Dear Lorain County Resident:

Another year has passed, and the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District (District) continues to explore ways to provide programs which hopefully benefit you and the environment. Once again, many of the goals we achieved over the past year were through the support and participation from our political subdivisions and residents, for which we are genuinely grateful.

One of the highlights of 2012 for the District was working with Mercy’s Lorain County healthcare facilities to provide support with the development of a strategic resource management planning process for Mercy Regional Medical Center and Mercy Allen Hospital. We coordinated with the Lorain County Office of Sustainability, which provided professional recommendations regarding energy consumption at each facility. The District provides technical assistance and conducts waste assessments for Lorain County institutions, industries, and businesses as part of its mission and programming outlined in the Lorain County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Building on our experience with Mercy, we are working with the City of Oberlin during 2013 to develop a waste diversion plan, or a zero waste plan. This plan will examine the City’s current waste management systems, and recommend changes to increase waste reduction and recycling. Zero waste plans can be quite successful in focusing more attention on each component of the waste stream and improving the efficiency of programs, resulting in dramatic increases in recycling, composting, and/or waste diversion. We intend to develop the plan for Oberlin as a template or guide which can be applied to other cities or villages in Lorain County as well.

The Solid Waste District would like to thank all of the residents, communities, businesses, and institutions that support our programs and 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 of or recycle any type of solid waste;
- How to dispose of hazardous materials;
- Solid waste district events or programs;
- Materials and products that are made with recycled content; or
- Scheduling an educational presentation for your school or group.

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

...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, including an online version of our new Solid Waste Management Plan;
- Hours and materials accepted at the Lorain County Collection Center;
- Educational services and materials, including a “Kids Corner”;
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs);
- Recycling tips for your home and office;
- And much more!

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“We are the masters of our fate.
We are the captains of our souls.”

- Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax
The Decade in Review

Lorain County residents have nearly doubled the annual tons of materials collected from curbside recycling and drop-off programs from 2002 to 2012. The significant increase in recycling is impressive, but there is still plenty of opportunity to improve. Currently, approximately 30% of household waste is recycled in Lorain County, but the EPA estimates that at least 75% of trash sent to landfills is recyclable.

2002—2012 Lorain County Residential Recycling

Why Are Lorain County’s Recycling Rates Increasing?

- **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!
## Recycling Report Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lorain County Community</th>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>2007 Tons</th>
<th>2008 Tons</th>
<th>2009 Tons</th>
<th>2010 Tons</th>
<th>2011 Tons</th>
<th>2012 Tons</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amherst Township</td>
<td>VBS</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>498</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<td>Carlisle Township</td>
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<td>3,001</td>
<td>2,481</td>
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<td>City of Elyria</td>
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<td>NSC</td>
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<td>DNR</td>
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<td>Village of Grafton</td>
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<td>Village of Kipton</td>
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<td>Incl. in Camden Twp. total</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of LaGrange</td>
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<td>108</td>
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<td>230</td>
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<td>Village of Rochester</td>
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<td>Village of S. Amherst</td>
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<tr>
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<td>41</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Tons:** 10,303 13,475 16,930 16,624 20,673 20,053

**Program Types:** VBS= Volume-Based System; NSC= Non-Subscription Curbside; DNR= Did Not Report
The Collection Center

The District’s permanent Collection Center is located at 540 S. Abbe Rd. in Elyria, Ohio. Use of the center is free to residents of Lorain County. Residents can drop-off:

- Household hazardous waste (HHW)
- Electronic waste
- Fluorescent lamps & ballasts
- Scrap tires
- Books
- Cardboard

Businesses with facilities in Lorain County may use the e-scrap, book, cardboard, and fluorescent lamp & ballast recycling programs for free (hazardous materials and tires are NOT accepted from businesses).

A total of more than 2,720 tons of materials were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2012. Nearly 161 tons were harmful chemicals and other substances collected from Lorain County residents that included: paint, chemicals, mercury-containing items, and other hazardous items, all of which could cause serious environmental damage if not properly recycled or disposed.

The District website (www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste) contains a list of the types of materials collected at the Collection Center. For more information, please call our toll-free information line at 1-800-449-5463.

Collection Center Hours

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

2012 Collection Center Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Tires</td>
<td>868,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Waste</td>
<td>597,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHW</td>
<td>321,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulbs and Ballasts</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrap metal</td>
<td>12,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rechargeable Batteries</td>
<td>11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ink Cartridges and Cell Phones</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>9,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Program

The District partnered with the Lorain County Office On Aging (LCOOA) for this program. Approximately 3,600 pounds of ink cartridges and cell phones were recycled. Senior volunteers sorted and shipped the materials, earning more than $2,050 to support their programs. Any organization can help collect materials for this program by calling Sue Malik at 440-326-4819.

