as one of the fifty-two solid waste districts in the state of Ohio is to be a leader in solid waste management. We accomplish that goal by adding new services and opportunities for our residents to recycle and reduce solid waste disposal. As an example, in 2016 we changed the operations for two scrap tire drop-off locations. The City of Lorain and Grafton Township scrap tire sites are now manned sites and the District is in charge of operations. Grafton Township site is open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday. The City of Lorain site is open 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. The program is free to residents. Businesses are prohibited from participating.

As we stated last year, we now have a shredding truck for paper which is kept at the Lorain County Collection Center at 540 South Abbe Road in Elyria. Residents can drop-off their paper for shredding during the Collection Center’s normal operating hours. Material is shredded once per week. This service is for Lorain County residents only.

To participate in the paper shredding program residents must:

- Limit paper to five blue grocery bags per visit.
- Materials can be dropped off during regular collection center hours on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
- Residents can come multiple times per week.
- Staff does inspect each bag to make sure there are no unacceptable materials.

The District has long term expansion plans for the Collection Center. This will allow the District to conduct more services efficiently for Lorain County residents. One of the efficiencies that was completed included opening a third dock for materials management. Another service started in 2016 was to process and recycle latex paint.

Looking forward into 2017 we begin the development of our ten-year solid waste plan. Ohio EPA has enhanced the planning process and requires significant evaluation of all our programs. We look forward to hearing from you if you have ideas and suggestions for improving our programs and services.

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.

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 other district 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
You have a question, we have an answer!

- How to dispose or recycle any type of solid waste?
- How to dispose of household hazardous materials?
- What are the current solid waste district events or programs?
- What materials and products are made with recycled content?
- Can I schedule a presentation for my school or group?

440-329-5440
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Last year, we assisted 4,515 residents with questions about recycling and waste management on our hotline!

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

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

-Robert Swan
Lorain County residents have doubled the annual tons of materials collected from curbside recycling and drop-off programs since 2006. The significant increase in recycling is impressive, but there is still plenty of opportunity to improve. In 2016, approximately 27% of residential and commercial waste was recycled in Lorain County, but the EPA estimates that at least 75% of trash sent to landfills is recyclable.

### 2006-2016 Lorain County Residential Recycling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>9,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>10,076</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>13,475</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>20,674</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>20,055</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>17,546</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>19,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>18,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>18,805</td>
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### What influences Lorain County’s Recycling Rates?

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

**Recycling infrastructure**
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**
The influence of the amount a consumer purchases directly correlates to waste generation and recycling rates.

**Education and awareness**
Why is recycling important for the environment? The economy? 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!
### Lorain County Recycling Report Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lorain County Community</th>
<th>2012 Tons</th>
<th>2013 Tons</th>
<th>2014 Tons</th>
<th>2015 Tons</th>
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<td>S. Amherst (Village)</td>
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<td>Sheffield (Village)</td>
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<td>300</td>
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<td>273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheffield Lake (City)</td>
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<td>224</td>
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<td>Wellington (Village)</td>
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<td>503</td>
<td>451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellington Township</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>132</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Tons</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,055</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,546</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,169</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,900</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,805</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recycling saves money, creates jobs, and conserves natural resources and energy for future generations. Thank you for recycling!
The Collection Center

Location:
540 S. Abbe Rd. in Elyria, Ohio.

Hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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**!

**2016 Collection Center Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Tires</td>
<td>701,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Waste</td>
<td>602,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHW</td>
<td>310,009</td>
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<td>Latex Paint</td>
<td>208,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and Paper</td>
<td>115,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbs and Ballasts</td>
<td>98,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Recyclables</td>
<td>64,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used Motor Oil &amp; Antifreeze</td>
<td>23,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Metal</td>
<td>14,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rechargeable Batteries</td>
<td>9,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used Cooking Oil</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ink Cartridges &amp; Cell Phones</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

The District did not process any cartridges or cell phones collected in 2016. The District started to process the material in 2017. The program is 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!
Nearly 304,640,680 pounds of used tires were discarded in Ohio in 2016, which is equal to 15.2 million passenger tires. If improperly disposed of, 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 701,000 pounds of scrap tires were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2016.