Electronics Recycling Program

The electronic equipment collected by the District is processed by a contractor that refurbishes some of the equipment so it can be reused by schools or non-profit organizations. If it cannot be updated, then the metals and other electrical components will be recycled.

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.

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 are also accepted at more than 100 Abitibi Paper Retriever bins in Lorain County. To find one near you, visit: www.paperretriever.com

Once you’re there, click “Find a Recycling Bin!”
Scrap Tires

More than 22 million used tires were discarded in Ohio in 2012. If disposed illegally, 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 mosquitoes 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 Solid Waste Management District provides scrap tire management options to residents in an effort to keep Lorain County beautiful and a safe and healthy place to live. Nearly 870,000 pounds of scrap tires were collected at the Lorain County Collection Center in 2012.

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
- Grafton Township Hall, 17109 Avon Belden Road, Grafton, Ohio

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.  
  *You can find this information and any special instructions on your tire placard in your owner’s manual.*
- Be a smart driver!  
  *Obeying speed limits, avoiding fast stops, starts, and turns, 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 Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in 2011 that allowed the District to expand its existing tire collection program in 2012 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.
Community Incentive Grant Program

The Community Incentive Grant Program was created to help communities improve curbside recycling by switching to a volume-based system (VBS). Volume-based systems are also commonly known as “pay-as-you-throw” (PAYT) systems. Residents using this program pay for the volume of trash that is disposed, but have unlimited recycling. VBS creates an economic incentive for residents to reduce waste and recycle more. This type of system, which has been implemented all over the world, is the most effective recycling program in terms of achieving the highest percentage of diverted materials. In 2012, thirty-two of thirty-four Lorain County communities operated a VBS for trash and recycling.

After successfully achieving the original goal of the grant program, the District developed a new goal for the Community Incentive Grant program. The new goal is to assist communities to strive for and exceed the state of Ohio’s 25% recycling goal.

Each year, communities report the total tons of recycling from curbside and drop-off programs to the District. Communities are awarded a grant based on the total amount of revenue received by the District and the amount of curbside recycling collected by each community. Communities that recycle the most are awarded more grant dollars. In 2012, the District distributed $300,000 in grants to Lorain County cities, townships, and villages.

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.

The Revolving Loan Program

The District’s Revolving Loan program provides financial assistance to Lorain County businesses and organizations (including non-profits) that utilize recycled materials either in their building materials or in their manufacturing process.

Supporting businesses and organizations that use 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 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.

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;
- 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.
Community Events

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District connects with communities throughout the year to raise awareness about recycling through presentations and attending local events and festivals. Some events that the District participated in during 2012 included the Senior Living Fair, the Elyria Apple Festival, and the Lorain County Fair. Visiting the District’s educational booths are a great place to ask questions and pick up informational brochures 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!

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 2,192 residents who volunteered a combined total of 8,960 hours to make Lorain County a beautiful and safe place we are proud to call “home!”

2012 Accomplishments

- 63 miles of roadway cleaned
- 188 acres of parks cleaned
- 170 tons of litter removed
- 8 miles of trails
- 33 playgrounds painted and refurbished
- 1.8 miles of water ways
- 401 flats of flowers planted
- 8 graffiti sites abated
- 300 bags of newspapers
- 3,320 pounds of clothing collected to be donated

Get Involved!

If you want to be part of your community’s Pride Day activities, call 1-800-449-5463 and ask to be put in touch with your community Pride Day representative!
Environmental Crimes Unit

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office established the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) in 2009 to protect Lorain County residents and the environment. The ECU responds to complaints about litter, open dumping, and other environmental crimes from 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.

In 2012, the ECU investigated:

- 5 Violations involving the registration of scrap tire transporters and producers
- 84 Abandoned vehicles cases
- 15 Open dumping cases
- 3 Littering cases
- 4 Open burning cases
- 7 Dumpster littering cases
- 10 Junk yards
- 86 Other Ohio Revised Code violations and reports

214 Potential Criminal Charges and Processes

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 and under “Divisions” select the “Environmental Crimes Unit,” or call the Environmental Crimes Unit directly:

Deputy William Curtis, 440-329-3743
Deputy J.M. Jackson, 440-329-3759
Business and Industry Recycling

Business recycling

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

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. In 2012, Lorain County industries increased recycling nearly 10% from the previous year, recycled 90,184 tons (approximately 1.8 million pounds).

Business Round Table

The Business Round Table 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. Topics at the four Business Round Table Meetings featured guest speakers who covered recycling strategies and waste reduction activities related to the workplace. Participation from all types of businesses and industries at the Business Roundtable discussions 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. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing or business operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling.

In 2012, the District provided comprehensive waste assessment and strategic resource management planning services to Mercy Regional Medical Center and the Lorain County Community College.

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 business would like a free waste assessment, call the District at 1-800-449-5463.

Recycling at Work

Businesses and organizations with an interest in recycling their office paper can use Abitibi’s Paper Retriever Program, which promotes recycling through the placement of green and yellow bins (at no cost) adjacent to schools, churches and other non-profit organizations. Organizations hosting a Paper Retriever drop-off location are paid for the material collected in their bin.

2,800 tons of paper was recycled in more than 100 Paper Retriever boxes in Lorain County during 2012!

Businesses that produce larger volumes of office paper can participate in Republic’s Workplace Recycling Program.

The District helped businesses and organizations ramp up recycling efforts by providing recycling containers for office paper, bottles, and cans. The District provided 19 recycling containers to schools, businesses, and organizations in 2012.
Performances and Presentations

Nearly 4,500 students and 450 adults participated in the District’s 172 presentations given during 2012. Presentations focused on the three R’s (reduce, reuse, and recycle!), renewable and non-renewable resources, litter prevention, and District programs.

Special Events

The District provided transportation for 180 students to tour the Republic Lorain County Landfill and Material Recovery Facility. Students witnessed the processes involved with managing recyclables and solid waste. Tours aim to engage students and raise awareness about environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation.

The District also provided a “Kid’s Corner” inside the tent at the Lorain County Fair where children could make paper with the District’s recycling educator.

Lending Library

The District continued to build its virtual online lending library, adding new books and movies in 2012 to help educators teach students about reducing, reusing, and recycling. Additional tools for educators are available online. For more information, or to schedule a presentation for your classroom, contact Brandi Schnell, Solid Waste Specialist at: (440) 328-2249, or bschnell@loraincounty.us.

Collection Center Tours

Almost 100 students and 60 adults toured the Collection Center in 2012. The Enviroscape, a new addition to the educational tours of the collection center was also enjoyed by students and adults. The Enviroscape shows what happens if HHW is improperly disposed.

Calendar Contest

In 2012, approximately 450 students representing 18 Lorain County schools participated in the District’s calendar contest. The participants designed drawings around the three R’s or litter prevention. The winners had their artwork featured in the District’s 2013 calendar.
Organics Education Programs

The District continued the compost education program. Adults and school-age children had the opportunity to participate in organics education provided by the agricultural agent. In 2012, the agricultural agent conducted presentations for students and adults on composting and gardening related topics. More than 200 residents and 35 Master Gardeners received hands-on training by learning to manage 80 cubic feet of compost and wood chips at the County Agricultural Center. Informational sessions were also broadcast on WEOL and performed live at the Lorain County Fair.

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.

Composting Facilities

Yard Waste recycling comprised over 30% of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2012. 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, we have 13 registered Class III and IV compost facilities. More than 32,000 tons of yard waste was managed at these facilities in 2012.
Revenue

The District earns revenue through a $2.00 “tipping fee,” which is a charge levied on each ton of waste delivered at waste processing facilities (landfills and transfer stations) in Lorain County. Unlike many districts in Ohio, Lorain County’s tipping fee is the same for in-district and out-of-district waste.

Revenue generated from tipping fees must be used by solid waste districts for specific purposes that are defined by Ohio law. The District uses revenue mainly to operate programs, implement the Solid Waste Management Plan, and manage facilities. In 2012, the District received approximately $2.95 million dollars.

Expenses

Total District expenses were $3.09 million in 2012. The figure below presents a detailed description of how revenue was allocated in 2012.
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District anticipates an exciting year meeting the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2013. Preparing this annual report each year gives us a chance to reflect on our programs and accomplishments over the last 12 months. We were thrilled that we were able to provide a local college and healthcare system with technical assistance on recycling and strategic material management planning. We are committed to serving our community by providing valuable services that reflect our enthusiasm and passion for reducing waste.

Building on our successful projects in 2012, we will be working with municipalities and other businesses and organizations on zero-waste planning initiatives. As a proactive solid waste management district, we are setting our recycling goals even higher than the State of Ohio’s (25% recycling for residents and businesses; 66% recycling for industries).

Our strategy to accomplish these recycling goals is to ensure residents, businesses, industries, and institutions throughout the county have the tools and knowledge needed to waste less, recycle more, and be good stewards of the environment. Achieving these waste reduction goals, however, rests in the hands of our fellow citizens.

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 2013 Lorain County’s most successful year yet!