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, 9 AM - 1 PM (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Grafton Township Hall, 17109 Avon Belden Road, Grafton, Ohio, 9 AM - 1 PM (Tuesday and Saturday)

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 of, 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 2016, agricultural tires totaling over 72 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

**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 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 2016, the District made $300,000 in grant funding available to Lorain County cities, townships, and villages.

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 2016 totaling more than $14,000 to a Lorain County non-profit organization to purchase products and equipment made from recycled materials.
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 2016, 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. As a result of the two events, 1,464 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!

This program is 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 2019. In order to be considered for an award, students must write an essay on a topic related to recycling, litter/litter prevention, or sustainability. Congratulations Nicole Kern! The Lorain County Be Green Scholarship of $500 was awarded to Kern during the fall semester of 2016.

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District connects with communities throughout the year by conducting presentations and attending local events and festivals. Visiting the District’s educational booths are a great place to ask questions and pick up flyers on topics ranging from recycling and source reduction to composting.

We encourage you to stop by next time you see our booth at a community event!
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.

In 2016, the ECU Investigated:

- 20 dumping investigations
- 6 open burn warnings
- 13 misdemeanor tire litter citations
- Multiple cases resulting in criminal charges

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.

Crimes against the environment affect everyone.

Littering leads to more litter and decreases property values. Open dumping invites 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 and under “Divisions” select the “Environmental Crimes Unit,” or call:

Deputy William Curtis: (440) 329-3743
Deputy Michael Lopez: (440) 329-3759
Business & Industrial Recycling

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 440-329-5440.

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 over 104,000 tons (approximately 208 million pounds) in 2016!

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 440-329-5440.

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 2016 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 2016.

**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 Presentations**

Approximately 4,300 students participated in the District’s 146 presentations given during 2016. Presentations focused on the three R’s (reduce, reuse, and recycle!), renewable and non-renewable resources, litter prevention, and District programs.

**Recycling Pledge Drive:**

The District held a pledge drive throughout Lorain County Schools for America Recycles Day with 89 teachers and classrooms participating. Approximately 1,500 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.

**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.
  - Winner: Ayden Sambunjak, Avon middle School

- **3 R’s” Photo/Caption Contest:** Due to time constraints the Poster contest was not conducted in 2016. In the past, Lorain County students K-12 were asked to submit a photo and caption that encourages others to follow the "3Rs."
The District continued the compost education program. In 2016, 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.

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 32.6% of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2016. 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 2016, we had 15 registered Class IV (yard waste only) compost facilities. Organic waste generated in Lorain County was managed at these 15 facilities, as well as at 6 registered compost facilities (Classes II-IV) in surrounding counties. Approximately 24,700 tons of yard waste and more than 1,400 tons of food waste generated in Lorain County was composted in 2016.

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

Currently, there are no registered facilities located in Lorain County that can accept food waste for 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 2016, the District received approximately $2.52 million dollars.

Total District expenses were $2.40 million in 2016. The figure below presents a detailed description of how revenue was allocated.
In 2016, the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District purchased a truck with the ability to shred documents. The truck has been used at the Lorain County Collection Center to provide shredding services to Lorain County residents. The future plans for the shred truck are to provide several opportunities each year for Lorain County residents to deliver their papers that need shredding. Look for a future opportunity coming to your community.

The District is always evaluating other services that can be provided to Lorain County residents to help divert material from the landfill. New services include the shred truck, book recycling and recycling cooking oil at the Collection Center. The District has also begun to manage two tire sites one in the City of Lorain and the other in Grafton Township. Both sites are manned with District staff to ensure that the tires are delivered by Lorain County residents in accordance with District tire recycling.

The District is required by Ohio law to prepare a long-range solid waste management plan update every three years. Development of the next solid waste plan update begins in July 2017 with a draft plan submitted to Ohio EPA for review in the fall of 2018. The Plan will include programming for the next ten years. This includes the current programs:

- Curbside Recycling
- Yard Waste Management
- Household Hazardous Waste Recycling
- Electronics Recycling
- Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Waste Diversion Programs
- Community consortiums for contracting
- Grants
- Loans
- Collection Center
- Education and Outreach

If you have ideas you would like considered by the Lorain County Policy Committee as they develop the new solid waste plan, contact the staff at the Lorain County Solid Waste District office at 440-329-5440.